

Appendix C - Roadless Areas

Purpose

The purpose of this appendix is to describe roadless areas and the analysis factors used in evaluating individual roadless areas on the Routt National Forest. It includes a description of the physical and biological features, primitive recreation and education opportunities, resources, and present management situation for each area.

Background

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation

In 1970, the Forest Service studied all administratively designated primitive areas and inventoried and reviewed all roadless areas in the National Forest System greater than 5,000 acres. This study was known as the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE). RARE was halted in 1972 due to legal challenge. RARE identified 711,043 acres of roadless area on the Routt National Forest.

In 1977, the Forest Service began another nation-wide Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) to identify roadless and undeveloped areas within the National Forest System that were suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Twenty nine areas, totalling 566,756 acres, were inventoried on the Routt National Forest (including the Middle Park Ranger District of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest).

As a result of RARE II, four areas on the forest - Williams Fork, St. Louis Peak, Service Creek, and Davis Peak - were administratively designated as Further Planning Areas (FPA). This further planning area designation meant that more information was needed before the Forest Service would recommend any of these areas to Congress for wilderness designation.

In January 1979, the Forest Service issued nationally a Final Environmental Impact Statement documenting a review of 62 million acres of roadless and undeveloped areas within the 191-million-acre National Forest System. That same year, the state of California challenged the adequacy of this Environmental Impact Statement as the basis for decisions to manage 47 areas in that state for purposes other than Wilderness (State of California vs. Block). In October 1982, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed a lower court decision that the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement was inadequate.

1964 Wilderness Act

In 1964, the Mount Zirkel Wilderness was designated by the 1964 Wilderness Act. It designated 72,180 acres.

Flat Tops Wilderness Act

In 1975, the Flat Tops Wilderness was designated by the Flat Tops Wilderness Act. Of the 235,230 acres in the wilderness, 38,870 acres are administered by the Routt National Forest.

Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980

This act added 67,718 acres to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and 48,930 acres to the Rawah Wilderness. Only 1,462 acres of the Rawah Wilderness are administered by the Routt National Forest. The act established the Neota Wilderness at 9,990 acres (with 267 acres on the Routt), and the Never Summer Wilderness at 14,100 acres (with 6,659 acres on the Routt). One roadless area, Vasquez Peak, was Congressionally designated as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The act required the Forest Service to review the WSA and make a recommendation by December 1983 as to the suitability of the area for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

To avoid a RARE III process, Congress included RARE II Sufficiency Language which found that RARE II findings regarding wilderness suitability were adequate for preparation of initial forest plans in Colorado. The act also included "soft release" language which directed that, except for FPAs and WSAs, all roadless areas need not be managed to protect their suitability for wilderness designation. The act directed that forest plans would determine the management of all remaining roadless areas, and the Forest Service would not be required again to review the wilderness potential of its lands prior to the preparation of its initial forest plans.

Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984

This act established the Platte River Wilderness at 23,000 acres, with 743 acres on the Routt National Forest.

Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993

On August 13, 1993, President Clinton signed the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. This act designated the 47,140-acre Sarvis Creek Wilderness, the 12,300-acre Vasquez Peak Wilderness, and the 8,095-acre Byers Peak Wilderness, and added 20,750 acres to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness.

Criteria

FSH section 1909.12 specifies that roadless areas be evaluated on the basis of the area's capability for wilderness designation, availability of areas for wilderness designation, and the need of the areas for wilderness designation.

Wilderness Capability:

Capability is the degree to which the area contains basic characteristics that make it suitable for wilderness designation, without regard to its availability. Rating characteristics were developed from FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7.

Areas were rated relative to the following criteria:

- Solitude
- Naturalness
- Challenge
- Recreation opportunity
- Education
- Scenic features
- Size
- Potential for manageable boundaries

In rating the areas, greater emphasis was given to the characteristics of solitude, naturalness, and challenge. Based on this rating system, a method for determining Capability for Wilderness was established. An area was determined to be capable if it had ratings in the three weighted categories (solitude, naturalness, and challenge) of two Moderates and one High (or better), or three Moderates in the weighted categories and at least one Outstanding in a non-weighted category. Areas with lower ratings were determined to be not capable.

Availability for Wilderness:

Only those areas determined to be capable for wilderness will be considered for their availability for wilderness (FSH 1909.12, 7.22).

Availability is determined by considering the value of and need for the wilderness resource, compared to the value of and need for other resources. To be available for wilderness, the values of the wilderness resource, both tangible and intangible, should offset the values of resources that formal wilderness designation would forgo.

The following information was considered for each roadless area:

1. Recreation including tourism.
2. Information on wildlife species, populations, and management needs.
3. Water availability and use.
4. Livestock operations.
5. Timber (note: tentatively suited acreage and timber volume figures in each individual write-up are based on work done for DEIS).
6. Minerals.
7. Cultural resource.
8. Authorized and potential land uses.
9. Management considerations including fire, insects and disease, and presence of non-federal lands.

Table C-1 lists all the Roadless Areas and displays which are capable and which are available.

Table C-1. Roadless Area by Capability/Availability				
Area Number	Area Name	Acreage	Capability	Availability
R21101	Black Mountain	22,750	Capable	Available
R21102	Sugarloaf Mountain	15,094	Capable	Available
R21104	Nipple Peak South	13,843	Capable	Available
R21111	Mad Creek	25,149	Capable	Available
R21113	Whalen Creek	1,090	Capable	Available
R21115	Kettle Lakes	11,303	Capable	Available
R21116	Long Park	43,979	Capable	Available
R21125	Bunker Basin	12,814	Capable	Available
R21126	Pagoda Peak	57,789	Capable	Available
R21127	Troublesome North	32,836	Capable	Available
R21128	Troublesome South	47,018	Capable	Available

R21129	Never Summer South	7,633	Capable	Available
R21130	Never Summer North	3,672	Capable	Available
R21132	Byers Peak	10,070	Capable	Available
R21133	Williams Fork	35,954	Capable	Available
R21103	Sugarloaf South	23,348	Not capable	Unavailable
R21105	Nipple Peak North	6,307	Not capable	Unavailable
R21106	Shield Mountain	10,156	Not capable	Unavailable
R21107	Elkhorn	11,048	Not capable	Unavailable
R21108	Dome Peak	36,760	Not capable	Unavailable
R21109	South Fork	4,727	Not capable	Unavailable
R21110	Gold Creek	3,137	Not capable	Unavailable
R21112	Chedsey Creek	963	Not capable	Unavailable
R21114	Grizzly Helena	6,376	Not capable	Unavailable
R21117	Walton Peak	5,339	Not capable	Unavailable
R21118	Little Green Creek	844	Not capable	Unavailable
R21119	Morrison Creek	8,456	Not capable	Unavailable
R21120	Barber Basin	5,468	Not capable	Unavailable
R21121	Bushy Creek	11,386	Not capable	Unavailable
R21123	Dome*	2,133	Not capable	Unavailable
R21124	Chatfield	11,273	Not capable	Unavailable
R21131	Copper Mountain	13,534	Not capable	Unavailable
* Area R21122 did not qualify for inclusion in the final inventory.				

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), roadless inventory layer

Need for Wilderness:

Only those areas determined to be both capable and available for wilderness are considered for their need for wilderness. No needs determination has been made if the area is not both capable and available.

Information in this section is applicable to all roadless areas. Factors specific to individual roadless areas are addressed in the individual write-ups.

For an area to be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, there should be clear evidence of current or future public need for additional designated wilderness. To determine need, we considered the following factors:

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area.

Nearby wilderness: The Routt National Forest manages all or part of nine wilderness areas with a total of 265,100 acres. There are 45 designated wilderness areas with a total of 3.5 million acres within 250 miles of the Denver metropolitan area (the major metropolitan area in the state).

Distance to Population Centers: The roadless areas are about 230 miles west of Denver.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wilderness areas, trends in use, population changes, and travel patterns.

Use Trends: Between 1984 and 1993, wilderness use decreased slightly in the wilderness areas on the Routt National Forest (-1.7%), increased slightly in wilderness areas within a 250-mile radius of the Denver metropolitan area (+.18%), and also increased slightly nationally for all wilderness areas administered in the National Forest System (+1.6%). (See Table C-2)

Table C-2			
Wilderness Use-Recreation Visitor Use (RVDs)			
Year	Routt National Forest (Thousand)	250-mile Radius of Denver (Million)	National (Million)
1984	82.4	1.49	10.2
1985	85.2	1.38	12.7
1986	94.0	1.30	12.0
1987	98.0	1.30	13.0
1988	59.0	1.31	11.8
1989	54.1	1.26	11.6
1990	56.3	1.31	12.0
1991	85.3	1.44	12.8
1992	85.6	1.44	13.3
1993	74.9	1.41	NA
Annual Use Trend	-1.7%	+1.18%	+1.6%

Source: R2 Wilderness Needs Report

Between 1988 and 1992, a Special Wilderness Recreation Use Trend Study was conducted in five wilderness areas in the Rocky Mountain Region. Of the five areas sampled, there was a 1.1% reduction per year. Data specific to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, which was included in the study, showed a slightly higher reduction of 2.3% per year for this period.

3. The extent that non-wilderness lands can provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

Nearby Non-wilderness Opportunities for Unconfined Recreation Experiences: Under current forest plans in the Rocky Mountain Region, there are two management prescriptions which apply to areas specifically managed to provide opportunities for unconfined, nonmotorized recreation experiences. These prescriptions include 3A (emphasis on semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation) and 3B (emphasis on primitive recreation in unroaded areas).

There are 211,610 acres on the Routt National Forest which are managed under these prescriptions in the current Forest Plan. On national forests adjacent to the Routt, including the Medicine Bow, Arapaho/Roosevelt and White River National Forests, there are 579,680 acres. In the Rocky Mountain Region, there are 1,943,210 acres.

- The ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing human development.

There are many sensitive species that do not compete with public use and development or have limited and or vulnerable habitat. Those species and their habitat found on the Routt National Forest are listed in Table C-3. Impacts from human use and/or development have been in the form of direct habitat loss resulting from management activities (timber harvest, grazing), disturbance and displacement. Roadless or wilderness areas that provide these habitat complexes would benefit these sensitive species.

- The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species unable to survive in less than primitive surroundings.

Wolverine need areas of sufficiently large size to support wide-ranging individuals. These areas are important for the maintenance of viable wolverine populations. Lynx also need large areas in which to roam. Lynx require large, interior forest tracts. Both of these species require mature conifer habitat. Those species that require dead trees for cavity nesting (snags) would also benefit from large tracts of unmanaged wilderness areas (woodpeckers and owls, as examples). These species are included in Table C-3.

- The area's ability to protect certain landform types and ecosystems.

Based on analysis done at the Regional level, certain covertypes have been identified as having only limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region's wilderness system. The spruce/fir and alpine (grass/forb) covertypes are the most well represented in the Rocky Mountain Region. These covertypes and their acreages in the Routt National Forest wilderness system are listed in Table C-4.

Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	77,305		74,336			
lynx	#4, #5	77,305		74,336		15,198	
marten	#4	77,305	77,635	74,336			
ring tail	#4				14,568		
goshawk	#4	77,305	77,635	74,336	14,568		
flamulated owl	#4			74,336			

ferruginous hawk	#4					42,793
loggerhead shrike	#4					42,793
purple martin	#4		77,635			
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				14,568	
greater sandhill crane	#4					15,198
black-backed woodpecker	#5	77,305				
white faced ibis	#4					15,198
boreal western toad	#4					15,198
wood frog	#4					15,198
leopard frog	#4					15,198
long-billed curlew	#4					15,198
*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation						

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Covertypes	Acres in Routt Wildernesses	Acres in Capable/Available, Routt Roadless Areas
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir	1,155	393
lodgepole pine	44,159	74,336
Gambel oak	839	226
big sagebrush	383	4,998
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	11,954	77,635
grass types (fescue's)		1,101
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	940	2,440

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Conclusion -- Routt National Forest Wilderness Need

As Table C-4 shows, the capable and available roadless areas on the Routt do provide some opportunity to increase wilderness representation of the covertypes shown. However, based on an evaluation of all the above criteria and discussions with the Forest staff and District Rangers, it appears that there is no need for additional wilderness on the Routt National Forest. Analysis of the above criteria does not indicate "... clear evidence of current or future public need for additional designated wilderness." There does, however, seem to be a need to continue providing non-wilderness primitive backcountry opportunities as the use trends in these areas appears to be increasing.

Environmental Effects

Table C-5 shows how the total Roadless Area acreage on the Routt was allocated. This includes Roadless Areas capable and those not considered capable. Table C-6 shows the same information for only those areas considered capable and available.

Table C-5 Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative All Roadless Areas							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.11							
1.12							
1.13							
1.2		128,743		23,239		332,003	
1.32	142,498	240,768	274,800	302,572	67,265		15,816
1.41						146,133	
1.5	2,628	2,801	2,450	2,737	2,809	54	2,660
2.1		7,256	7,307	5,984	782	1,189	2,771
2.2	487	22,054	1,837	28,684	38,083	17	38,083
3.21						13,170	
3.23	14,166	14,389	14,328	14,392	14,404	186	14,531
3.31	22,317	62,571	21,027	56,826	15,461		42,522
3.4			534				
3.55						2,639	
4.2		4,589	6,009	5,165	5,394		6,281
4.3	10,197	2,792	10,684	1,787	4,396	97	16,159
5.11	97,341	4,464	111,846	26,626	166,952	6,547	223,226
5.12	101,631		9,761	269	101,637		63,643
5.13	74,942		21,086	13,996	64,846		56,062
5.21	16,931						
5.41	19,101	8,656	16,724	16,639	16,595	204	16,821
7.1		3,164	3,790	3,324	3,616		3,581

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-6 Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative Capable/Available Roadless Areas							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.11							
1.12							
1.13							
1.2		128,743		23,239		256,464	
1.32	134,837	148,996	225,371	223,143	66,102		4,659
1.41						74,774	
1.5							
2.1		4,588	4,038	4,853	11		1,083
2.2	487	22,054	1,837	28,684	38,083	17	38,083
3.21						6,522	
3.23	14,166	14,389	14,328	14,392	14,404	186	14,531

3.31	13,984	10,885	11,353	5,381	15,461		29,244
3.4							
3.55						706	
4.2		3,099	4,611	3,821	4,107		4,260
4.3	6,727	1,702	9,987	1,175	3,657	97	14,259
5.11	50,758	838	46,770	11,352	106,213	2,219	159,896
5.12	50,450		1,844	179	36,292		29,901
5.13	50,422		6,458	10,929	42,583		30,769
5.21	3,381						
5.41	15,777	4,681	12,591	12,575	12,695		12,902
7.1		1,015	1,802	1,264	1,378		1,397

Source GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The management area allocation can be grouped into two broad categories: those allocations allowing activities which could compromise wilderness characteristics and allocations which generally retain wilderness characteristics. Table C-7 shows these two groups of allocations. The management area allocations themselves will not directly affect the character of these roadless areas until a planned management activity (e.g. road construction, vegetative treatment) is scheduled. Management activities that change the unroaded character of these areas would require an Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision memo (ROD) before any action is carried out.

These groupings were developed from the desired condition statements, standards and guidelines, and overall management emphasis for each management area allocation. In some cases, management area prescriptions allow activities, incidental to the overall emphasis of management, which generally are incompatible with wilderness. In Management Area Prescription 5.41 - Deer and Elk Winter Range, for example, roads exist, and summer motorized travel is allowed. However, the main focus of management is to provide suitable winter range for deer and elk. In these cases, the allocation was placed in the "retain wilderness characteristics" group.

Table C-7 Roadless Area Allocations	
Allocations Retaining Wilderness Characteristics	Allocations Not Retaining Wilderness Characteristics
1.2	4.2
1.32	4.3
1.41	5.11
1.5	5.12
2.1	5.13
2.2	5.21
3.21	7.1
3.23	
3.31	

3.4	
3.55	
5.41	

Table C-8 summarizes the capable and available roadless area acreage for each alternative for these two groups. Acreage in the roadless areas not capable and available does not currently possess wilderness qualities.

Table C-8 Capable/Available Roadless Areas							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	179,251	334,336	269,518	312,267	146,756	338,669	100,502
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	161,738	6,654	71,472	28,720	194,230	2,316	240,482

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

It may be possible to mitigate the loss of wilderness characteristics in some situations. The applicability and practicality of mitigation measures depends on site-specific information and analysis. Possible mitigation measures for timber harvest allocations include road closure or obliteration, modified silvicultural prescriptions, emulating natural patterns and shapes in harvest unit design, and modified logging methods. It may not be possible to mitigate the loss of wilderness characteristics associated with management in the 7.1 or 8.22 allocations. A wilderness designation is not necessarily needed to provide the habitats, qualities, or protection discussed in items 4 and 5 of the Needs section. Other management area allocation can also provide for these needs. Social, economic, and environmental effects of and on various resources associated with management area prescriptions are disclosed in the FEIS.

Individual Roadless Area Summaries:

The following summaries include information on the wilderness evaluation criteria for each individual roadless area.

R21101 Black Mountain - 22,750 Acres

Overview

History: This area was described and studied in RARE II under the name Mt. Welba. The current study area has been expanded to include a portion of the Forest south of Black Mountain to the Forest Boundary and McInturf Mesa, east to Forest Development Road (FDR) 110, and north to the Forest Boundary in the vicinity of Wilderness Ranch (a private recreational resort area).

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 89W; T. 10N, R. 88, 89, and 90W. This area is located in Moffat and Routt Counties northeast of Craig on the Hahns Peak (formerly Bears Ears) Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 99, 109, 110, and 133. It is accessed by Forest Development Trails (FDT) 1144, 1183, and 1185.

Geography and Topography: The predominant features of the area are four mountains: Black Mountain (which forms the divide between the Little Snake and Yampa rivers), Mt. Welba, Mt. Oliphant, and Buck Point. The mountains are of volcanic origin. The terrain is roughly broken with steep slopes and dissected by several streams. Much of the ground is steeply sloped and rocky, with many rock slides. Along the northern portion of the area is a series of 76 pothole lakes.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally fine sandy loam to sandy clay loam derived from landslide deposits. The soils are deep and may be unstable when disturbed.

Vegetation: The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, along with their associated understory vegetation. There are also numerous small meadows with mixed grasses and forbs. Many of the meadows are wet, associated with streams and/or ponds.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation - Nonmotorized	5,915	26
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands / Forest Production	327	1
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands / Range Production Emphasis	6,551	29
5.13 Forest Products	9,958	44

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation layer

Recreation use is low through the late spring and summer but increases dramatically during the big game hunting seasons. There is substantial use by snowmobiles through the winter and early spring. Seasonal grazing also takes place, with low to moderate use generally and heaviest use occurring on the northeast and southwest parts of the area. Watershed resources are utilized, as evidenced by the four water diversion/collection ditches located in the area.

Appearance: Seismic exploration in the late 70s left the area bisected by primitive roads. There is evidence of past timber harvest including milling activity, but due to the steep terrain limiting such activity, the overall appearance of the area is quite natural.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded on the north, west, and south sides by non-Forest lands. These non-Forest lands are almost exclusively private, with some BLM land interspersed. To the east is other National Forest land administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness or other roadless areas.

Attractions: The primary attractions are the big game hunting and snowmobiling the area offers and the rugged, generally undeveloped character of the land itself, including the pothole lakes area in the north.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high, with a diversity of highly dissected topography that easily screens people from one another within short distances. Most of the area has fairly dense vegetation which also screens people from one another; however, the rugged terrain tends to somewhat concentrate people on existing trails and on the primitive seismic roads, which are closed to motorized use.

Naturalness: The area possesses a high degree of naturalness. Evidence of past activity is present but generally unobtrusive, unnoticed by the majority of visitors, and not of a permanent nature.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. There are some outstanding features, particularly in the pothole lake area in the north. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, although it is limited in scope due to past activities, notably the primitive seismic roads.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. Opportunities for camping, fishing, big game hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, etc. exist, but the primitive feeling is negated somewhat by the presence of numerous access points, old seismic roads, adjacent development, and the lingering affects of past timber harvest activity.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a high level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study, due to the close proximity of developed recreation facilities. The Sherman Youth Camp and the Freeman Recreation Area, both operated on a seasonal basis, are located adjacent to the southwest corner of the area. Opportunities for study include the natural environment and man's impact on it, historic sites of early day logging activity, the pothole lake ecosystems, and the geology of the area, relating to it's volcanic origins.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as outstanding. The four prominent peaks are of very high scenic quality themselves and also provide opportunities for panoramic views of the surrounding area for long distances.

Manageability

Size: The area's moderate size, 22,750 acres, results in a moderate rating for size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low due to the number of access points, presence of seismic roads, and adjacent private land and developments. These factors foster a difficult wilderness management situation. In addition, a long-standing public easement question has yet to be resolved regarding access through Wilderness Ranch properties to public lands.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 19,599 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 144,121.30 MBF

(30546.70 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 86% of the total area.

Five identified timber sales are planned at least partially within the area boundaries.

- The Twin Pipes Timber Sale sold in 1996.
- The Elkhead Mountains, Falls Creek, Upper Boulder, and Upper Roaring timber sales are currently in the planning/analysis phase.

All sales are located within management areas with prescriptions that may restrict harvest method but do not preclude harvest activity.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has high potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area. There is an active production well field on private land adjacent to the west end of the area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has low potential for locatable minerals. There is one salable mineral site adjacent to the roadless area in T. 10N, R. 89W.

Management Considerations

Recreation

The area is open to snowmobile use. A system of snowmobile trails, marked and maintained by Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club, runs around and through this area. Moderate to heavy use occurs on these trails. Use occurs off designated routes as well, especially in areas adjacent to Wilderness Ranch. Snowmobile use appears to be increasing in popularity in the area. All trails in the area are open to bicycle use. There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Special Uses

Ditches - There are four water diversion ditches (Arambel Ditch, Cataract Ditch, Duncan Ditch #2, and Roaring Fork Ditch) in this roadless area. They all have adjudicated 50-foot easements. Motorized/mechanized equipment is authorized for maintenance and repair of the ditches.

Recreation Special Use - There is an Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit authorizing guided bicycle tours on Trail 1144.

Electronic Site - Radio Relay Station located near the summit of Black Mountain - T. 10N, R. 89W, Sec. 28.

Range

The Special Use Permit for the Boulder Creek Grazing Allotment authorizes the permit holder to use motorized/mechanized equipment to maintain the improvements associated with the permit.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 30 miles west of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 40 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres). It is separated from the Sugarloaf North roadless area by Forest Development Road 110.

Cover Type: Table C-9 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	50
lodgepole pine	<1
aspen	38
shrubs	2
grass/forb	9
non-vegetated	<1
water/wetlands	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-10 has this same information for the Black Mountain Roadless Area.

Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	7,296		61			
lynx	#4, #5	7,296		61			
marten	#4	7,296	8,530	61			
ring tail	#4				538		
goshawk	#4	7,296	8,530	61	538		
flamulated owl	#4			61			
ferruginous hawk	#4						2,021
loggerhead shrike	#4						2,021
purple martin	#4		8,530				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				538		
greater sandhill crane	#4					710	
black-backed	#5	7,296					

woodpecker							
white faced ibis	#4					710	
boreal western toad	#4					710	
wood frog	#4					710	
leopard frog	#4					710	
long-billed curlew	#4					710	
*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation							

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes, identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-11 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertype	Acres in Black Mountain Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	61	<1
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	8,530	11
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	230	9

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layer

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-12) shows the management prescription allocations by Alternative for the Black Mountain roadless area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						22,523	
1.32	5,915	22,368	10,316	22,589	4,534		
1.41						38	

3.21						23	
3.55						83	
4.2		256	412	32	274		471
4.3		43	116	27	191		202
5.11	327	83	11,679	11	3,673	83	8,514
5.12	6,551				6,412		4,885
5.13	9,958		227	90	7,666		8,678

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-13 summarizes the Black Mountain Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	5,915	22,368	10,316	22,589	4,534	22,667	0
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	16,836	382	12,434	160	18,216	83	22,750

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21102 Sugarloaf North - 15,094 Acres

Overview

History: This area is the northern portion of the Sugarloaf Roadless Area that was evaluated in RARE II. It is bounded on the north by the Forest Boundary, on the east by California Park, and on the south and west by FDRs 110 and 116.

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 87 and 88W; T. 10N, R. 87 and 88W. This area is located in Routt County, northeast of Craig on the Hahns Peak (formerly Bears Ears) Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 110, 116, 118, 150, and 159. It is accessed by FDT 1144.

Geography and Topography: This area is generally bordered by the Elkhead Mountains with the drainage flowing to the north. The terrain is roughly broken with steep slopes and is dissected by several streams. In the eastern end of the area is California Park, a very large natural mountain park. There are many smaller parks/meadows throughout the area as well.

Soil: Soils throughout the area are generally clay loam to heavy clay, derived from the basaltic volcanic extrusion of Bears Ears Peaks and Sugarloaf Mountain. The soils are deep and fertile but unstable when saturated or disturbed.

Vegetation: The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, along with their associated understory vegetation. The numerous meadows, including California Park, are composed of mixed grass and forbs. Many of the meadows are wet, associated with streams and/or ponds.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
2.2 Research Natural Areas	487	3
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	1,337	9
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	373	2
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	6,948	46
5.13 Forest Products	5,949	39

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Recreation use is generally low except during big game hunting seasons when it is high. Snowmobile use is low to moderate through the winter and spring, heaviest in the California Park area. Seasonal grazing takes place and is heaviest in the California Park portion.

Appearance: The overall appearance of the area is quite natural. Steep terrain somewhat limited past timber harvest activity to relatively few areas; much of the remainder appears relatively untouched.

Surroundings: The land north of this area is all privately owned. To the south, east, and west are other National Forest lands administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness or other roadless areas.

Attractions: Primary attractions are the big game hunting the area offers and the rugged, generally undeveloped character of the land itself.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high with a diversity of highly dissected topography that easily screens people from one another within short distances. Most of the area has fairly dense vegetation which also screens people from one another; however the rugged terrain tends to concentrate people on existing trails.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. Evidence of past activity is present but generally unobtrusive to visitors.

Challenge: This area offers a moderate amount of challenge. Some remote sites give the visitor a sense of adventure and self-reliance but overall, the area does not offer extensive areas where this sense will prevail. Visitors can travel only short distances in any direction to encounter an improved road or other area where human activity has altered the landscape.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: The area offers moderate opportunities for primitive recreation. Some excellent opportunities for camping, fishing, big game hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, etc. are present but are somewhat confined by the size and layout of the area and the number and proximity of access roads.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low, due to the area's remote location in relation to developed/urban areas. The existing opportunities are primarily centered on a nesting population of sandhill cranes, a state-listed endangered species. One of the healthiest populations in northwest Colorado is found in California Park.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as moderate. The area contains several outstanding and distinctive landscapes, but much of the area can be characterized as common.

Manageability

Size: The area's relatively small size, 15,094 acres, results in a low rating for size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Management of boundaries is rated very low due to the number of access points, the area's being contiguous to private land, and the physical shape of the area, which results in it being less than 1/2 mile wide in several locations, a marginal attribute for wilderness criteria.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 12,518 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest with a standing volume for conifer of 68,139.62 MBF (14,426.73 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 82% of the total area.

Two identified timber sales are planned at least partially within the area boundaries:

The Twin Pipes Timber Sale sold in 1996.

The Grizzly Creek Timber Sale is currently in the planning phase.

Both planned sales are located within Management Areas with prescriptions that may restrict harvest method but do not preclude harvest activity.

Oil & Gas

The majority of the area has high potential for oil & gas. There are a two small areas of low potential in the southeast portion of the area. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has low potential for locatable minerals. There are three salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Wildlife

The area contains excellent elk habitat and is used extensively for calving.

The eastern portion of the area is used for nesting and rearing grounds by sandhill cranes, a state-listed endangered species. A seasonal road closure is in affect on FDR 150 to protect the cranes during the critical nesting and rearing periods.

Recreation

The portion of FDT 1144 that crosses the area is open to motorized travel. The trail receives low use during the summer but is used extensively by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) during the big game hunting seasons. Closing this trail to motorized use would reduce, the miles of motorized trails on the west end of the Forest (the old Bears Ears District) by approximately 55%.

The area is open to snowmobile use and is adjacent to portions of a system of snowmobile trails that are marked and maintained by Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club. Snowmobile use appears to be increasing in the area.

FDT 1144 is open to bicycle travel. Use currently is low. There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Special Uses

There are no conflicting Special Uses authorized for this area.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 21 miles west of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 40 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres). It is separated from the Black Mountain roadless area by Forest Development Road 110.

Cover Type: Table C-14 displays percentages of the covertsypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	36
lodgepole pine	1
aspen	48
shrubs	10
grass/forb	5
non-vegetated	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-15 has this same information for the Sugarloaf North Roadless Area.

Table C-15. Capable/Available Roadless Areas		Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	3,178		167			
lynx	#4, #5	3,178		167			
marten	#4	3,178	7,307	167			
ring tail	#4				1,446		
goshawk	#4	3,178	7,307	167	1,446		
flamulated owl	#4			167			
ferruginous hawk	#4						726
loggerhead shrike	#4						726
purple martin	#4		7,307				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				1,446		
greater sandhill crane	#4, #5					679	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	3,178					
white faced ibis	#4					679	
boreal western toad	#4					679	
wood frog	#5					679	
leopard frog	#4					679	
long-billed curlew	#4					679	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature confier; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-16 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertypes	Acres in Sugarloaf North Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	167	<1
Gambel oak	17	8
big sagebrush	584	12
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	7,307	9
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	65	3

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-17) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Sugarloaf North Roadless Area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		5,326		13,258			
1.41						10,672	
2.1		1,582	1,556	1,688			1,072
2.2	487						
3.21						3,940	
3.31		7,684					
3.55						482	
4.2		11	79	8	1		81
4.3	1,337		574	1			453
5.11	373	491	12,885	27	3,698		3,677
5.12	6,948				6,917		5,183
5.13	5,949			112	4,478		4,629

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-18 summarizes the Sugarloaf North Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	487	14,592	1,556	14,946	0	15,094	1,072
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	14,607	502	13,538	148	15,094	0	14,023

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21103 Sugarloaf South - 23,348 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 87, 88, and 89W; T. 10N, R. 88W. This area is located in Moffat and Routt Counties northeast of Craig on the Hahns Peak (formerly Bears Ears) Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by FDR 116, on the south by the Forest Boundary which adjoins a private ranch, on the west by FDR 110, and on the east by California Park and the abandoned First Creek Road. The area is accessed by FDTs 1144, 1145, and 1146.

In general, there are few roads in this area due to the unstable soils. However, there is evidence of three abandoned or closed roads. One road which bisects the western area between Sawmill Creek campground and Buck Mountain, passing by Angel Springs, was closed to general travel in 1990. This road continues to be used by range permittees to access summer allotments on the Forest. The road continues to be a source of controversy during the hunting season. The road was used for many years by hunters to gain access into the area. The area was the site of historic cattle drives travelled during the latter part of the 1800s through the 1930s. Two other roads in the area pass to the south of Slide Mountain. These roads have been closed and rehabilitated.

Geography and Topography: The area lies south of the Elkhead Mountains and Bears Ears Peaks and contains several topographic features, namely, Hole-in-the-Wall Creek, Slide Mountain, Baldy Peak, and Big Canyon. The unit slopes and drains south from the Elkhead Mountains. Elevations range from 10,000 feet at the northern boundary to 7,000 feet at the Forest boundary on the south. The area is characterized by open parks of sagebrush and rabbit brush interspersed with aspen and small pockets of spruce. Evidence of slips and slumps are present throughout the area.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy clay loam to clay derived from shales. The soils are deep and fertile but may be unstable when disturbed.

Vegetation: Aspen, small pockets of spruce, and open parks of sagebrush and rabbit brush are characteristic of the area.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	3,089	13
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	16,974	73
5.13 Forest Products	3,285	14

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Recreation use in the area is estimated at 6,800 visitor days annually. There is no winter access. The area is used primarily by sheep herders and fall hunters seeking a remote hunting experience. Three permitted outfitter/guides operate in the area.

Appearance: The area is fairly well defined by the southern edge of the Elkhead Mountains and Bears Ears Peaks as well as Hole-in-the-Wall Creek, Big Canyon, Baldy Peak, and Slide Mountain, which serve to give the area a sense of isolation. Three abandoned or closed roads are visible, but the interior of the area is remote from man-made features. Some past timber harvest activity has occurred in the area, but this is limited.

Surroundings: The area is adjacent to private property and BLM or state lands along the southern boundary. The eastern extent is adjacent to state land and private lands in California Park. The west and north sides are surrounded by National Forest land. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness or other roadless areas.

Attractions: The primary attraction is big game hunting. Bears Ears Peaks serve as an interesting feature. This distinctive twin-peaked mountain of volcanic origin rises to 10,000 feet above the surrounding parks and forests.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are outstanding due to the limited access to and within the area. Due to the semi-remoteness of the area, large herds of elk use the area for calving and summer range. Access is by horse or hiking. Most recreation opportunities are associated with a primitive experience.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness due to the effects of past domestic livestock grazing in the area.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. The primary challenge in the area is access. A scramble trail leads to the top of Bears Ears Peaks, the tallest mountain in the area. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. Primary uses are hiking, hunting, remote camping, and horseback riding. Streams, small lakes, and beaver ponds dot the area and are occasionally fished. Generally, the area is not noted for high quality water activities or fishing. Two hiking trails traverse the area and are used by seasonal hikers. The largest use is by hunters seeking a remote hunting experience. The area has no winter access.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as moderate due to the numerous beaver ponds and lush understory in the aspen stands.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as very low due to the topography and density of overstory vegetation.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 23,348 acres, the area is rated high in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated high due to the topography of the area. However, it is not in proximity to other wilderness areas. Approximately 5 miles of the southern boundary is adjacent to BLM or state lands. This area is accessible from a number of locations

along the western, northern, and eastern borders. The southern border has one public access road which leads to the Forest boundary. An active gravel quarry is located on the southwest slope of Bears Ears Peaks.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Sugarloaf South Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		21,992	17,732	23,061			
1.41						22,681	
2.1		942	1,270				438
3.21						654	
3.55						12	
4.2		5	24				32
4.3		350	87	169	56		118
5.11	3,089	58	1,491	63	416		427
5.12	16,974		2,743		21,123		20,612
5.13	3,285			55	1,753		1,721

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21104 Nipple Peak South - 13,843 Acres

Overview

History: This area is currently managed for non-motorized, semi-primitive recreation. Past management included the development and eventual abandonment and obliteration of an oil well pad and access road. The present management prescription for this area is almost entirely 6B Range.

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 86 and 87W; T. 10N, R. 86 and 87W. This area is located in Routt County northwest of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is bordered by Routt County Road 62 and by FDRs 42, 150, 151, 473, 480, and 481. No FDTs access the area.

Geography and Topography: The terrain of this area is roughly broken and dissected by several streams. It contains several isolated rocky peaks and some large open meadows. Upper slopes are steep; lower slopes are more gentle.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loams derived from sandstones and igneous rocks.

Vegetation: The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, along with their associated understory vegetation. The open meadows contain mixed grasses and forbs. Some of the meadows are wet, associated with streams and/or ponds.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	119	1
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	7,951	57
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	5,652	41
5.13 Forest Products	120	1

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used mostly for dispersed recreation (primarily big game hunting with some snowmobile use through the winter) and for seasonal grazing.

Appearance: The area shows some evidence of past activities but appears quite natural.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded on the east and south sides by private land. To the north and west is other National Forest land administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness or other roadless areas.

Attractions: The primary attraction is the area's big game. It is very productive habitat and supports a summer population of over 1400 elk. Hunting is popular during seasons. The rugged peaks and open meadows are also attractions.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high, with a diversity of dissected topography that easily screens people from one another within short distances. Most of the area has fairly dense vegetation which also screens people from one another. The isolated peaks and ridge-tops offer a sense of solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. Evidence of past activity is present but generally unobtrusive to visitors.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. It is difficult to access due to a lack of developed trails and restricted access from adjacent private lands. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, but it is limited in scope as there are not extensive areas where this sense will prevail.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as low. Opportunities for camping, fishing, big game hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, etc. exist but are limited by the general lack of public access and the area's relatively small size.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's remote location in relation to developed/urban areas and the lack of access.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as high. The area contains prominent peaks of very high scenic quality. The peaks also provide opportunities for panoramic views of the surrounding area for long distances.

Manageability

Size: The area's moderate size, 13,843 acres, results in a moderate rating for size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate due to the area being contiguous on two sides with private land and the presence of a private inholding within the area.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness**. It will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 11,130 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 71,480.88 MBF (15,171.90 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 81% of the total area.

There are currently no proposed timber sales planned within the area boundaries. Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is not precluded.

Oil & Gas

There was formerly a Chevron oil well pad and its associated high standard access road in this area. The well facilities have been removed, and the pad and road obliterated and rehabilitated.

The entire area has medium potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has low potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

The area is open to snowmobile use. There is a heavily-used snowmobile route along the northern edge and the area is adjacent to a system of snowmobile trails that area marked and maintained by Northwest

Colorado Snowmobile Club. Moderate to heavy use occurs on these trails, with use occurring off designated routes as well. Snowmobile use appears to be increasing in popularity in the area.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Special Uses

Recreation Special Uses - There is an Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit authorizing guided snowmobile tours in the area.

There is a backcountry ski hut system proposed that includes this area. At least one hut would be located within the boundaries. This proposal is currently undergoing analysis.

Electronic Site - Radio Relay Station located near the summit of Sand Mountain - T. 9N, R. 86W, Sec. 9.

Road Easement - Application for a road easement for access to the private land inholding has been made.

Range

The Special Use Permit for the Devil's Slide Grazing Allotment authorizes the permit holder to use motor vehicles in the operation.

Other

Lack of Public Access

Access along south and east sides is tightly controlled by adjacent landowners. Attempt by Routt County for prescribed right-of-way (ROW) along Smith Creek was unsuccessful. Area is difficult to administer or monitor.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 10 miles west of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 40 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 185 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-19 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	19
lodgepole pine	17
aspen	50
shrubs	<1

grass/forb	9
non-vegetated	3
water/wetland	2

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-20 has this same information for the Nipple Peak South Roadless Area.

Table C-20.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	2,357		2,324			
lynx	#4, #5	2,357		2,324			
marten	#4	2,357	6,913	2,324			
ring tail	#4				49		
goshawk	#4	2,357	6,913	2,324	49		
flamulated owl	#4			2,324			
ferruginous hawk	#4						1,320
loggerhead shrike	#4						1,320
purple martin	#4		6,913				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				49		
greater sandhill crane	#4					462	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	2,357					
white faced ibis	#4					462	
boreal western toad	#4					462	
wood frog	#4					462	
leopard frog	#4					462	
long-billed curlew	#4					462	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-21 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Table C-21 Limited Representation Covertypes in Nipple Peak South Roadless Area		
Covertype	Acres in Nipple Peak South Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	2,324	3

Gambel oak		
big sagebrush	18	<1
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	6,913	9
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow		

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-22) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Nipple Peak South Roadless Area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		9,827	10,158	9,650			
1.41						11,974	
2.1		3,006	2,467	3,165			
3.31							
3.55						7	
4.2		1	6	3			3
4.3	119						
5.11	7,951	8	5			1,862	2,998
5.12	5,652				11,182		8,652
5.13	120		80	8	1,541		1,070
7.1		1,001	1,127	1,017	1,120		1,120

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-23 summarizes the Nipple Peak South Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	0	12,833	12,625	12,815	0	11,981	0
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	13,842	1,010	1,218	1,028	13,843	1,862	13,843

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21105 Nipple Peak North - 6,307 Acres

Overview

History: This area was originally analyzed in the RARE II study in 1978 and named Nipple Peak. The study area comprising 50,816 acres. Since that time, the area has undergone some forest activities and amenities which would preclude the entire area from consideration for further study.

Location and Access: T. 10N, R. 86W. This area is located in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is bordered on the north by

Lopez Creek, an unnamed peak (Sec. 15), and Hahn's Peak Lake; on the east by the Forest boundary/private property surrounding Steamboat Lake; and on the south by Floyd Creek and Diamond Peak. The western border extends to South Fork Park. The area can be accessed indirectly from FDT 1147, which parallels the northern border.

Geography and Topography: Features of the area include Diamond Peak, Lopez Creek, and the park lands to the west in California and Slater Parks. The area is characterized by generally remote ridge top topography with limited access. Elevations range from 10,428 feet at the summit of Diamond Peak, to 7,000 feet near Slater Park.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to sandy clay loam derived from sandstone and igneous rocks. Soil stability is fair to poor with frequent slumping and gully activity.

Vegetation: The vegetation is aspen on the lower slopes with pockets of spruce-fir and good stands of mature lodgepole pine at the middle elevations. Upper elevations consist of lodgepole pine, spruce, alpine fir, and open mountain meadows and ponds. Highest elevations give way to sub-alpine conditions with small openings, rock outcroppings, and patches of fir and spruce.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	947	15
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	775	12
5.13 Forest Products	4,584	73

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Use is moderate during the summer and high during the fall hunting season. There are currently no permitted outfitter/guides operating within the area.

Appearance: The ridge top topography is generally remote, with limited access. This high elevation community has not been greatly disturbed by resource activities.

Surroundings: Extensive logging activity has taken place in the Mill Creek drainage to the south and the Lopez and Willow Creek drainages to the north. Roaded activity has taken place on all four sides of this area. The area is not contiguous to other wilderness areas. A small section along the northwest corner adjoins the Shield Mountain roadless area.

Attractions: There are no unique attractions in this area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are moderate due to the ridge-top topography. However, at its narrowest point on the east side, the area is less than one linear mile from boundary to boundary. Trail 1147 just outside the north border is a designated motorized trail.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. Past management activities in the area include domestic livestock grazing.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. Due to the adjacent logging to the south and north and the development around Steamboat Lake to the east, the area does not have a feeling of remoteness or primitive adventure.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation area rated as low. This area is popular with hunters and hikers. Limited hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and primitive camping are the key activities within the area. Winter recreation is limited to occasional cross-country skiing. There are no Forest Service maintained trails.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a very low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study, due to the limited access into the area.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated moderate. Diamond Peak, Lopez Creek drainage, and the park lands along the western border of the unit do have some scenic value.

Manageability

Size: The area's size, 6,307 acres, rates very low for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate. The area would lend itself to a manageable unit as the majority of the lands being considered are ridge-top and interior valleys between Diamond Peak and Lopez Creek. The area is not adjacent to other wilderness areas. The area is most easily accessed from the north and east boundaries.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Nipple Peak North Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		5,947		5,977			
1.41						5,359	
2.1			575				
3.31		14	62	70			
4.2							
4.3		210	169	147	202		199
5.11	947	97	3,052	3	670	947	662
5.12	775			2	2,693		2,696
5.13	4,584		2,404	104	2,699		2,713
7.1		38	45	4	43		37

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21106 Shield Mountain - 10,156 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 10N., R. 87W; T. 11N., R. 86 and 87W; T. 12N, R. 86W. This area is located in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak (formerly Bears Ears) Ranger District. Private land borders the unit on the north and west. It is bordered on the east by FDT 1147 and the ridge between Nipple Peak and Shield Mountain. The southern border is defined by Burton Creek and FDT 1192, and the drainage divide between Slater Creek and Lopez Creek. The area is accessed by FDR 154 on the west and is traversed by FDTs 1147 and 1192. The area contains two abandoned two-track roads.

Geography and Topography: The area generally slopes to the west and drains into the South Fork of the Little Snake River. Elevations vary from 7,400 feet at Bedrock Creek near the northern boundary to 10,324 feet on the north slope of Nipple Peak, which is located just southeast of the area. Shield Mountain and Nipple Peak are the topographic high points of the area.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to sandy clay loam derived from sandstone and igneous rock. Soil stability in the area is fair to poor with frequent examples of its instability in the form of slumping and active gully erosion along the western portions of the area.

Vegetation: The primary vegetation type is aspen, with some lodgepole pine and open parks at lower elevations. Higher elevations on northern aspects are stocked with overmature spruce and lodgepole pine. Extreme elevations are generally rocky outcrops.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	752	7
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	670	7
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	6,463	64
5.13 Forest Products	2,266	22

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The predominant use is sheep grazing in the Johnson Creek and Oliver Creek sheep and goat allotments. Approximately 13,800 sheep graze for a total of 26, 504 sheep months and 82 cows for a total of 219 cow months on a seasonal basis. Wildlife and big game frequent the area on a seasonal basis. There are two ditches crossing the area. Recreation use in the summer is low, primarily dispersed camping, while use in the fall hunting season is high due to the abundance of big game. Two permitted outfitter/guides operate in the area. There is little to no winter use due to the difficulty of access.

Appearance. Improvements in the area include: eleven stock watering ponds, one drift fence, a corral, two ditches, and two abandoned two-track roads.

Surroundings: The area is bordered on the north and west by non-Forest lands, almost exclusively private. Two miles of the western boundary is adjacent to BLM land. The south and east sides are adjacent to other National Forest land administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness. A small section along the southeast side borders the Nipple Peak North roadless area.

Attractions: Shield Mountain is the predominant feature of the area. The large elk herd provide opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude. Opportunities for solitude are moderate. The area is generally remote. It provides the visitor a sense of primitiveness.

Naturalness. The area possesses a low degree of naturalness, due in part to past management activities (including grazing) in the area.

Challenge. The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. A sense of challenge is due to a lack of access and water throughout the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities. Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. Hiking biking, horseback riding, and primitive camping are the primary recreation activities. Trail 1192 is currently designated as an off-road vehicle access and is used by bikers and ATVs for forest access. Very little if any winter recreation use takes place due to lack of winter access.

Special Features

Education. This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features. The scenic features of the area are rated moderate. Shield Mountain and portions of Nipple Peak are the main scenic features of the area. A unique ecological formation composed of a mature conifer stand surrounded by aspen is present on the top of Shield Mountain.

Manageability

Size. At 10,156 acres, the area rates low in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries. Manageability of boundaries is rated low due to extensive private land holdings bordering the area to the west. Motorized trespass occurs frequently along this boundary.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by Alternative for the Shield Mountain Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		16	6,338	6,666			
1.41						10,038	
2.1		423	257	345			
3.21						118	
3.31		3,081	3,423	3,087			
4.2			52	3			40
4.3	752						
5.11	670	332	6	24	652		3,328
5.12	6,463				8,987		4,488
5.13	2,266		86	30	516		2,300

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21107 Elkhorn - 11,048 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 11N, R. 85 and 86W; T. 12N, R. 85 and 86W. This area is located in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is bordered by the Wyoming state line on the north, the Forest boundary on the northwest side, and by FDR 129 and private in-holdings along the road on the west. The eastern border is the western side of Elkhorn Mountain and Pioneer Creek. The southeastern border lies approximately 1/4 mile west of FDT 1149. The southern border crosses King Solomon Creek adjacent to some private land in-holdings.

The area is bordered by two major system roads on the east and west. Roaded timber access activities have recently been implemented on the southern and eastern portions of this area.

A primitive system road (FDR 508) crosses the northern end of the area. A system trail, FDT 1149, open for motorized trail vehicles under 40" in width, takes off of this road and runs north-south through the eastern part of the area.

Geography and Topography: The terrain is mostly hilly and undulating, with some well-defined ridges and draws. There are no prominent peaks or large open valleys. The Middle Fork of the Little Snake River bisects the area in a roughly east to west direction. Portions of the river have cut a scenic, rugged canyon.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loams to clay loam derived from metamorphic and igneous rocks.

Vegetation: The area is mostly forested with a combination of dense spruce/fir stands, lodgepole pine, and aspen interspersed in mosaics throughout the area. Non-forested openings are mostly narrow stringer meadows along stream courses.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Little Snake Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	1,458	13
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	7,936	72
5.13 Forest Products	1,655	15

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Recreation use is highest during the hunting season. One outfitter/guide is permitted in the area but has not operated recently due to the small elk herd and heavy hunting pressure the area receives from the general public. Seasonal grazing by sheep occurs here.

Appearance: Roaded timber access activities have recently been implemented on the southern and eastern portions of this area. The eastern edge has become somewhat

fragmented from both recent and past activities. The core of the area remains unroaded, and future management plans are to retain this area as it currently exists.

Surroundings: The area is bordered to the north by a larger roadless area on the Medicine Bow National Forest. Major system roads lie just west and east of the area. Several parcels of private in-holdings occur along the western border. The northwest border is adjacent to small BLM parcels. The area is not contiguous to other designated wilderness.

Attractions: Portions of the Middle Fork of the Little Snake River wind through a very rugged, scenic canyon, providing the most outstanding feature of the area. The country is mostly hilly and undulating, with no prominent peaks or large open valleys.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are moderate. Spur roads and trails off of the primary transportation system provides access throughout the area.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. The exception to this is the canyon along the Middle Fork of the Little Snake. Access to this canyon is steep and rocky, with a minimal number of user-created trails accessing it.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as low. The area provides a mix of semi-primitive and roaded-natural recreation opportunities. Dispersed recreation includes motorized trail use, camping, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. The highest use occurs during hunting season.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a moderate level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study, primarily relating to wildlife.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low. There are no prominent peaks or large meadows.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 11,048 acres the area rates as low in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate due to the major system roads on the east and west offering good public access. There are two parcels of patented mining claims in the northeast portion of the area, with a road accessing both parcels.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Elkhorn Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						10,963	
1.41						18	
2.1		792	873	786	771		759
3.21						4	
3.31		10,202		10,182			
3.55						63	
5.11	1,458	55	10,010	23	7,493		10,120
5.12	7,936			52	2,605		
5.13	1,655		166	5	180		169

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21108 Dome Peak - 36,760 Acres

Overview

History: The Dome Peak Roadless Area was initially delineated in June 1993 in the Routt National Forest Analysis of the Management Situation document. When the Colorado Wilderness Act was enacted in August 1993, the northern end of the Dome Peak Roadless Area was designated as part of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness.

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 84 and 85W; T. 10N, R. 84 and 85W; T. 11N, R. 84W; T. 12N, R. 82, 83, and 84W. This area is located in Routt and Jackson Counties just north of Clark and extends to the Wyoming border on the Hahns Peak and North Park Ranger Districts. The east side borders the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness and parallels FDR 431. The south side is just north of Seedhouse Road, FDR 400, and is adjacent to private property along FDR 400 near Glen Eden. The southwest side is the forest boundary/private property and Pearl Lake State Park. The northwest side is poorly defined, crossing several drainages and then following the South Fork Hog Park Creek and FDR 499 at the northwest corner. A thin, east-west sliver of the unit is located on the east side of the Continental Divide and is within the North Park Ranger District.

The area is bisected by a very popular jeep route, and includes several primitive and nonmotorized trails. Trails in the area include: Wyoming Trail FDT 1101-motorized, Trail Creek FDT 1154-nonmotorized, West Fork FDT 1153-nonmotorized, Scotts Run FDT 1177-nonmotorized, Coulton Creek FDT 1188-nonmotorized, Cutover FDT 1188A-nonmotorized, FDT 1203-nonmotorized, and Manzanares FDT 1204-nonmotorized. Roads in the area include: Farwell Mountain FDR 409-primitive, Farwell Lake FDR 409A-primitive, and Farwell Repeater FDR 409B-primitive.

Road access to the unit is from FDR 400 on the south. Western access includes Pearl Lake State Park, FDR 409, and FDR 499. Northern access is from FDR 80. The west side is accessed from FDR 431.

Geography and Topography: The area ranges in elevation from approximately 7,800 feet to 10,824 feet with numerous perennial creeks and several small lakes. Overall the terrain is rolling without any distinctive features.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from granites and gneiss. Soils are stable in this area.

Vegetation: Vegetation ranges from parks, sagebrush, a mixture of conifer forests, and aspen to above timberline tundra on higher peaks.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Mt. Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.5 National River System	766	2
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	34	<1
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	19	<1
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	11,395	31
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	15,286	42
5.13 Forest Products	6,182	17
5.21 Water Yield	1,601	4
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,475	4

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area offers a multitude of motorized and nonmotorized recreation. The area is popular with four-wheel drives, motorcycles, and ATVs. Five permitted outfitter/guides and guest ranches use the area for summer, fall, and winter. Several grazing allotments occur within this area. There is one ditch and Forest Service and County radio repeater sites.

Appearance: Some sections of the area are rugged and remote while others are easily accessed and close to transportation developments. A popular jeep route bisects the area. Little evidence of vegetation manipulation exists. The terrain is rolling.

Surroundings: The east side is adjacent to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. The south side borders Seedhouse Road, a very popular road used to access forest service campgrounds and the Slavonia trailhead. The west border abuts private land along FDR 129 and Pearl Lake State Park. There has been logging activity near the north, east, and south sides of this area.

Attractions: The primary attraction in the area is Dome Peak, with its variety of vegetation types from riparian to alpine tundra. The Farwell Mountain Burn affected the eastern section of the area extensively in 1910. The area from Farwell Mountain to Dome Peak was slow to recover. Several tiehack sites are located in the northern part of the area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are low due to the extensive transportation system, including motorized and nonmotorized trails and a primitive four-wheel drive road.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness due to impacts associated with frequent dispersed camping along the transportation corridor.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. Roads and trails in and around the unit provide easy access to and throughout the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated high. Activities include horseback riding, camping, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and fishing. The area is popular with four-wheel drives, motorcycles, and ATVs. Winter recreation use is predominantly snowmobile riding.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a high level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study. This is because of the diversity of vegetation types and wildlife associated with these various types. The fires which have occurred in this area in the past also offer opportunities for education.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated high due to the spectacular views available, particularly from Farwell Mountain.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 36,760 acres, the area has a moderate rating in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low. Manageability would be difficult in areas historically used for motorized use, however some portions lend themselves very well to the inclusion in other wilderness or proposed wilderness areas. Specifically, the area east of trail 1101 where it leaves Forest Service Road 431, over to the Continental Divide and the sections north of this area could be included in other wilderness areas. Manageability in the south would be difficult due to the proximity of private land, state parks, and the high use of motorized roads and trails.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Dome Peak Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						36,506	
1.32		16,785	11,362	15,507			9,209
1.41						113	
1.5	766	734	466	711	728	18	689
3.21						45	
3.31	34	17,290		16,913			12,615
3.4			237				
3.55						8	
4.3	19	50	50	49	46		
5.11	11,395	268	16,351			70	2,209
5.12	15,286			93	26,190		30
5.13	6,182		6,616	1,837	8,268		10,468
5.21	1,601						
5.41	1,475	1,634	1,118	1,648	1,527		1,541
7.1			498				

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21109 South Fork - 4,727 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 83 and 84W. This area is located in Routt County west of Glen Eden and adjacent to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. It is bordered by FDRs 400 and 443 on the north and by the wilderness on the east. The southern border follows a drainage divide. The western border is poorly defined and bisects a series of small lakes which drain into the South Fork of the Elk River.

FDR 400.1, a primitive road, accesses the unit but is closed to vehicles. South Fork Trail, FDT 1101-1A-nonmotorized, and Swamp Park Trail, FDT 1100-nonmotorized, cross the area. Road access adjacent to the area includes FDRs 400 and 443 along the northern border.

Geography and Topography: The area is bisected by the South Fork of the Elk River. This section of the Elk has been recommended for designation as a wild and scenic river. The area contains small parks, numerous beaver ponds and riparian areas. The area is characterized by fairly gentle topography.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from granites and gneiss.

Vegetation: The area contains aspen, conifer forests, and some small parks. There are many open meadows and riparian areas, including beaver ponds. All are in excellent condition.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Mt. Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	1,351	29
1.5 National River System	1,767	37
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	1,610	34

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

South Fork trail is popular for mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Four outfitters/guest ranches service the area from summer through winter. There is one cattle and horse grazing allotment.

Appearance: The South Fork of the Elk River is very scenic. There are few historic developments in the area and little evidence of man's presence.

Surroundings: The area is adjacent to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness along the east border. The northern border is adjacent to FDRs 400 and 433 (both popular access routes to forest service campgrounds) and a wilderness trailhead. Logging activity has occurred to the north, west, and south of the area.

Attractions: The South Fork trail receives a good deal of use by mountain bikers. The South Fork of the Elk River does receive a moderate fishing use and kayaking use during the spring.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very low due to the ease of access, small size of the area, the proximity of roads to the west and north, and the system trail which traverses the east side.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. There are few historic developments in the area and little evidence of man's presence.

Challenge: The area offers a very low degree of challenge. The South Fork trail traverses gently rolling terrain.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated high. Recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a high level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study. Opportunities relate to the unique pothole and beaver lakes in the western portion of the area and the riparian area near the South Fork of the Elk River.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated moderate. The amount of water and riparian areas are unique in this area, and the view of the crestline of the Zirkels is spectacular. The South Fork of the Elk River is very scenic.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 4,727 acres and being adjacent to the wilderness, the area rates moderate in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated very low due to the numerous access points and ease of access. If the area were managed as an addition to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area, it would displace a large amount of mountain bike use.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the South Fork Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						4,613	
1.32	1,351	2,896	1,796	2,929			
1.5	1,767	1,778		1,753	1,801	25	1,789
3.21						63	
3.4			192				
4.3			7				
5.11	1,610	53	1,113	8	1,434	27	1,303
5.12					356		355
5.13			1,619	38	1,136		1,280

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21110 Gold Creek - 3,137 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 83W; T. 10N, R. 83W. This area is located in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is bordered by the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness on the east, north and south sides, and has a poorly defined west boundary. It is adjacent to the Slavonia trailhead on FDR 400.

The area is easily accessed from FDRs 400 and 443. Three nonmotorized trails cross the area and lead into the wilderness: the Gold Creek Trail, FDT 1150, the Gilpin Lake Trail, FDT 1161, and Three Island Lake Trail, FDT 1163. There are no roads within the area.

Geography and Topography: This area contains hillsides and mountain slopes heading up from Gold Creek and Gilpin Creek into the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. There are no peaks within the unit.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loams to loams derived from glacial materials. The soils have a high erosion hazard when disturbed.

Vegetation: The vegetation is primarily of two types: mature conifer and mature aspen.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Mt. Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	1,971	63
1.5 National River System	95	3
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	1,072	34

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

In terms of recreation use, the three trails in this unit receive the highest use of any trails in or near the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area. There are three outfitters/guest ranches that service the area from summer through fall. There are two grazing allotments in the area.

Appearance: The overall appearance of the area is quite natural. Although past mining activities have occurred in the area, little evidence of this activity remains. The vegetation appears fairly natural and unmanaged.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded on the north, east, and south sides by the wilderness and is adjacent to forest lands on the west border. The trailheads off FDR 400 and 433 along the west border of the unit are quite popular access routes into the wilderness and receive heavy use. In the past, there has been heavy logging activity to the west of the area.

Attractions: This area is a small sliver of pristine country adjacent to the wilderness. The primary attraction in this area are the access points into the wilderness along FDTs 1150, 1161, and 1163.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very low due to the heavy use of the three trails in the area.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. There is not much evidence of man's activities, and the vegetation appears fairly natural and unmanaged.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. Although the three trails in this area are fairly difficult to access and are not open to motorized vehicles, they receive heavy use.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated moderate. Recreation activities include camping, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a high level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study. This small area of pristine, non-wilderness country could be used for interpretation and wilderness education opportunities.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated high due to the glacially carved valleys of Gold, Gilpin, and Island Creeks and the scenic views available in the area.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 3,137 acres and nestled against the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness, the area is rated moderate in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low. The area is adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, but the western boundary of the area is not tied to any topographic feature.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by Alternative for the Gold Creek Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						3,059	
1.32	1,971	2,969	3,002	2,990			
1.5	95	94	2	83	91	11	84
3.21						68	
3.4			105				
4.3			28				
5.11	1,072	74		22	1,930		3,053
5.13				41	1,116		

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21111 Mad Creek - 25,149 Acres

Overview

History: This area lies downslope from the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. It extends to the Elk and Yampa river valleys. Elevations range from 7200 to 10,000 feet.

Location and Access: T. 7N, R. 83, 84 and 85W; T. 8N, R. 84 and 85W. This area is located in Routt County northwest of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 60, 128, 319, 471, and 471.1B. It is accessed by FDRs 60.2A and 314, both primitive roads open to motorized travel, and FDTs 1100, 1118, 1166, 1171, and 1206.

Geography and Topography: The terrain of this area is roughly broken and dissected by several streams. It contains several isolated rocky peaks and some large open meadows.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from glacial materials.

Vegetation: The vegetation includes extensive hillsides of oakbrush on the southern fringes and lower elevations. Aspen pockets are common as well. Higher up, the area is generally forested, primarily with mixed conifer, spruce, and fir.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Mt. Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	1,914	8
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	448	2
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	2,652	11
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	13,769	55

5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	6,344	25
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Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used extensively for a variety of dispersed recreation activities year-round. Seasonal grazing also occurs. Watershed resources are utilized, as evidenced by the 6 water diversion/collection ditches located within the area.

Appearance: Large portions of this area are undisturbed by man. Other sections have evidence of past developments and historic motorized use. Elk Park is a degraded riparian area as a result of past uses combined with low soil productivity. Overall the area appears quite natural.

Surroundings: The area's north and east sides are contiguous with the southwest corner of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. To the south and west are other National Forest land administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The area is not contiguous to other roadless areas.

Attractions: The area attracts heavy use because of the variety of recreational opportunities offered in a natural setting in proximity to the town of Steamboat Springs, with its resident and tourist populations.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high, with a diversity of dissected topography that easily screens people from one another within short distances. Most of the area has fairly dense vegetation which also screens people from one another. The peaks and ridge-tops offer a sense of solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a high degree of naturalness. Evidence of past activity is present but generally unobtrusive, unnoticed by the majority of visitors, and not of a permanent nature.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, although it is limited in scope by the proximity of developed/urban areas.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as high because the area is contiguous with a designated wilderness.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as high due to the proximity of developed recreation facilities, the Dry Lake and Summit Lake campgrounds, and to the town of Steamboat Springs.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as moderate. The area does contain some distinctive landscapes but much of the area can be characterized as common.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is high because it is contiguous with existing wilderness.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated very low due to historic motorized use to Elk Park and concerns about access from extensive adjacent private lands.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 13,565 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 107,303.10 MBF (22,910.24 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 54% of the total area.

Currently, there are no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries. Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is not precluded. There is some commercial quality timber with easy access in the northern portion of the area.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has no potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

Approximately 50% of the area has moderate potential and 50% of the area has low potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Most of the area is open to snowmobile use.

All trails in the area are open to bicycle travel, with heavy use occurring on at least three routes.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Special Uses

Ditches - There are six water diversion ditches (Chilton Ditch, Highline Ditch, Nicholson Ditch, Sandelin Ditch, Soda Creek Ditch, and Woodchuck Ditch) in the roadless area. Motorized/mechanized equipment is authorized for maintenance and repair of the ditches.

Easements - Application for a road easement for access to private land in-holdings along Big Creek has been made.

Yampa Valley Electric Association and US West Communications hold utility easements through the area.

ROWS - Routt County ROW along Hot Springs Creek between Routt County roads 36 and 129.

Range

The Special Use Permits for the Corral Creek and Elk Park grazing allotments authorizes the permit holders to use motor vehicles in their operations.

Roads

FDRs 60.2A and 314, both primitive roads currently open to motorized travel, are located within the area.

Wildlife

Key elk winter range is found on the lower elevation, oak-covered hillsides.

Other

Lower elevation vegetation types (oakbrush and aspen) could be considered unique additions to the present Mt. Zirkel Wilderness.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 33 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 170 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-24 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	29
lodgepole pine	18
aspen	44
shrubs	3
grass/forb	4
non-vegetated	1
water/wetland	1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-25 has this same information for the Mad Creek Roadless Area.

Table C-25. Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	4,347		4,564			
lynx	#4, #5	4,471		4,564			
marten	#4	4,347	11,086	4,564			
ring tail	#4				758		
goshawk	#4	4,347	11,086	4,564	758		
flamulated owl	#4			4,564			
ferruginous hawk	#4						949
loggerhead shrike	#4						949
purple martin	#4		11,086				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				758		
greater sandhill crane	#4					1,591	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	4,347					
white faced ibis	#4					1,591	
boreal western toad	#4					1,591	
wood frog	#4					1,591	
leopard frog	#4					1,591	
long-billed curlew	#4					1,591	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4 have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-26 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Table C-26 Limited Representation Covertypes in Mad Creek Roadless Area		
Covertype	Acres in Mad Creek Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	4,564	6
Gambel oak	146	65
big sagebrush	101	2
pinon-juniper		
aspen	11,086	14
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow		

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-27) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Mad Creek Roadless Area.

Table C-27. Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		25,095				25,085	
1.32	1,914		15,407	11,257			
2.2				6,630	6,630		6,630
3.21						63	
4.2		2	897	418	436		427
4.3	448		1,765		3		5
5.11	2,652	4		4			
5.12	13,791				11,222		10,622
5.13							481
5.41	6,344	34	6,591	6,593	6,600		6,706
7.1		14	490	247	258		277

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-28 summarizes the Mad Creek Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-28							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	1,914	25,095	15,407	17,887	6,630	25,148	6,630
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	23,235	54	9,743	7,262	18,519	0	18,518

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21112 Chedsey Creek - 963 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 7N, R. 82W; T. 7N, R. 83W. This area is located in Jackson County east of Steamboat Springs and adjacent to the southern end of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area. It is administered by the North Park Ranger District. It is bordered on the south, north, and east sides by FDRs 625 and 626. FDR 626 is closed to motorized vehicles. There are timber haul roads in the northern end of the area which extend from FDR 626.1. The roads are revegetated and closed to motorized vehicles. No trails access the area, however an alternative route for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) is proposed in this area. The proposed route runs from Summit Lake to FDR 626.1 and parallels the wilderness boundary.

Geography and Topography: The area is characterized by deep, rolling, forested drainages. These drainages become shallow close to the north end of the unit. The streams are both perennial and intermittent. Several rock outcrops are scattered throughout the area. Opportunities for vistas overlooking North Park and the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness exist.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sands to sandy loam derived from glacial till. These soils have low fertility.

Vegetation: The area contains mostly spruce/fir timber stands. Some commercial timber harvest has occurred, and a small clearcut is located in the area. Regeneration is in excess of 15 feet.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Mt. Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	73	8
5.13 Forest Products	64	7
5.21 Water Yield	824	86

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

There are no outfitter/guides servicing the area and no ditches or mining claims. There is one cattle and horse grazing allotment with 600 head months in the area. The area provides important summer range for elk. The area has been used for timber harvest in the past. A small clearcut on the north end of the area was harvested within the last 15 years.

Appearance: The area is characterized by deep, rolling, forested drainages with opportunities from vistas overlooking North Park and the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. There are timber haul roads in the northern part of the area. These roads have been revegetated.

Surroundings: This small roadless area is bordered on three sides by FDRs and the Mount Zirkel Wilderness area on the fourth.

Attractions: The primary attraction are the views into North Park and the Mt. Zirkel wilderness.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are moderate due to the proximity to roads.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge, due to the deep drainages, steep side slopes, occasional talus slopes and rock outcrops to negotiate, and lack of developed trails. Accessibility to most of the area is not easy, although there are nearby roads.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated low. Recreation uses consist of the following: hiking, camping, hunting, and to a limited extent, horseback riding. Winter recreation opportunities may include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 963 acres, area rates low in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Chedsey Creek Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						924	
1.32		810	830	808			
3.21						38	
3.31		29					
3.55						1	
4.2		124	132	126	130		138
4.3	73		1				
5.11				29	833		825
5.13	64						
5.21	826						

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21113 Whalen Creek - 1,090 Acres

Overview

History: This small area is contiguous with and lies downslope from the east side of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness.

Location and Access: T. 7N, R. 82W; T. 8N, R. 82W. This area is located in Jackson County southwest of Walden on the North Park Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 615, 627, and 630 and by FDT 1126. No FDRs or FDTs access the area.

Geography and Topography: The terrain of this area is characterized by rolling, vegetated drainages and steep rocky ridges. There are several rock cliff bands scattered throughout the area. Several small streams, both perennial and intermittent, dissect the area, and there are a few small lakes/ponds.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sands to sandy loam derived from glacial till. These soils have low fertility.

Vegetation: The vegetation is primarily mixed conifer and its associated understory with some aspen.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the North Park Subsection of the Northern parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	589	54
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	1	<1
5.13 Forest Products	496	45

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation and for seasonal grazing.

Appearance: The majority of this area is undisturbed by man so the overall appearance is quite natural.

Surroundings: The area's west and south sides are contiguous with the east side of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. To the north and east are other National Forest land administered by the North Park Ranger District. The area is not contiguous to other roadless areas.

Attractions: The area has high scenic qualities with opportunities for vistas overlooking North Park and spectacular views of the adjoining Mt. Zirkel Wilderness.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high, with a diversity of dissected topography that easily screens people from one another within short distances. Most of the area has fairly dense vegetation which also screens people from one another. The relative lack of nearby roads offers a sense of solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a high degree of naturalness. Much of the area appears undisturbed by the activities of man.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. The area's small size limits the sense of remoteness and primitive adventure. However, this is mitigated by the existing, contiguous wilderness.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. The area's small size limits the opportunities but, as was the case with challenge, this is mitigated by the area being contiguous with existing, designated wilderness.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low, due to the area's remote location in relation to developed/urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as moderate. The area does contain some distinctive landscapes, but much of the area can be characterized as common.

Manageability

Size The area's size rating for wilderness capability is moderate. The area itself is quite small, but it is contiguous with existing wilderness.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low due to the presence of FDR 627, which is open to motorized travel almost to the area boundary, and to the artificial boundary on the north end which was drawn solely to exclude Aqua Fria Reservoir and its access road.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 848 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 10,784.02 MBF (2,328.08 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 77% of the total area.

Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is prohibited in the portion of the area that is allocated to Management Area 3B, approximately 57% of the total area. Harvest activity is not precluded in the 7E portion, though harvest method may be restricted. There are currently no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has no potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has medium potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Special Uses

There are no conflicting Special Uses authorized for this area.

Wildlife

This area provides important habitat for ducks and other waterfowl.

Sandhill cranes may use the area for nesting grounds.

The area is important elk summer range.

Other

A portion of the area (approximately 42.5% and corresponding to the portion that is allocated to Management Area 7E) is open year-long to motor vehicles operating off Forest development roads and trails.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 45 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres).

Distance to Population Centers : The area is about 170 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-29 displays percentages of covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	87
lodgepole pine	<1
aspen	2
shrubs	<1
grass/forb	2
non-vegetated	7
water/wetland	2

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-30 has this same information for the Whalen Creek Roadless Area.

		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	386		1			
lynx	#4, #5	386		1			
marten	#4	386	26	1			
ring tail	#4				4		
goshawk	#4	386	26	1	4		
flamulated owl	#4			1			
ferruginous hawk	#4						16
loggerhead shrike	#4						16
purple martin	#4		26				
Columbia sharp-	#4				4		

tailed grouse							
greater sandhill crane	#4					47	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	386					
white faced ibis	#4					47	
boreal western toad	#4					47	
wood frog	#4					47	
leopard frog	#4					47	
long-billed curlew	#4					47	
*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation							

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-31 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertype	Acres in Whalen Creek Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	1	<1
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinon-juniper		
aspen	26	<1
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow		

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-32) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Whalen Creek Roadless Area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		1,082	1	1,075		1,082	
1.32	593		1,056				967
1.41						8	
3.31	1	8	26				
4.3			7				
5.11					1,090		
5.13	496			15			123

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-33 summarizes the Whalen Creek Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-33							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	594	1,090	1,083	1,075	0	1,090	967
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	496	0	7	15	1,090	0	123

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21114 Grizzly Helena - 6,376 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 8N, R. 82W; T. 9N, R. 82W. This area is located in Jackson County between Walden and Steamboat Springs on the North Park Ranger District. It is bordered by the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness on the west side, by Aqua Fria Lake and FDR 630 on the south side. The north border lies just south of a four-wheel drive road and adjacent to Red Canyon Reservoir. The east side borders private property and BLM lands along the northern part.

The area contains a high concentration of roads and trails providing easy access. FDR 634.2 is a mining road leading to the South Rim of Red Canyon, and is presently closed by the landowner to public access. FDR 635 is a short section of county road leading to the Rainbow Lakes Trailhead. Several roads on private property provide access to the area. There are three trails crossing the area: the Grizzly Helena Trail, FDT 1126-motorized; the Rainbow Lake Trail, FDT 1130; and the Lost Ranger Trail, FDT 1131. The Grizzly Helena Trail has historically been used by motorcycles, mountain bikes, and ATVs.

Geography and Topography: Several drainages bisect the unit in an east-west direction. Many intermittent and perennial streams are present. Due to heavy vegetation cover throughout most of this area, the opportunity for scenic vistas is minimal. There are no peaks. Livingston Park is a scenic area with large meadows and beaver ponds.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from glacial till and granite. The soils are coarse-textured.

Vegetation: Little vegetation manipulation is evident.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the North Park Subsection of the Northern parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	546	9
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	5,813	91

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Recreation use includes motorcycle and mountain bike rides along the Grizzly Helena trail (FDT 1126). ATV use has been increasing on the trail in this area. One outfitter/guide services the area for summer and fall use. There are three cattle and horse allotments totalling 1000 head months of use. The area is important habitat for ducks and waterfowl. Three ditches cross the area. There is assessment activity on an unpatented mining claim located on the South Rim of Red Canyon.

Appearance: Heavy vegetation cover throughout most of the area results in little opportunity for scenic vistas. There is a high concentration of roads and trails providing easy access into and throughout the area.

Surroundings: The area is adjacent to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness along the west border. Private property adjoins the unit along the east side. A patented mining claim is located along the east boundary.

Attractions: There are no unique attractions in this area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are moderate, due to the high concentration of roads and trails, the easy accessibility of this area, and the close proximity of mining activity.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness. Little evidence of vegetation manipulation is visible, however, the road leading to the South Rim of Red Canyon winds through areas of extensive ground disturbance attributable to past fluorspar mining activity. The use of motorized vehicles along FDT 1126 detracts from the potential wilderness character.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge because the concentration of roads and trails forms a very effective travel system. Travel cross-country in this area is more challenging but very feasible.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated moderate. A wide variety of recreation activities occur, including horseback riding, hiking, hunting, camping, mountain biking, ATV and motorcycle riding. Winter recreation opportunities include ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and sledding.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a high level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low. There are no prominent peaks or valleys. The area provides important habitat for ducks and waterfowl.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 6,376 acres, the area rates as moderate in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate. Manageability as wilderness would be difficult due to the number of roads and access points originating on private land. Changing the historical use

of several motorized/mechanized forms of recreation would be difficult. In addition, the boundary of R21114 was drawn to exclude a patented mining claim, essentially creating an in-holding. This would be difficult to manage.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Grizzly Helena Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						6,343	
1.32	546						1
1.41						29	
1.5		195	186	190	189		182
3.21						4	
3.31	5,830	6,181	6,189	6,161			663
5.11					6,187		4,284
5.12							1,246
5.13				24			

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21115 Kettle Lakes - 11,303 Acres

Overview

History: The area is generally located in the eastern foothills and mid-slope areas of the Park Range. It borders the eastern boundary of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. This roadless area was listed at 14,913 acres in the Analysis of the Management Situation published in June 1993. However, approximately 3,803 acres of this larger area was designated as wilderness by inclusion in the 20,750 acre Davis Peak Addition to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993.

Location and Access: T. 9N, R. 82W; T. 10N, R. 82W; T. 11N, R. 82 and 83W. This area is located in Jackson County northwest of Walden on the North Park Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 600, 640, 646, 652, 660, and 689. It is accessed by FDTs 1124, 1125, 1125.1A, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1148, 1178, and 1180.

Geography and Topography: The terrain of this area is characterized by many drainages with streams dissecting the area in an east/west direction. The area contains a unique glacial pothole region. Upper and Lower Big Creek Lakes, large natural lakes, are included within the boundaries.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from glacial till and granite. The soils are coarse-textured.

Vegetation: The area is dominated by forested ecosystems in mid-late seral condition with a few scattered sagebrush/grass openings and aspen communities. The predominant species are lodgepole pine at lower elevations and spruce/fir at higher elevations. Vegetation cover is heavy.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the North Park Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	480	4
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	10,524	93
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	83	1

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used extensively for a variety of recreational activities and for seasonal grazing. In addition, watershed resources are utilized, as evidenced by the 8 water diversion/collection ditches which are located within the area. There is some small-scale mining activity taking place on two unpatented mining claims.

Appearance: Trails, ditches, roads, and other man-made features do occur in the area at regular intervals, however they are generally not visually dominant except in the immediate foreground. There is little noticeable vegetation manipulation so, overall, the area does appear to be quite natural.

Surroundings: The area is contiguous along its west side with the east side of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness. To the north and south are other National Forest lands administered by the North Park Ranger District. On the east side is the Forest boundary with private land. The area is not contiguous to other roadless areas.

Attractions: The area offers a large number of trail-related recreation opportunities within the area and serves as an access point to the adjacent wilderness. The pothole area is unique. It provides habitat for several uncommon wildlife and plant species and provides unique and valuable habitat for a variety of more common waterfowl species.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as moderate. The terrain is diverse and rather well-dissected. The heavy vegetative cover offers screening and provides a feeling of solitude. The large number of adjacent roads and the number of trails in the area, along with the presence of other man-made features, tends to detract from the feeling of solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. Much of the area does appear undisturbed, with little evidence of vegetation manipulation, but the presence of trails, ditches, roads, and other man-made features detracts from the sense of naturalness.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, but it is limited in scope by the number of man-made features evident in the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as high. The area offers substantial opportunities in itself and in conjunction with the adjacent, existing wilderness.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as outstanding due to the area's location relative to the large, heavily-used developed recreation facilities at the Big Creek Lakes Campground. A prime opportunity for education and environmental study is the glacial pothole area, which is currently being considered for designation as a Research Natural Area.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as high. Though much of the area can be characterized as common, the pothole area is unique and very high in scenic values.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is moderate. The area itself is relatively small, but it is contiguous with existing wilderness.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate. The portion of the area that is contiguous with the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness poses no problems for management but the east side, with its extensive adjacent private land, poses some substantial boundary management concerns. Several undeeded roads enter the area from the adjacent private land. Sights and sounds common to agriculture/ranch operations would intrude on the wilderness experience along most of the eastern boundary.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 8,582 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 101,931.70 MBF (22,028.32 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 58% of the total area.

Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is prohibited in the portion of the area that is allocated to Management Area 3B, approximately 37% of the total area. Harvest activity is not precluded in the remaining portions, though harvest method may be restricted.

Oil & Gas

The majority of the area has no potential for oil & gas. There are areas of low potential along the eastern edge. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

Approximately 50% of the area has low potential for locatable minerals, 30% of the area has moderate potential, and 20% has high potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Range

Motorized/mechanized equipment maybe authorized in conjunction with the grazing allotment in the area.

Recreation

Motorized Use - FDT 1126 is open to motorized travel. This trail bisects the area north to south. It is a popular and well publicized motorized route and is a featured trail on the state off-highway vehicle (OHV) map. It has a well-established history of motorized use and receives heavy use through the summer and early fall, especially in conjunction with Big Creek Lakes Campground. Considerable investment has been made recently, on a challenge-cost share basis with various OHV organizations, in upgrading this trail.

Motor boats are permitted on Lower Big Creek Lake. This is popular use.

Developed Recreation Sites - The water system for the adjacent Big Creek Lakes Campground is located within the area. The campground itself is large (54 units) and receives heavy use. There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Roads

FDR 650.1 and the Pleasant Valley Ditch headgate access road are located within the area. FDR 650.1 is a primitive road currently open to motorized travel. Motorized travel in conjunction with the ditch operation is allowed, by permit, on the Pleasant Valley Ditch headgate access road.

Several undeeded access roads enter the Forest from adjoining private land.

Special Uses

Dam - A small dam was built on Lower Big Creek Lake to increase the water-holding capacity.

Ditches - There are 8 water diversion ditches (Beaverdale Ditch, Eber Ditch, Hard to Find Ditch, Harl Ditch, Lockout Ditch, Pleasant Valley Ditch, Timber Ditch, and West Boettcher Ditch) in the roadless area. Historically, motorized/mechanized equipment has been used for maintenance and repair of the ditches.

Recreation - A recreation residence is located in T. 11N., R. 82W, Sec. 16, east of Big Creek Lake.

Wildlife

The pothole area is potential habitat for some unique wildlife and plant species such as several amphibian species and the bufflehead duck. In addition to these special wildlife species, the pothole area provides unique and valuable habitat for a variety of more common waterfowl species.

Other

The pothole area is currently being considered for designation as a Research Natural Area.

There are two valid (as of 11/93) unpatented mining claims located in T. 11N., R. 82 W, SW 1/4 of Sec, 18.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres), approximately 12 miles from the Platte River Wilderness (23,000 acres) and the Encampment River Wilderness (10,400 acres), and about 20 miles from the Huston Park Wilderness (31,300 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 180 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-34 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	30
lodgepole pine	38
aspen	17
shrubs	6
grass/forb	2
non-vegetated	1
water/wetland	6

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-35 has this same information for the Kettle Lakes Roadless Area.

Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	2,726		4,275			
lynx	#4, #5	2,726		4,275			
marten	#4	2,726	1,901	4,275			
ring tail	#4				694		
goshawk	#4	2,726	1,901	4,275	694		
flamulated owl	#4			4,275			
ferruginous hawk	#4						266
loggerhead shrike	#4						266
purple martin	#4		1,901				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				694		
greater sandhill crane	#4					1,772	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	2,726					
white faced ibis	#4					1,772	
boreal western toad	#4					1,772	
wood frog	#4					1,772	
leopard frog	#4					1,772	
long-billed curlew	#4					1,772	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region Wilderness system. Table C-36 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertypes	Acres in Kettle Lakes Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	4,275	6
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush	282	6
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	1,901	2
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	377	16

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-37) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Kettle Lakes Roadless Area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		11,189		11,189		11,224	
1.32	480		849				
1.41						78	
2.2		7	1,837	7	2,052		2,052
3.31	10,740	1	7,388	1			
4.3		76	1,228	75	1,740		1,745
5.11	83	30			6,912		6,908
5.12				25	25		
5.13				7	574		597

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-38 summarizes the Kettle Lakes Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	11,220	11,197	10,074	11,197	2,052	11,302	2,052
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	83	106	1,228	108	9,251	0	9,250

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21116 Long Park - 43,979 Acres

Overview

History: The area lies predominately west of the Continental Divide. It slopes westward to the lower areas of the Yampa River Valley. It is dominated by mid to high elevation parks and lakes. Krummholz forest is found here. Snowfall accumulations are among the highest in the state. There is much evidence of man's activities along the fringes of the area.

Location and Access: T. 5N, R. 82, 83 and 84W; T. 6N, R. 82, 83 and 84W; T. 7N, R. 82, 83 and 84W. This area is located in Grand, Jackson and Routt counties east of Steamboat Springs on the Hahns Peak and North Park Ranger Districts. It is bordered by US Highway 40 and FDRs 60, 291, 310, 320, and 321. It is accessed by FDRs 296, 299, 305, 305A, 306, and 306A, (primitive roads open to motorized travel) and FDTs 1101, 1102, and 1134.

Geography and Topography: The terrain on the east side and in the interior of this area is generally rolling hills, dissected by several streams. It does not contain rugged peaks. Along the western edge, the terrain is more rugged and steeply sloping and includes several steep canyons with scenic waterfalls.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from granite and schist.

Vegetation: Vegetation consists primarily of scrub oak and aspen at lower elevations and willow-dominated parks and riparian areas, shallow lakes, and spruce/fir forests at higher elevations. Some (very little) tundra exists.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the North Park Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	5,877	13
3.23 Municipal Watersheds	14,166	32
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	1,517	3
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	4,161	9
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	3,186	7
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	10,147	24
5.13 Forest Products	35	<1
5.21 Water Yield	3,381	8
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,504	3

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used extensively for a variety of recreational activities, including motorized uses. Powerline corridors cross the area. Seasonal grazing takes place.

Watershed resources are utilized extensively. The watershed supply for the city of Steamboat Springs is contained within the area, and there are two municipal water supply reservoirs. There is also a recreation reservoir located within the area.

Appearance: The central portion of the area is relatively unmodified and appears rather natural. Numerous developments and intrusions have occurred on the fringes of the area, leaving it with a modified, unnatural appearance.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded on the north, east, and south sides by other National Forest lands administered by the Hahns Peak and North Park Ranger Districts. On the west side is the Forest Boundary and adjoining private land, as well as the Steamboat Ski Area. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness or other roadless areas.

Attractions: The area attracts heavy use because of the variety of recreation opportunities offered in a relatively natural setting in proximity to the town of Steamboat Springs, with its resident and tourist populations. In particular, the high yearly snowfall attracts winter recreationists.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as low. The area currently receives a high level of use, making solitude difficult to experience. The rolling nature of the terrain and the many open park areas prevent much of the topographic and vegetative screening, and the number of intruding roads and other man-made features tends to detract from the feeling of solitude.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated high. Much of the area appears undisturbed, with little evidence of modification. Evidence of human activity is present primarily along the fringes.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, but it is limited in scope by the presence of man-made features along the edges of the area and by the high level of use.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as outstanding. The area offers a wide variety of opportunities and a sufficient area of undeveloped land to accommodate them.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as high due to the area's close proximity to the town of Steamboat Springs; the Steamboat Ski Area; and the adjacent Fish Creek, Dumont Lake, Walton Creek, Meadows, Granite, and Ferndale developed recreation facilities.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as moderate. Though it does contain some distinctive landscapes, much of the area can be characterized as common.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is high. It is of sufficient size to be practical as a wilderness area.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated high. The majority of the area is contiguous with other Forest land (this avoids the boundary concerns common to areas that adjoin private lands), and it possesses relatively definable borders.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 24,232 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 301,747.60 MBF (63,576.62 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 54% of the total area.

Oil & Gas

The majority of the area has no potential for oil & gas. There is a small area of low potential in the far southeast corner of the area. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has low potential for locatable minerals. There is one salable mineral site located just to the north of the area.

Management Considerations

Range

Motorized/mechanized equipment is authorized in conjunction with the Walton Creek Grazing Allotment on existing open 2-track roads.

Recreation

Motorized Use - Six primitive roads, FDRs 296, 299, 305, 305A, 306, and 306A, enter the area and are open to motorized use.

FDT 1101 and 1134 are open to motorized travel and receive substantial use.

Much of the area is open to snowmobile use. A system of snowmobile trails, marked and maintained by Routt Powder Riders, runs through the area. Use occurs off of designated routes as well. The eastern portion of the area is heavily used by snowmobilers.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Mountain Bike Use - All trails in the area are open to bicycle use.

FDT 1102 receives heavy bike use.

Mountain View Trail, a proposed project connecting Long Lake and Mt. Werner (Steamboat Ski Area), is targeted specifically for mountain bike users.

National Recreation Trail - Fish Creek Falls Trail, FDT 1102, is designated as a National Recreation Trail.

Special Uses

Recreation Special Uses - A decision has been made regarding expansion of the Steamboat Ski Area. A small portion of the roadless area is included in the expansion area.

A guided snowmobile tour operation under permit utilizes the area.

There is a snowcat-served guided backcountry ski operation under permit in the northern part of the area, south of FDR 60.

Bruce's Trail, a machine-groomed nordic ski trail just north of US HWY 40, is under permit.

Powerline - Western Area Power Authority and Yampa Valley Electric Association are permitted for the powerlines that cross the northern end of the area.

Dams - Long Lake and Fish Creek reservoirs are storage facilities for the town of Steamboat Springs' water supply and are located within the area. Fish Creek Reservoir is currently undergoing analysis for proposed expansion of the reservoir and relocation of the access road for the dam.

Electronic Sites - Radio relay stations located near the summit of Mt. Werner (T. 6N, R. 83W, Sec. 29) and near Buffalo Pass (T. 7N, R. 83W, Sec. 35).

EPA Site - Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality monitoring site near Buffalo Pass (T. 7N, R. 83W, Sec. 35).

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies just on the south of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres), separated by Forest Development Road 60 at Buffalo Pass, and 24 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 170 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-39 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertype	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	53
lodgepole pine	9
aspen	12
shrubs	6
grass/forb	13
non-vegetated	3
water/wetlands	4

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-40 has this same information for the Long Park Roadless Area.

Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	14,717		3,975			
lynx	#4, #5	14,717		3,975			
marten	#4	14,717	4,966	3,975			
ring tail	#4				2,653		
goshawk	#4	14,717	4,966	3,975	2,653		
flamulated owl	#4			3,975			
ferruginous hawk	#4						5,693
loggerhead shrike	#4						5,693
purple martin	#4		4,966				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				2,653		
greater sandhill crane	#4					4,092	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	14,717	4,966				
white faced ibis	#4					4,092	
boreal western toad	#4					4,092	
wood frog	#4					4,092	
leopard frog	#4					4,092	
long-billed curlew	#4					4,092	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-41 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertypes	Acres in Long Park Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	3,975	5
Gambel oak	49	22
big sagebrush		
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	4,966	7
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	1,116	46

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-42) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Long Park roadless area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32	5,877	21,178	19,921	21,073			
1.41						43,595	
3.21						82	
3.23	14,166	14,389	14,328	14,392	14,404	186	14,531
3.31	1,517	2,785	2,821	2,832			299
3.55						104	
4.2		2,768	2,640	2,680	2,666		2,524
4.3	4,161	326	1,409	200	295		392
5.11	3,186		331	122	23,487	7	23,192
5.12	10,147						
5.13	35			62	671		571
5.21	3,381						
5.41	1,504	2,530	2,340	2,614	2,454		2,465
7.1			185				

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-43 summarizes the Long Park Roadless Area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-43							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	23,064	40,882	39,410	40,911	16,858	43,967	17,295
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	20,910	3,094	4,565	3,064	27,119	7	26,679

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21117 Walton Peak - 5,339 Acres

Overview

History:

Location and Access: T. 4N, R. 83W; T. 5N, R. 82 and 83W. This area is located in Routt and Grand Counties west of Rabbit Ears Pass and south of U.S. 40 on the Hahn's Peak Ranger District. It is bordered on the west by U.S. 40, on the north by U.S. 40 and FDR 251, on the east by FDR 303, and on the south by Harrison Creek and the Sarvis Creek Wilderness.

The area is easily accessed from the Meadows and Walton Creek Campgrounds and U.S. 40. Three forest development roads also provide access; FDRs 302, 251, and 303. Within the unit, there are three roads; FDRs 303.2B, 303.2D, and 295. There are no trails in the area.

Geography and Topography: The Walton Peak area slopes downward into Walton and Harrison Creeks. These creeks are dominated by meadow, riparian, and willow habitat. The peak itself is covered by conifer forest.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from andesite and other volcanic deposits. The soils have a low water-holding capacity due to the amount of coarse fragments.

Vegetation: The area is dominated by meadows and riparian areas. Walton Peak is covered by conifer forests. Marginal timber values exist. The eastern portion of the area shows signs of past timber activity.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	847	16
5.21 Water Yield	4,491	84

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

A moderate amount of dispersed camping and hiking occurs here in the summer months. Fall hunting and winter snowmobile and cross-country use is considered heavy. Low standard roads in the eastern area are moderately to heavily used during big game hunting season. There is an electronic site on Walton Peak. Portions of the Rabbit Ears and Harrison Creek grazing allotments are within this area.

Appearance: The topography is rolling. The extreme eastern portion shows signs of past timber activity and contains low standard roads. The southern part, west of upper Harrison Creek, shows little evidence of man's activities.

Surroundings: U.S. Highway 40 is adjacent to the north/northwest side of the unit. The highway can be seen and traffic noise heard from the area. Two forest service campgrounds on the north side of the unit receive heavy use. The southern border is contiguous with the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area. There has been logging activity in the past along and within the eastern boundary of the area.

Attractions: There are no unique attractions in this area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very low due to the proximity of U.S. 40, nearby campgrounds, and adjacent forest development roads.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness. Views of and noise from Highway 40 negate the natural appearance, as do the signs of past logging activities in the extreme eastern section.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. The southern portion challenge is commensurate with the Sarvis Creek Wilderness level of challenge. The northern and eastern portions provide little challenge.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated moderate. Recreation activities include hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. Limited motorized use occurs in the eastern portion.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study as there are no unique attractions or opportunities.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low. The area consists of general forest land.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 5,339 acres, the area rates low in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low due to the number of access points. The southern portion is adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, but the northeastern side of the unit is close to numerous motorized access points from which motorized vehicle trespass is currently occurring.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Walton Peak Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		3,994		4,037			
1.41						2,229	
3.21						1,562	
3.55						1,547	
4.2		1,282	1,190	1,180	1,157		1,215
4.3	847	58	92	88	111		122
5.11		5	4,057	34	4,067		4,001
5.13					4		
5.21	4,491						

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21118 Little Green Creek - 844 Acres

Overview

Location and Access: T. 4N, R. 83W. The area is located in Routt County, west of the Buffalo Park road (FDR 100) and adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. A ridge and the Divide Trail (FDT 1108) surrounds the south, west, and north sides and separates this area from the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. The eastern boundary is not tied to topographic features.

The northern part of the area is accessed from FDR 303 off of U.S Highway 40 west of Rabbit Ears Pass. Access is also provided by FDT 1108. This trail is used heavily by mountain bikes. There are no interior roads or trails.

Geography and Topography: This parcel lies adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness but is separated by a ridge and lies in a different watershed. The uppermost reaches of this drainage (Little Green Creek) have had extensive past manipulation from timber harvesting and road construction. The terrain is steep.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from granite. Soil fertility is low.

Vegetation: The area has heavy conifer vegetation. The conifer forest is even-aged and typical of much of Colorado. No unique plant species are found within this area.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	775	92
5.21 Water Yield	69	8

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The level of recreation use in this area is low as there is no trail system. Trail 1108 on the divide between this area and the Sarvis Creek Wilderness is used summer through fall.

Appearance: The area shows extensive past manipulation from timber harvesting and road construction. The area contains the headwaters of a watershed, steep slopes, and heavy timber.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded by wilderness on three sides but is separated from the wilderness by a ridge and the mechanized trail (FDT 1108). The area to the east is administered for multiple uses. Timber harvesting activities can be heard or seen from this area.

Attractions: There are no unique attractions in this area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are very low due to mountain bike use on the Divide Trail. Timber harvesting activities can be seen or heard from this area. Usability of the area is limited by slope, vegetation, and the lack of a trail system.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness due to the extensive logging and road building activity present.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. The terrain is steep with heavy vegetation. There is little opportunity to recreate and seek challenge.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated low. Opportunities are limited due to the lack of a trail system in the area. Mountain biking, hiking, and hunting occur on the Divide Trail nearby.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a very low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study. There are no known unique plant or animal species in the area.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low due to the steep terrain, dense forest cover and extensive evidence of past logging activity.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 844 acres, the area rates low in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated very low due to the mechanized trails surrounding three sides of the area, and the absence of a well defined topographic boundary for the area on the east side.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be Not Capable for Wilderness and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Little Green Creek Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
3.21						844	
5.11	775	844		844			
5.13			844		844		844
5.21	69						

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21119 Morrison Creek - 8,456 Acres

Overview

History: The Analysis of the Management Situation, published in June 1993, listed this area as 16,994 acres surrounding the Service Creek Further Planning Area (FPA). However, when the Sarvis Creek Wilderness was designated in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 on August 13, 1993, approximately half of the 16,994 acre roadless area was incorporated in the new wilderness. This reduced the size of the roadless area to 8,314 acres.

Location and Access: T. 2N, R. 82, 83; T. 3N, R. 82, 83, and 84W; T. 4N, R. 82 and 83W. This area is located in Routt and Grand Counties, north of Lynx Pass and surrounding the southern end of the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. It is administered by the Yampa Ranger District. The area is irregular in shape and is bordered by the Sarvis Creek Wilderness in the northern part and the Morrison Creek Road to the west. The east side extends to the Arapaho National Forest boundary. The southern border extends to High Rock Creek.

The area can be accessed from several locations along the Morrison Creek Road, from the Buffalo Park road (FDR 100), and from FDR 263 from the Lynx Pass area. There are no forest roads in this area. The Routt Divide Trail (FDT 1108) crosses the northern section of this area, and numerous user-created trails cross the area.

Geography and Topography: The area encompasses parts of the Service Creek, Silver Creek, High Rock Creek, and Morrison Creek drainages. Many of the streams draining this area are intermittent. Elevations range from 8,300 feet to 10,500 feet. The topography is rugged and steep but does not contain unique scenery.

Views of Morrison Creek, the Flat Tops Wilderness, and the Eagles Nest Range are possible from the highest points.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from granite. Soil fertility is low. Soil depths and stability are highly variable.

Vegetation: Vegetation consists of small meadows and aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce-fir.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	75	1
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	697	8
5.13 Forest Products	3,609	43
5.21 Water Yield	4,075	48

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The largest portion of this area, bounded by the Morrison Creek road to the south and the Sarvis Creek Wilderness to the north, is primarily used during the fall hunting seasons by a moderate amount of hunters. The area currently does not experience much mountain bike use. It is anticipated, however, that the Routt Divide Trail along the eastern border will continue to show increased use, particularly now that the Silver Creek Trail is closed to mechanized vehicles. A Special Use Permit application for a fall hunting season outfitter is currently being analyzed through the NEPA process, after a capacity study indicated that room existed for additional use. The Morrison Creek area has a domestic water supply special use permit, and encompasses portions of 4 allotments and range improvements, including 7 stockpits and 1 drift fence.

Appearance: The area contains rugged, steep topography with no unique scenery. There are no forest roads within the area.

Surroundings: The northern portion is adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. The western boundary is close to private in-holdings along Morrison Creek and private property outside of the forest boundary.

Attractions: There are no unique features or attractions in this area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high. Taken alone, the opportunity for self-reliance is rather low, but the proximity to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness increases the opportunities for a wilderness experience.

Naturalness: The area possesses a high degree of naturalness and provides excellent elk habitat.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge due to the ease of access into the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated low. Recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and the potential for increased use of the Routt Divide Trail for mountain biking.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low. There are no prominent peaks or large meadows. Views of Morrison Creek, the Flat Tops Wilderness, and the Eagles Nest Range are possible from the highest points.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 8,456 acres, the area has a moderate rating in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated as moderate. Management problems exist along the western boundary due to developed private land.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Morrison Creek Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32	75	5,720	4,245	3,904			1,947
1.41						6,950	
3.21						625	
4.2		55		15			332
5.11	697	1,625		2,891	5,973	881	3,712
5.13	3,609		2,718	782	1,342		1,353
5.21	4,075						
5.41			633				
7.1		1,056	860	864	1,141		1,111

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21120 Barber Basin - 5,468 Acres

Overview

History: This area has a history of logging, and currently two sales are prepared within the area (Windy Ridge and Milk). The area contains significant cultural resources associated with the Windy Ridge quarry site; these resources are currently being tested and interpreted.

Location and Access: T. 3N, R. 82W; T. 4N, R. 82W. This area is located in Grand County, east of the Buffalo Park Road FDR 100 and just north of Buffalo Park proper. It is administered by the Middle Park Ranger District. The east side of the area borders public lands administered for multiple uses, as well as private in-holdings (Barber Basin). The entire west side parallels the Buffalo Park Road. Several service roads for private ditches and several low standard roads access the area. There are no trails in the area.

Geography and Topography: Muddy Creek and Franz Creek drain into the Barber Basin, which is located on private land. There are no prominent peaks in the area.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally fine sandy loam to silt loam derived from sandstone and alluvium, as well as a lot of riparian soil.

Vegetation: The primary vegetation type is even-aged lodgepole pine forests typical of much of Colorado. There are no known unique plant species within the area.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	4,107	75
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	1,361	25

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The level of recreation use is low, and there are no permitted outfitter/guides in this area. The area has a history of logging, and two sales are prepared within the area. The entire area is grazed under allotment management plans. There are several private ditches.

Appearance: Several low standard roads and ditch maintenance roads cross the area. Evidence of past logging activity is present, and once the two sales are harvested, the area will experience additional road building and noise that will accompany the operation.

Surroundings: The surrounding lands have a strong history of multiple use. A private in-holding (Barber Basin) is located in the east central part of the unit.

Attractions: This area contains several small pothole lakes and two waterfalls. It also has a good mix of aspen, conifers, and open meadows.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are low particularly when ditches are being attended to or the allotments are being grazed. Timber sale activities will further suppress the opportunity for solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. There are too many roads to instill a feeling of adventure and self-reliance.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated moderate. The area lacks a trail system unless the low-standard roads are used. Recreation opportunities include mountain biking, hunting, and after the timber harvest activity, gathering forest products.

Special Features

Education: This area offers an outstanding level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study. The area contains the Windy Ridge quarry site which is currently being studied by researchers and used for interpretive hikes. The area is also used seasonally by the Ute Indians.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated moderate.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 5,468 acres, the area rates low in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated very low due to a lack of definitive geographic features and the variety of multiple uses on adjacent private and public lands.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Barber Basin Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		4,932		5,371			
2.1		511	294			1,189	491
3.21						2,047	
4.2		20		20			264
5.11	4,107	5		77	2,085	2,231	409
5.12	1,361		5,174		3,383		4,305

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21121 Bushy Creek - 11,386 Acres

Overview

History: This area is bordered by private property along the Morrison Creek Road, in an area that is experiencing growth due to its proximity to Stagecoach Reservoir and the Stagecoach Ski Area. Subdivisions along the Morrison Creek road are seeing renewed activity (summer home development and filing of water rights).

Location and Access: T. 2N, R. 83 and 84W; T. 3N, R. 84W. This area is located in Routt County east of Yampa, on the west side of Morrison Creek road. It is administered by the Yampa Ranger District. The area is bordered by FDR 270 (the Morrison Creek Road), with private property along most of the road. The private property extends to the northern end of the unit and includes single family subdivisions around the Stagecoach community. The eastern side is bordered by the Green Ridge road and by the Muddy Slide/Morrison Divide Trail FDT 1174. The southern end extends to Lynx Pass.

No FDRs occur in this area. Several historical user-created 4WD routes lead from private property onto the Forest. Prior to 1991, a 4WD road along Bushy Creek provided access to the top of Greenridge for private landowners only. The Forest Service closed and rehabilitated this road in the fall of 1991. A grazing permittee continues to use this road for access. Public access to the area is fairly restricted due to the private ownership along the Morrison Creek road. However, access is provided from FDR 185 (Green Ridge Road) and FDT 1174 (Morrison Divide Trail).

Geography and Topography: The area generally has a northeast aspect with the exception of a bowl draining to the south at the head of Bushy Creek. Most of the area has slopes in excess of 20%, and the soil is very erosive. The area has rugged, steep topography. Views of the Morrison Creek drainage and the Eagles Nest Range are possible from the highest elevations. Predominant drainages include Beaver Creek, Bushy Creek, Clear Creek, and Muddy Creek. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 10,200 feet.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from granite and shales. They are generally shallow and poorly developed.

Vegetation: Vegetation is characterized by lodgepole pine, spruce-fir, and aspen stands interspersed with meadows. Meadow vegetation is dominated by a Thurber fescue-needlegrass plant community. Operable timber stands are limited to the southern and eastern portions of the area. The northeast facing slopes are timbered but are generally too steep for conventional logging. The south and southeast facing slopes contain small aspen stands.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	2,469	22
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	3,972	835
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	2,386	21
5.13 Forest Products	71	1
5.21 Water Yield	2,488	22

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The main uses of the area include big game hunting and cattle grazing. There are several cattle and horse allotments, 8 stockpits, and 3 drift fences. The Muddy Slide/Morrison Divide Trail provides a motorized route for ATVs and motorcycles and is also popular with hikers and mountain bikers. The trail has historic significance, and proper designation is currently being pursued. Several cultural resources have been identified along the trail. Two outfitters currently service the area in the summer and fall. Another outfitter may be added for fall hunting use, pending the approval of the permit following the NEPA process. Other special uses include a ditch and water transmission line. The area is used for big game summer range and is adjacent to the Deadman Park , an elk calving area.

Appearance: The area contains rugged, steep topography with views of the Morrison Creek drainage and the Eagles Nest Range from the highest points. Muddy Slide is a unique topographic feature. It is a very large landslide that provides a backdrop for a lush meadow.

Surroundings: Bushy Creek is not adjacent to other wilderness, and is separated from the Morrison Creek roadless area by the Morrison Creek Road and the private development along the road. Property in the Stagecoach subdivisions adjacent to the eastern border are seeing renewed growth and development following the creation of Stagecoach Reservoir and future plans to reopen the Stagecoach Ski Area.

Attractions: Big game hunting, ATV use, and mountain biking along FDT 1174 are the main attractions to the area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are low, due to the adjacent private property, the long, narrow shape of the area, and the heavy use of the Muddy Slide/Morrison Divide Trail by mountain bikers and ATV users.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. Bushy Creek does not have a high degree of naturally appearing landscapes because of the existence and use of 4WD roads in the area and other improvements.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. The area is not remote. A small area around the Muddy Slide is an exception and provides an opportunity to experience adventure, excitement, and challenge.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated low. Recreation opportunities include hunting, mountain biking, ATV use, and hiking associated mainly with the Forest trail system .

Special Features

Education: This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as moderate. There are no prominent peaks. Muddy Slide, a large area of slumping, is a unique feature in this area. In addition, there is a 30-foot waterfall along the creek which is not accessible by trail.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 11,386, the area has a low rating in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated high.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Bushy Creek Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.41						10,906	
3.21						481	
3.31	2,469	10,257		10,148			
4.3		4					
5.11	3,972	72	10,627		8,096		8,094
5.12	2,386			8	8		10
5.13	71		175	39	2,228		2,246
5.21	2,488						
7.1		1,055	585	1,192	1,054		1,036

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21123 Dome - 2,133 Acres

Overview

History: The Dome area and surrounding lands have been logged recently. The area is adjacent to a larger roadless area on the White River National Forest. Should the White River determine that this roadless area is capable for wilderness, they will be the lead forest in making a decision on the roadless capability of the Dome area.

Location and Access: T. 1S, R. 86W; T. 1N, R. 86W, 89, and 90W. This area is located in Garfield County southwest of Yampa on the Yampa Ranger District. It is bordered by the Flat Tops Wilderness on the west and by Dome Creek on the east. Bear Lake lies just to the north of the unit. The southern extent is the forest boundary with the White River National Forest.

Other than access on the north side from the Bear River road FDR 948, there are no FDRs accessing the area. However, recent logging activities in the area provide a network of roads. There are no maintained trails in the area.

Geography and Topography: The area lies at the base of the Flat Top Mountains and consists of rolling timbered and open sagebrush country. The Flat Top Mountains, Egeria Creek, and Green Ridge can be viewed from various locations in the area.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from basalt.

Vegetation: The area supports stands of spruce and sub-alpine fir, with an overstory of beetle-killed spruce. Some stands of commercial dead spruce still exist in the area. Much of the eastern portion of the area has been salvage logged.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Flat Tops Subsection of the North-Central Highlands Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.12 Wilderness, Primitive	2	<1
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	1	<1
5.13 Forest Products	2,130	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area includes no recreational developments. Hunting is the main recreational use of the area. Unauthorized ATV use along the logging roads has been a problem in this area. There are no outfitters serving the area. Special uses include one ditch and two cattle and horse allotments in the area.

Appearance: The area does not contain prominent peaks or meadows but offers good views to the west and east. The area is mostly forested with several small meadows. A network of logging roads is quite visible and detracts from the natural appearance.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded on all sides by national forest lands, with visible evidence of current and past logging activity. The west side is bordered by the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. The Flat Top Mountains rise abruptly to the west.

Attractions: There are no known unique attractions.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are low.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness, due to the proximity of logging roads and other evidence of past logging activity.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated low. Hunting is the most popular activity. Activities such as fishing, hiking, and horseback riding are possible but do not occur for the most part. Mountain bike use and unauthorized ATV use also occurs.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a moderate level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features: There are no prominent peaks or large meadows in the unit. The area offers occasional views of the Flat Tops and to the east toward Green Ridge and Egeria Creek.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 2,133 acres, the area rates moderate in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate due to the lack of natural boundaries and the network of logging roads.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Dome Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						2,062	
1.32		1,980		1,972	1,163		
1.41						45	
3.21						26	
4.3	1	93	193	114	99		1,214
5.11		60	1,940				
5.12				47			
5.13	2,132				871		920

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21124 Chatfield - 11,273 Acres

Overview

History

Location and Access: T. 1N, R. 86 and 87W; T. 2N, R. 86 and 87W. This area is located in Garfield, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties west of Yampa on the Yampa Ranger District. Irregular in shape, the area is bounded by the Flat Tops Wilderness on the west. It extends south from Sheriffs Reservoir to the Mandall Creek area, east to the Heart Lake area, and north and east to the Burnt Mesa area.

The area can be accessed from FDR 260 at Sheriff Reservoir and from FDR 948 along the Bear River corridor. Primitive motorized roads enter the area from private property to maintain McChivas and Bull Park Reservoirs, two privately controlled reservoirs. In addition, an old roadway crosses the area from north to south and includes some old drill sites. Two trails access the area: the Heart Lake Trail (FDT 1110), which is a popular motorized trail and the East Coal Creek Trail (FDT 1123).

Geography and Topography: The elevation ranges from 9,844 feet along Mandall Creek to 12,134 feet at Orno Peak. The topography varies from the broad open expanses of the Little Flat Tops to the extremely steep walls dropping from the rim of the Little Flat Tops to the moderately sloping drainages of South Hunt Creek, Watson Creek, and Moody Creek.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loam to clay loam derived from basalt and shales.

Vegetation: The area supports stands of spruce and sub-alpine fir with an overstory of beetle-killed spruce and large expanses of aspen. The area above timberline contains sub-alpine willows and grasses. The area contains a unique type of high-altitude willow.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Flat Tops Subsection of the North-Central Highlands Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses. The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	3,718	33
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	1,778	16
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	4,853	43
5.13 Forest Products	672	6
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	253	2

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

This area receives high recreational use in the summer and fall. One outfitter is permitted for year-round use. There are a number of special uses in this area, including 3 reservoirs, 1 pipeline, 1 dam, 3 ditches, two flumes, and a special-use road to access the reservoirs. In addition, the area encompasses portions of 6 allotments, 3 sheep and goat and 3 cattle and horse. There are 7.5 miles of fenceline and 9 stockpits in the area. The area has been identified as excellent deer and elk habitat and supports a large population of big game. The area includes the South Hunt drainage, which is surrounded on all sides by commercial timber sales and other improvements.

Appearance: The numerous special use improvements serve to negate a feeling of naturalness. The Heart Lake trail is a popular trail with ATV users, especially during fall hunting season.

Surroundings: The Bear River Corridor is a popular access route into the Flat Tops Wilderness, summer through fall. To the north, signs of old timber sale activity around the South Hunt drainage and the Chatfield area are evident, particularly old road networks.

Attractions: The primary attractions in this area include the rim of the Little Flat Tops and Heart Lake.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are high.

Naturalness: The area possesses a low degree of naturalness, due to the number of special uses present and the motorized trail.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated moderate. A wide range of recreation opportunities exist and include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 11,273 acres the area rates moderate in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low. The South Hunt drainage would be a narrow neck of roadless land surrounded by commercial timber sale roads and various other improvements.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Chatfield Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						11,069	
1.32	3,718	6,267	5,920	6,207			
1.41						114	
3.21						70	
3.31		4,632		4,884			
4.3	1,778	325	70	45	225		247
5.11	4,853	40	4,998	113	9,742	1	9,746
5.13	672				1,306		1,279
5.41	253	9	285	25		19	1

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21125 Bunker Basin - 12,814 Acres

Overview

History: This area lies north of and downslope from the Flat Tops Wilderness. It slopes primarily northwestward towards the East Fork of the Williams Fork River and is dominated by rugged terrain.

Location and Access: T. 2N, R. 87 and 88W; T. 3N, R. 87W. This area is located in Rio Blanco County southwest of Steamboat Springs on the Yampa Ranger District. It is bordered by Forest Highway 16 and FDRs 959 and 960. It is accessed by FDR 967, a primitive road open to motorized travel, and FDTs 1109, 1119, 1172, and 1200.

Geography and Topography: This area is characterized by steep canyons and flat mesas with open parks. The rugged terrain is composed of basalt outcrops, barren shale hillsides, and landslides. The area is dissected by numerous small streams, both perennial and intermittent.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from sandstone, shales, and andesites. These soils have a high erosion hazard when disturbed.

Vegetation: Vegetation consists primarily of spruce/fir with some stands of aspen and lodgepole pine. This area contains a high proportion of standing dead spruce/fir overstory with an understory of spruce/fir reproduction. Numerous small wet parks scattered throughout the spruce/fir are composed of typical riparian species.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within Flat Tops Subsection of the North-Central Highlands Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	10,073	79
5.13 Forest Products	2,532	20
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	189	1

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation and seasonal grazing. The area's watershed resources are utilized through at least three water diversion/collection ditches and a reservoir located within the area.

Appearance: Generally, the area is unmodified by human activity and appears rather natural.

Surroundings: The south side of the area is contiguous with the north side of the Flat Tops Wilderness. The north and east sides adjoin primarily other National Forest lands administered by the Yampa Ranger District, with some portions adjoining private lands. On its southwest corner, the area may be contiguous to a small roadless area on the White River National Forest.

Attractions: The area is attractive because of its rugged, undeveloped nature. It contains some outstanding scenic features, offers recreation opportunities in itself, and serves as a transition area between the Dunckley Pass Road and the Flat Tops Wilderness.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as moderate. The area is generally a long, narrow band along the north side of the Flat Tops and is closely bordered by roads on several sides, with the Dunckley Pass Road (Forest Highway 16) receiving heavy traffic. This volume of traffic detracts from the feeling of solitude. Use on FDT 1119 is rather heavy during the summer, as is use on FDR 967 during big game hunting seasons. This further impacting the opportunity for solitude.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated moderate. FDR 967 intrudes in the area, and other evidence of human activity, primarily ditches, is present.

Challenge: The area offers a high degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure is available because of the relatively small number of trails that cross the area, necessitating cross-country travel, the rugged nature of the terrain itself, and the presence of the adjoining existing wilderness.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as high, due in large part to the area being contiguous with the Flat Tops Wilderness.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as moderate. The area is in close proximity to the Flat Tops Scenic Byway (Forest Highway 16), with its associated interpretive exhibits, the developed recreation facilities at Vaughn Lake, and the USFS Pyramid Guard Station. However, it is relatively remote from larger developed recreation sites and more urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as outstanding. Much of the area is composed of very distinctive landscapes.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is high because it is contiguous with the Flat Tops Wilderness.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated high. There are few intrusions into the area.

Conclusion

Utilizing this system, this area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 8,866 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 61,039.98 MBF (12,813.98 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 69% of the total area.

There are currently no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries. Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is not precluded.

Oil & Gas

The northern portion of this area has high potential for oil & gas. The southern portion has medium potential.

The following leases cover lands within this area:

Lease Number	Expiration Date	Location	Acres within Roadless Area
C-42947	12/01/96	T2N, R88W, Sec 24	221
C-44414	04/01/97	T2N, R87W, Sec 7,8,9	1920
C-46195	01/01/98	T2N, R88W, Sec 23	640

There are approximately 2781 total leased acres. There is currently no active production on any of these leases.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has low potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Motorized Use - A primitive road, FDR 967, enters the area and is open to motorized use. It receives heavy use during big game hunting seasons.

The area is open to, and used by, snowmobiles.

Mountain Bike Use - The road and trails in the area are open to, and used by, mountain bikes.

No proposed developed recreation sites are identified.

Special Uses

Dams - Haley Reservoir is located in the area. Motorized/mechanized equipment has historically been used for maintenance and repair of the dam. There is a special-use road accessing the dam. This road is not open to the public.

Ditches - There are at least three water diversion ditches (Haley ditches, Egry Mesa Ditch and Pyramid Ditch) in this roadless area. Motorized/mechanized equipment has historically been used for maintenance and repair of the ditches.

Wildlife

The area offers excellent summer range for big game. It supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres) and lies approximately 34 miles south of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 170 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-44 displays percentages of the cover types represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	45
lodgepole pine	1
aspen	35
shrubs	<1
grass/forb	14
non-vegetated	1
water/wetlands	4

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or

vulnerable habitat. Table C-45 has this same information for the Bunker Basin Roadless Area.

Table C-45.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	4,001		146			
lynx	#4, #5	4,001		146			
marten	#4	4,001	4,509	146			
ring tail	#4				39		
goshawk	#4	4,001	4,509	146	39		
flammulated owl	#4			146			
ferruginous hawk	#4						1,836
loggerhead shrike	#4						1,836
purple martin	#4		4,509				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				39		
greater sandhill crane	#4					424	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	4,001					
white faced ibis	#4					424	
boreal western toad	#4					424	
wood frog	#4					424	
leopard frog	#4					424	
long-billed curlew	#4					424	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-46 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Table C-46 Limited Representation Covertypes in Bunker Basin Roadless Area		
Covertype	Acres in Bunker Basin Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	146	<1
Gambel oak	14	6
big sagebrush	9	<1
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	4,509	6
grass types (fescue)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	16	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-47) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Bunker Basin roadless area.

Table C-47 Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		12,762				12,725	
1.32	10,093	18	11,702	12,061			
1.41						41	
3.21						33	
3.31				111			
4.2		21	416	530	633		643
4.3		13	696	95	272	15	264
5.11				16	11,909		11,907
5.13	2,532						
5.41	189						

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-48 summarizes the Bunker Basin roadless area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-48							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	10,282	12,780	11,702	12,172	0	12,799	0
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	2,532	34	1,112	641	12,814	15	12,814

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21126 Pagoda Peak - 57,789 Acres

Overview

History: The Pagoda Peak area is contiguous with two areas, totalling 47,600 acres, on the White River National Forest. Combined acreage for the three areas is 105,389. For reasons of consistency, it was agreed to evaluate the two areas as a single unit, to the extent possible. The Routt National Forest was designated to take the lead on this evaluation. The size of the two areas on the White River are preliminary and may change as they revise their forest plan.

All or parts of this area were studied during RARE I and RARE II evaluations.

Location and Access: T. 1N, R. 88, 89, and 90W; T. 2N, R. 88, 89, 90, and 91W; T. 3N, R. 88, 89, 90, and 91W. This area is located in Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties south of Craig. The Routt portion of the area is located on the Yampa Ranger District. The White River portion is located on the Blanco Ranger District. The area is bordered by Moffat County Road 41/Rio Blanco County Road 58, Routt/Rio Blanco County Road 55, Routt FDRs 16, 969, 990, and 995 and White River FDRs 8, 230, 231, 250, 254, 290, and 293. The following primitive roads open to motorized travel access the area: Routt FDR 970 and White River FDRs 256 and 299. It is also accessed by Routt FDTs 1112, 1113, 1114, 1114.1A, 1115, 1193, 1195, 1196, 1196.1A, 1209, and 1210 and by White River FDTs 1800, 1801, 1804, 1805, and 1810.

Geography and Topography: This area is characterized by varied topography. Elevation ranges from approximately 8,000 to 11,000 feet. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages, and ranges in character from flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loams to clay loam derived from sandstones, shales, and basalt. When saturated, these soils are subject to slippage, particularly at the point of contact with the underlying shale. The entire area is characterized by slumps that have occurred over a period of many years. Disturbance of the soil increases the probability of additional soil displacement.

Vegetation: The unit is covered with extensive stands of aspen, with its associated understory vegetation. The aspen stands are interspersed with open parks, composed of a mixture of grass/forbs and shrubs. The upper reaches of drainages are covered with stands of spruce/fir, (much of it beetle-killed) with an understory of spruce/fir regeneration.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Flat Tops Subsection of the North-Central Highlands Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation, with heavy use during big game hunting seasons, and seasonal grazing. The area's watershed resources are somewhat utilized by two water diversion/collection ditches located within the area.

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	49,659	86
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	502	1
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands	2,736	5

Range Production Emphasis		
5.13 Forest Products	3,151	5
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,741	3

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Appearance: Generally, the area appears unmodified by human activity and quite natural.

Surroundings: The area is surrounded on its north and east sides by private land interspersed with parcels of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The southeast corner of the area adjoins other National Forest lands administered by the Yampa Ranger District. The south and west sides adjoin other National Forest lands administered by the Blanco Ranger District. The area is not contiguous with designated wilderness or other roadless areas.

Attractions: The area is attractive because of its very primitive character and undeveloped nature and because of the excellent primitive recreation opportunities, notably big game hunting, it offers. The area possesses some beautiful scenery and is one of the largest non-wilderness roadless areas in Colorado.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as outstanding. The area is so large and receives so little use, outside of the hunting seasons, that it offers an exceptional sense of isolation and solitude.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated high. Evidence of human activity is scarce and widely dispersed. The area retains a wild feeling.

Challenge: The area offers a high degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure is prevalent throughout the large area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. Numerous opportunities exist but the primitive nature of the activity may be somewhat constrained by the number of adjacent roads and amount of available public access in the southern portion of the area.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's remote location relative to developed recreation facilities and more urban areas and a lack of public access from some adjoining lands on the north side.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as moderate. The area does contain some distinctive landscapes but much of the area can be characterized as common.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is outstanding. It provides for a maximum sense of solitude and offers a range of diverse landscapes spread over a very large area.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated high. Much of the surrounding land is National Forest land and poses few boundary management concerns. The area is sufficiently large and rugged to limit possible intrusions to small areas immediately adjacent to the boundary. Boundaries along the southern end are closely paralleled by existing roads and are very definable.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The Routt portion of the area contains approximately 42,054 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 235,436 MBF (50,068 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 73% of the total area.

There are currently no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries. Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is not precluded.

There are existing timber sales within the area on the White River National Forest portion, but all are located within 1/4 mile of FDR 250 and should have minimal affect on wilderness designation.

Oil & Gas

This area has a range of potentials for oil and gas, ranging from high potential in the northern end to no potential in the southern end. The following leases cover Routt National Forest lands within this area:

Lease Number	Expiration Date	Location	Acres within Roadless Area
C-38134	06/01/94	T3N, R89W, Sec 33	640
C-38135	08/01/94	T3N, R90W, Sec many	1730
C-38136	08/01/94	T2N, R90W, S 2,3,11,13	1920
C-39453	08/01/96	T3N, R89W, S 15,22-27	3047
C-42947	12/01/96	T3N, R88W, S 9,10,15	880 (approx)

There are approximately 8,217 total leased acres. There is currently no active production on any of these leases. The Scott Mill Oil Field, an active production field, is located directly adjacent to this area.

Extensive lands on the White River National Forest are covered by existing leases. Specific information on leases was not available.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has low potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Range

Grazing management systems would be affected by wilderness designation due to the sheer size of this area. Currently permittees can use existing roads to tend their livestock. Designation as wilderness would increase permittee costs by increasing the time required to salt, pack in camps, maintain range improvements, etc. by horse rather than by vehicle. Permittees may have to hire full-time riders rather than overseeing the allotments themselves.

The area is well-watered by ponds and developed springs. These developments will eventually need to be cleaned or reconstructed. If motorized/mechanized equipment, notably heavy equipment, cannot be used, these developments may be lost.

Wilderness designation could have a significant impact on range betterment activities. The cost to replace all the existing lay-down fences with wilderness-compatible fences would be considerable. There are approximately 8 1/2 miles of fence in the area. Maintenance on wilderness-compatible fences would be high.

Recreation

Motorized Use - A primitive road, FDR 970, enters the area and is open to motorized use. It receives heavy use during big game hunting seasons.

FDTs 1804 and 1810 are currently open to motorized travel. These trails are planned to be upgraded as part of the approved Sleepy Cat capital investment project (CIP) package. Also included in the CIP package is the construction of a new ATV trail from FDR 299 to the top of Sleepy Cat Peak for access to the existing Sleepy Cat electronic site (see Special Uses - Electronic Site below).

The area is open to, and used considerably by, snowmobiles, particularly the Indian Run Snowmobile Trail on the northern end and two loop trails on the southern end. The area has marked routes through and adjacent to it, with much use occurring off of marked routes.

Mountain Bike Use - The road and trails in the area are open to, and used by, mountain bikes.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Special Uses

Ditches - There are two water diversion ditches (Elk Trail Ditch and Scott-Robertson Ditch) in this roadless area. Motorized/mechanized equipment has historically been used for maintenance and repair of the ditches.

Electronic Site - There is a radio relay station located near the summit of Sleepy Cat Peak - T. 2N, R. 90W, Sec. 19.

Wildlife

The area offers excellent summer range for big game. It supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer. The area is considered

critical for elk calving. There is some big game winter range on the north end.

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Trout Unlimited, has completed intensive fishery and wildlife habitat improvement work in the Lost Park area.

Other

The private lands located to the north of the area are realizing summer home development. This is a significant change from the historical agricultural orientation of the East Fork Valley. This could significantly affect the values found in the wilderness designation.

Cyclone Park, on the east side of the area, is one of a very few large, subalpine meadow areas that is accessible only by foot or horse on the west side of the Routt National Forest.

There is a unique island fault near Pagoda Creek in the north-central part of the area.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 2 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness (235,035 acres) and 40 miles south of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 180 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-49 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	30
lodgepole pine	<1
aspen	45
shrubs	9
grass/forb	14
non-vegetated	<1
water/wetlands	1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-50 has this same information for the Pagoda Peak Roadless Area.

Table C-50. Capable/Available Roadless Areas		Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	11,336		395			
lynx	#4, #5	11,336		395			
marten	#4	11,336	25,953	395			
ring tail	#4				5,334		
goshawk	#4	11,336	25,953	395	5,334		
flammulated owl	#4			395			
ferruginous hawk	#4						7,766
loggerhead shrike	#4						7,766
purple martin	#4		25,953				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				5,334		
greater sandhill crane	#4					1,830	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	11,336					
white faced ibis	#4					1,830	
boreal western toad	#4					1,830	
wood frog	#5					1,830	
leopard frog	#4					1,830	
long-billed curlew	#4					1,830	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature confier; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-51 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Table C-51 Limited Representation Covertypes in Pagoda Peak Roadless Area		
Covertypes	Acres in Pagoda Peak Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	395	1
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush	1,572	32
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	25,953	33
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	159	7

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-52) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Pagoda Peak roadless area.

Table C-52. Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		57,722				57,688	
1.32	49,659	11	55,745	50,518	43,666		
1.41						19	
3.21							
3.31		2	362	1,820	1,946		1,948
4.2		40	161	150	97		111
4.3		14				82	
5.11	502			4,039	6,932		50,022
5.12	2,736						
5.13	3,151				3,894		4,435
5.41	1,741		1,522	1,262	1,253		1,273

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-53 summarizes the Pagoda Peak roadless area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-53							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	51,400	57,735	57,629	53,600	46,865	57,707	3,221
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	6,389	54	161	4,189	10,923	82	54,568

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21127 Troublesome North - 32,836 Acres

Overview

History: This area includes much of Arapaho Ridge, an imposing ridge which juts out from the Continental Divide into North Park, and the Rabbit Ears Range. The area is unique in that it is one contiguous area which goes from lower elevation sagebrush lands to above timberline. Elevations range from 8,500 to almost 12,000 feet.

Location and Access: T. 4N, R. 79 and 80W; T. 5N, R. 79 and 80W. This area is located in Grand and Jackson counties south of Walden on the Middle Park and North Park Ranger Districts. It is bordered by FDRs 103, 700, 715, and 730. It is accessed by FDRs 104, 700.2E, 705, and 996 (primitive roads open to motorized travel) and FDT 1135.

Geography and Topography: The terrain consists of gentle, rolling foothills in the lower elevations giving way to steep drainages and high, prominent ridges and peaks at higher elevations.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from sandstone and volcanic rock. Soils in the area have a low water-holding capacity.

Vegetation: Vegetation is diverse, including mixed sagebrush/grass in the foothills areas and low elevation parks; aspen stands, lodgepole pine stands, and spruce/fir forests at higher elevations; and tundra above timberline.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	12,879	39
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	5,249	16
5.13 Forest Products	14,708	45

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is lightly used for dispersed recreation. Much of the area is used seasonally for grazing.

Appearance: Evidence of human activity is minimal, with the exception of a primitive road that bisects the area. The area appears very natural.

Surroundings: The area is bordered on the south by lands administered by the BLM, including an 8,250 acre BLM Roadless Area which was considered but not recommended for wilderness. On the north side, the area is bordered by non-Forest land, approximately 1/2 private and 1/2 BLM. The east and west sides adjoin other National Forest land administered by the Middle Park and North Park Ranger Districts. The area is not contiguous to designated wilderness or other National Forest roadless areas.

Attractions: The area is most noted for its views from the high points, notably the spectacular views from Arapaho Ridge, and for the hunting opportunities it offers.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as high. The area currently receives relatively low use and the highly dissected terrain and fairly dense vegetation offer screening opportunities. The area is generally unmodified, and evidence of human activity is minimal. These factors combine to provide a high degree of solitude.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated high. Much of the area is undisturbed, with very little evidence of modification.

Challenge: The area offers a moderate degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, but it is limited by the presence of a primitive road bisecting the area. The terrain is somewhat rugged but not excessively so.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as low. These opportunities are constrained by the presence of the road through the middle of the area, the motorized trail, and areas open to motor vehicle use off the roads and trails to the north.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's relative remoteness from developed recreation facilities and more urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as high. The area contains distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is high. It is of sufficient size to be practical as a wilderness area and give a sense of isolation.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low. There are numerous roads that intrude, particularly in the northwest corner. The area is bordered extensively by Forest lands open year-long to motor vehicles operating off Forest development roads and trails. It would be difficult to control access from adjoining private lands.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 25,466 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 304,850.20 MBF (65,527.95 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 77% of the total area.

Two identified timber sales, one planned and one sold, are located at least partially within the area boundaries:

The Little Haystack Timber Sale, following planning and NEPA analysis, was sold in 1990.

The Grassy Run Timber Sale is currently in the planning phase. It is planned for sale in 1997.

These sales are located in management areas with prescriptions that may restrict harvest method but do not preclude harvest activity.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has high potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

Approximately 90% of the area has moderate potential for locatable minerals, while the remaining 10% has low potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area, although one lies just to the west of the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Motorized Use - Four primitive roads (FDRs 104, 700.2E, 705, and 996) enter the area and are open to motorized use. FDR 104 offers a moderate level of challenge and is popular because it offers panoramic views of North Park and Middle Park. This road is also part of a popular loop used by motorcyclists.

FDT 1135 is open to motorized travel. Sections of the trail are very challenging. As a result, use has been low.

The area is open to snowmobile use. Use is light most years and occurs mainly along the FDR 104 corridor.

Portions of the area (approximately 44.8% and corresponding to the portion that is allocated to Management Area 7E) and large parts of the Forest lands surrounding the area are open year-long to motor vehicles

operating off of Forest development roads and trails (see also Recreation Special Uses below).

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified within the area. There is an identified proposed site which is directly adjacent to the northwest corner of the area.

Mountain Bike Use - FDT 1135 is open to bicycle use, as are the roads in the area. Use is low.

National Scenic Trail - The proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail bisects the area, partially following FDR 104. Because of existing motorized use on the proposed route, it was anticipated that this section of the trail would be open to motorized travel.

Special Uses

Recreation Special Uses - The ENDURO, an annually permitted motorcycle motocross event, utilizes the area. Portions of the event utilize nonsystem trails and routes.

Electronic Sites - Communications relay station located along Rabbit Ears Divide adjacent to FDR 104 - T. 4N, R. 80W, Sec. 2.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 20 miles southwest of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 15 miles west of the Never Summer Wilderness (13,702 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 150 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-54 displays percentages of the covertsypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	45
lodgepole pine	36
Douglas Fir	<1
aspen	4
shrubs	<1
grass/forb	9
non-vegetated	6
water/wetlands	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-55 has this same information for the Troublesome North Roadless Area.

Table C-55.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	8,919		11,759			
lynx	#4, #5	8,919		11,759			
marten	#4	8,919	1,299	11,759			
ring tail	#4				15		
goshawk	#4	8,919	1,299	11,759	15		
flamulated owl	#4			11,759			
ferruginous hawk	#4						2,963
loggerhead shrike	#4						2,963
purple martin	#4		1,299				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				15		
greater sandhill crane	#4					783	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	8,919					
white faced ibis	#4					783	
boreal western toad	#4					783	
wood frog	#4					783	
leopard frog	#4					783	
long-billed curlew	#4					783	
*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature confier; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation							

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-56 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertypes	Acres in Troublesome North Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir	69	18
lodgepole pine	11,759	16
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	1,299	2
grass types (fescue's)	103	9
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow		

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-57) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Troublesome North roadless area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						32,714	
1.32	12,879	32,683	16,339	21,938	2,566		3,692
1.41						66	
3.21						46	
3.31		49					11,167
3.55						11	
4.3		88		27	112		452
5.11	5,249	17	9,656	114	24,908		17,370
5.12			1,844	41	65		96
5.13	14,708		4,997	10,717	5,184		60

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-58 summarizes the Troublesome North roadless area acreage for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-58							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	12,879	32,732	16,339	21,938	2,566	32,837	14,859
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	19,957	105	16,497	10,899	30,269	0	17,978

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21128 Troublesome South - 47,018 Acres
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Overview

History: This area includes a portion of the Rabbit Ears Range and the Troublesome Creek watershed to the south.

Location and Access: T. 2N, R. 79W; T. 3N, R. 78 and 79W; T. 4N, R. 78 and 79W. This area is located in Grand and Jackson counties northeast of Kremmling on the Middle Park and North Park Ranger Districts. It is bordered by FDRs 105, 106, 112, 125, and 730 and FDT 27 and by FDR 108 on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. It is accessed by FDR 260, a primitive road open to motorized travel, and FDTs 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 91.

Geography and Topography: The terrain is highly dissected by numerous streams, both perennial and intermittent. The northern end of the area reaches the Continental Divide where it follows the peaks of the Rabbit Ears Range.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from sandstone, shales, and volcanic rock. Some of the sandstone soils have low water holding capacity.

Vegetation: Vegetation consists primarily of even-aged lodgepole pine stands.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	3,531	8
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	27,473	58
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	4,443	9
5.13 Forest Products	7,933	17
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	3,638	8

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation. Use is heaviest during big game hunting seasons. The area is also used extensively for seasonal grazing.

Appearance: The area shows some evidence of human activity but is not overly modified. It appears rather natural.

Surroundings: The area is bordered on the west side almost exclusively by lands administered by the BLM, including an 8,250 acre BLM roadless area which was considered but not recommended for wilderness. On the north, east, and south sides, the area is bordered by other National Forest land administered by the Middle Park and North Park Ranger Districts and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. The area is contiguous to two roadless areas on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, the 7,000 acre Trail Creek and 10,000 Buffalo Park areas. It is not contiguous to designated wilderness.

Attractions: The area's attractions include the wild, unmodified character of the land and the sense of solitude it offers; the variety of recreation opportunities, particularly big game hunting; and the outstanding views it affords of the surrounding area from the peaks on the north end.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as high. The area currently receives relatively low use, and the highly dissected terrain and fairly dense vegetation offer screening opportunities. The area is generally unmodified and evidence of human activity is minimal. These factors combine to provide a high degree of solitude.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated moderate. It shows some evidence of past activities but is not highly degraded.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge due to the proliferation of wide, gently sloping trails throughout the area.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. There are opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and fishing.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's relative remoteness from developed recreation facilities and more urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as high. The area contains distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is high. It is of sufficient size to be practical as a wilderness area and give a sense of isolation.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated as moderate. FDR 260 intrudes in the area. A portion of the extreme northern end of the area is open year-long to motor vehicles operating off of Forest development roads and trails.

Conclusion

This area is **Capable for Wilderness**. In addition, this area adjoins the two roadless areas on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and the BLM roadless area, which in turn is contiguous with R21127, the Troublesome North Roadless Area. This area will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 37,838 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 390,630.90 MBF (84,571.71 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 80% of the total area.

Based on 1983 Management Area prescriptions, harvest activity is not precluded in any of the management areas within this roadless area, though harvest method may be restricted. There are currently no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has high potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

Approximately 50% of the area has moderate potential for locatable minerals, and the remaining 50% has low potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Range

Motorized/mechanized equipment has been in the past by permittees for maintaining the improvements associated with their grazing allotments.

Increased visitation, resulting from formal designation as wilderness, could result in conflicts with livestock grazing. Additional fences may be needed at some point to better control livestock. Construction costs of such fences would be greatly increased if only nonmotorized/mechanized means were allowed for transport of materials and equipment, as would be the case if the area were designated as wilderness.

Because of its remoteness and present lack of vehicle access, this area's grazing use is difficult to administer. Wilderness designation would preclude the possibility of improved future management by precluding an improved transportation system.

Recreation

Motorized Use - A primitive road, FDR 260, enters the area and is open to motorized use (see Special Uses below).

FDT 58 currently receives a small amount of illegal motorized traffic. There is also a small amount of illegal motorized use originating from private land along FDR 260.

The area is open to snowmobile use. Use is light.

A portion of the area in the extreme northern end is currently open year-long to motor vehicles operating off Forest development roads and trails.

No proposed developed recreation sites are identified within the area.

Mountain Bike Use - All trails in the area are open to bicycle use. Use currently is low and primarily confined to the eastern half of the area.

National Scenic Trail - The proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, as identified in the 1983 Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, passes through the area.

Special Uses

The Matheson Road, FDR 260, is used to access Matheson Reservoir and a parcel of private land that is located between this area and R21127, the Troublesome North area. The decision has been made to stabilize the road and close it to full-size vehicles. ATV use to the reservoir and private land will still be authorized.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 30 miles southwest of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (160,568 acres) and 10 miles west of the Never Summer Wilderness (13,702 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 130 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-59 displays percentages of the covertsypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	8
lodgepole pine	70
aspen	9
shrubs	5
grass/forb	8
non-vegetated	<1
Douglas Fir	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-60 has this same information for the Troublesome South Roadless Area.

Table C-60.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	2,263		32,762			
lynx	#4, #5	2,263		32,762			
marten	#4	2,263	4,093	32,762			
ring tail	#4				2,433		
goshawk	#4	2,263	4,093	32,762	2,433		
flamulated owl	#4			32,762			
ferruginous hawk	#4						3,793
loggerhead shrike	#4						3,793
purple martin	#4		4,093				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				2,433		
greater sandhill crane	#4					1,444	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	2,263					
white faced ibis	#4					1,444	
boreal western toad	#4					1,444	
wood frog	#5					1,444	
leopard frog	#4					1,444	
long-billed curlew	#4					1,444	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature confier; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs;
5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-61 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Table C-61 Limited Representation Covertypes in Troublesome South Roadless Area		
Covertype	Acres in Troublesome South Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir	73	19
lodgepole pine	32,762	44
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush	2,432	49
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	4,093	5
grass types (fescue's)	998	91
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	1	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-62) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Troublesome South roadless area.

Table C-62. Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						46,896	
1.32	3,531	44,811	44,219	44,821			
1.41						66	
3.21						39	
3.31		32			13,515		15,466
5.11	27,473	58	534	91	21,255	16	19,201
5.12	4,443						
5.13	7,933		127		10,071		10,107
5.41	3,638	2,117	2,138	2,106	2,176		2,243

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-63 summarizes the Troublesome South roadless area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table 3-7.

Table C-63							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	7,169	46,960	46,357	46,927	15,691	47,001	17,709
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	39,849	58	661	91	31,326	16	29,308

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21129 Never Summer South - 7,633 Acres
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Overview

History: This remote area of timbered mountain side slopes encompasses portions of the foothills on the west side of the Never Summer Range near the southeast corner of North Park.

Location and Access: T. 4N, R. 77W; T. 5N, R. 76 and 77W. This area is located in Jackson County southeast of Walden on the North Park Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 740, 750, 758 and 758.1A. It is accessed by FDTs 1136, 1141, 1143, and 1186.

Geography and Topography: The eastern part of the area is characterized by steep slopes and high ridges. The lower elevations contain many talus slopes, and there are numerous avalanche paths in the upper portions of most drainages. The western areas are composed of lower, more rolling terrain. Included is the low-lying Horse Park area, an old, filled-in lake that supports a unique vegetative community.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loam and clay loam derived from volcanic and sedimentary rocks.

Vegetation: Vegetation consists primarily of lodgepole pine stands at lower elevations giving way to spruce/fir at higher elevations.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the North Park Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation - Nonmotorized	783	10
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	5	<1
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands / Forest Production	1,354	18
5.13 Forest Products	3,341	44
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	2,149	28

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation, especially big game hunting. Currently, recreation use is low. Seasonal grazing occurs to a very limited extent. There is some small-scale mining activity taking place on two unpatented mining claims.

Appearance: There is evidence of human activity associated with past logging and mining, and there are numerous parallel roads. As a result, the area has a modified appearance.

Surroundings: The area is contiguous along its south and east sides with the Never Summer Wilderness, including areas that were added to the wilderness in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. On the north and west sides, it is bordered by other National Forest land administered by the North Park Ranger District.

Attractions: The area is a gateway to the existing wilderness and offers excellent opportunities for viewing scenery. The big game hunting in the area attracts much of the current use.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as high due primarily to the low level of current use and to the rugged terrain and fairly dense vegetation screening people from one another over short distances.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated as moderate. Much of the area has been modified by past activities.

Challenge: The area offers a high degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, primarily due to the presence of the adjacent existing wilderness and the rugged nature of the terrain.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. They are limited by the relatively small size, but this is offset by the presence of the adjacent wilderness.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's remote location relative to developed recreation facilities and more urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as high. The area contains distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is moderate. It is relatively small in itself but is contiguous with existing wilderness.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate. The portion that adjoins the Never Summer Wilderness poses no boundary management concerns. The remainder of the area is almost completely bordered by roads and the surrounding lands are open yearlong to motor vehicles operating off of Forest development roads and trails.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness**. It will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 4,665 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 56,012.81 MBF (12,171.78 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 60% of the total area. Much of the area has slopes over 40% and is not currently included in the Forest's timber base.

One identified timber sale, Horse Park, is planned at least partially within the area boundaries.

Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is prohibited in the portion of the area that is allocated to Management Area 3B, approximately 36% of the total area. Harvest activity is not precluded in the other management areas, though harvest method may be restricted.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has high potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has medium potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Motorized Use - FDTs 1141 and 1186 are open to motorized travel and are included in a designated ATV route. Wilderness designation would eliminate this motorized recreation opportunity and effect approximately six miles of motorized trail.

The area is open to snowmobile use. It is adjacent to a popular trail that is marked and maintained by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Portions of this area and all of the Routt National Forest lands surrounding it are currently open year-long to motor vehicles operating off Forest development roads and trails (see also Recreation Special Uses below).

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified within the area.

Mountain Bike Use - All trails in the area are open to bicycle use.

National Scenic Trail - The proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, as identified in the 1983 Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, passes through the area.

Special Uses

Recreation Special Uses - The ENDURO, an annually permitted motorcycle motocross event, utilizes the area. Portions of the event utilize non-system trails and routes.

Other

There are two valid (as of 11/93) unpatented mining claims located in T. 5N, R. 76W, Sec. 30.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to the Never Summer Wilderness (13,702 acres). The Routt National Forest manages all or part of nine wildernesses with a total of 265,100 acres.

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 150 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-64 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertype	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	38
lodgepole pine	35
aspen	1
shrubs	2
grass/forb	7
non-vegetated	15
water/wetlands	2

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-65 has this same information for the Never Summer South Roadless Area.

Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	1,545					
lynx	#4, #5	1,545					
marten	#4	1,545					
ring tail	#4				176		
goshawk	#4	1,545					
flammulated owl	#4			2,703			
ferruginous hawk	#4						546

Table C-65.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
loggerhead shrike	#4						546
purple martin	#4		67				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				176		
greater sandhill crane	#4					378	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	1,545					
white faced ibis	#4					378	
boreal western toad	#4					378	
wood frog	#4					378	
leopard frog	#4					378	
long-billed curlew	#4					378	
*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation							

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-66 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Table C-66. Limited Representation Covertypes in Never Summer South Roadless Area		
Covertype	Acres in Never Summer South Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	2,703	4
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinon-juniper		
aspen	67	<1
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	176	7

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-67) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Never Summer South roadless area.

Table C-67 Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		7,354		7,354		7,354	
1.32	783		5,192				
1.41						72	
2.1			15		11		11
2.2		16		16	7,370	17	7,370
3.21						165	
3.31	5	245	756	240			233
3.55						10	
4.2							
4.3		18	643				
5.11	1,354					15	
5.12							
5.13			1,027	22	251		18
5.41	2,149						

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-68 summarizes the Never Summer South roadless area acreage for the groups shown in Table C-7.

Table C-68							
	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	2,937	7,615	5,963	7,610	7,381	7,618	7,614
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	4,695	18	1,670	22	251	15	18

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21130 Never Summer North - 3,672 Acres

Overview

History: This remote area is very similar in character to R21129 Never Summer South. It is composed of timbered mountain side slopes encompassing portions of the foothills on the west side of the Never Summer Range near the southeast corner of North Park.

Location and Access: T. 5N, R. 76 and 77W; T. 6N, R. 76 and 77W. This area is located in Jackson County southeast of Walden on the North Park Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 740, 758, 760, 770, and 780. It is accessed by FDTs 1138 and 1141. The extreme northeast portion of the area can be accessed by developed/maintained trails originating from Colorado State Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Geography and Topography: Most of the area is characterized by steep slopes and high ridges with a few rocky points and talus slopes. In the upper portions of most drainages, avalanche paths are evident.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loam and sandy clay loam derived from glacial till and granites.

Vegetation: Vegetation consists primarily of lodgepole pine stands at lower elevations giving way to spruce/fir at higher elevations.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the North Park Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	2,246	61
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	1	<1
5.13 Forest Products	1,213	33
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	212	6

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation, especially big game hunting. Recreation use currently is low. Seasonal grazing occurs to a very limited extent.

Appearance: Evidence of human activity exists from past logging and mining. As a result, the area has a somewhat modified appearance, though much of the activity occurred long ago and is less evident.

Surroundings: The area is contiguous along most of its east and south sides with the Never Summer Wilderness. On the west side, it is bordered by other National Forest land administered by the North Park Ranger District. The north side adjoins Colorado State Forest. A small portion in the northeast corner adjoins Rocky Mountain National Park.

Attractions: The area is a gateway to the existing wilderness and offers excellent opportunities for viewing scenery. The big game hunting in the area attracts much of the current use.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as high due primarily to the low level of current use and to the rugged terrain and fairly dense vegetation screening people from one another over short distances.

Naturalness: The area's naturalness is rated as high. Much of the area, though modified by past activities, has had a chance to recover and appears more natural.

Challenge: The area offers an outstanding level of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists, primarily due to the presence of the adjacent existing wilderness and the rugged nature of the terrain.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as high, due to the presence of the adjacent wilderness.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's remote location relative to developed recreation facilities and more urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as outstanding. The area contains distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is moderate. It is relative small in itself but is contiguous with existing wilderness.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated high. The portion that adjoins the Never Summer Wilderness poses no boundary management concerns. The portions adjoining Colorado State Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park offer a similar situation. The remaining adjacent land is almost all National Forest land, and boundary conflicts could be easily managed or avoided. There are few roads, and the associated intrusion concerns, leading to the area.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 1,816 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 17,753.34 MBF (3,822.83 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 46% of the total area. Much of the area has slopes over 40% and is not currently included in the Forest's timber base.

Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is prohibited in the portion of the area that is allocated to Management Area 3B, approximately 43% of the total area. Harvest activity is not precluded in the other management areas, though harvest method may be restricted.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has high potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

The entire area has medium potential for locatable minerals. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Motorized Use - FDT 1138 is open to motorized use and is a popular route for FWD vehicles and ATVs.

The area is open to snowmobile use. It is adjacent to two popular trails that are marked and maintained by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Portions of this area and most of the surrounding Forest lands are currently open year-long to motor vehicles operating off Forest development roads and trails.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites in the area.

Mountain Bike Use - The trails in the area are open to bicycle use.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to the Never Summer Wilderness (13,702 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 150 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-69 displays percentages of the covertsypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	46
lodgepole pine	14
aspen	4
shrubs	<1
grass/forb	10
non-vegetated	26
water/wetlands	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-70 has this same information for the Never Summer North Roadless Area.

Table C-70.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
Species	Needs Item	Habitat Complexes*					
		1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	439		532			
lynx	#4, #5	439		532			
marten	#4	439	142	532			
ring tail	#4				20		
goshawk	#4	439	142	532	20		
flamulated owl	#4			532			362
ferruginous hawk	#4						362
loggerhead shrike	#4						
purple martin	#4		142				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				20		
greater sandhill crane	#4					50	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	439					
white faced ibis	#4					50	
boreal western toad	#4					50	
wood frog	#5					50	
leopard frog	#4					50	
long-billed curlew	#4					50	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature confier; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-71 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertype	Acres in Never Summer North Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir		
lodgepole pine	532	1
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	142	<1
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	20	1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-72) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Never Summer North roadless area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		3,592		3,622		3,619	
1.32	2,246		3,670		3,324		
1.41						50	
3.21						3	
3.31	1	80		4			131
5.11			2	37			3,326
5.12				1	1		
5.13	1,213			8	135		
5.41	212				212		215

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-73 summarizes the Never Summer North roadless area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	2,459	3,672	3,670	3,626	3,536	3,672	346
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	1,213	0	2	46	136	0	3,326

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21131 Copper Mountain - 13,534 Acres

Overview

History

Location and Access: T. 2S, R. 78 and 79 W; T. 1S, R. 79W. This area is located in Grand County south-southeast of Kremmling east of Green Mountain Reservoir, and is administered by the Middle Park Ranger District. It is bordered by a high tension power line and FDR 200 on the west side and private lands along the north and east sides. The area is under Open Travel Management, and a series of low-standard roads penetrate the area for its length. There are no maintained trails in the area. Access from the private land side is limited.

Geography and Topography: The area is 11 miles long by 1-1/2 miles wide on average. It is steeply sloping and levels out onto the private land to the east. The steep terrain makes recreation use difficult. Several streams drain into the Williams Fork River. There are no prominent peaks.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loam and sandy clay loam derived from volcanoes and sedimentary rocks.

Vegetation: The area contains an even-aged lodgepole pine forest typical of much of Colorado. No known unique plant communities exist.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	11,938	88
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,596	12

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

This area receives little recreation use due to the steep terrain, lack of trails, and very limited public access from private lands along the east border. Four outfitter/guides operate within this area. A timber sale is planned and prepared in the Battle Creek area. One grazing allotment and several fences are located within this unit.

Appearance: The area is characterized by steep terrain and several streams draining into the Williams Fork River. There are no prominent peaks or large meadows. A series of low-standard roads penetrate the area for its length.

Surroundings: The area is adjacent to private property along the entire east side. Private structures and county road traffic are evident from essentially any location within the area. There may be an adjacent roadless area on the White River National Forest to the west. The areas are very different and are separated by a high tension power line. This area will be considered separately from the Copper Mountain area. There are excellent views of the Eagle's Nest and Indian Peak Wildernesses from various locations within the area.

Attractions: There are no unique attractions in this area.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are moderate. Although vegetation is dense and screening is good, the fact that the area is long and narrow detracts from the opportunity for solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a very low degree of naturalness. The area is penetrated by low-standard roads. A timber sale is planned in the northern part of the area. Private structures and county road traffic are evident from most locations in the area.

Challenge: The area offers a low degree of challenge. At one and a half miles in width, the area is quite narrow and influenced by private land and forest development.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated very low. There is no trail system, mainly due to the steep terrain. The area does receive some hunting use, but this is limited by private land blocking access and the steep terrain from the top of Williams Mountain.

Special Features

Education: This area offers a low level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study, primarily because the uniform stand structure does not offer unique opportunities for study.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated low, again due to the density of the vegetation and the uniformity of the stand structure.

Manageability

Size: Encompassing 13,534 acres, the area rates moderate in size for wilderness capability.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated low due to the number of low-standard roads within the area and the large amount of private land and county roads along the east border.

Conclusion

This area did not meet the criteria and has been determined to be **Not Capable for Wilderness** and will not be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Environmental Consequences

The following table shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Copper Mountain Roadless Area. This roadless area does not possess wilderness character.

Management Area Prescription Acres by Alternative							
Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.32		11,164					
1.41						12,877	
3.55						302	
5.11	11,938	38	11,437	11,143	11,161	171	11,157
5.41	1,596	2,332	2,097	2,391	2,373	185	2,377

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21132 Byers Peak - 10,070 Acres

Overview

History: This area is composed primarily of the St. Louis Peak Further Planning Area, as established by Congress in December 1980, with additional lands to the north and west included. The central and southeastern portions of this area were designated as wilderness in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 as the Byers Peak and Vasquez Peak Wildernesses. This reduced the size of the roadless area described in the Analysis of the Management Situation (June 1993) from 18,566 to 10,040 acres generally surrounding the newly created Byers Peak Wilderness.

Location and Access: T. 1S, R. 77W; T. 2S, R. 77W; T. 3S, R. 76 and 77W. This area is located in Grand County southeast of Kremmling on the Middle Park Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 144, 144.1A, and 144.1B and by FDRs 152 and 160 and FDT 14 on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. It is accessed by FDTs 15, 17, 18, 22, and 23.

Geography and Topography: The terrain of this area is characterized by broad, steep slopes and high ridges and peaks. It is dissected by several perennial streams.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally sandy loam and loams derived from glacial drift and granites.

Vegetation: The area is dominated by spruce/fir forests, with some tundra occurring above timberline.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	5,115	51
3.31 Backcountry Recreation Motorized	1,719	17
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	460	5
5.11 General Forest and Rangelands Forest Production	1,608	16
5.12 General Forest and Rangelands Range Production Emphasis	182	1
5.13 Forest Products	986	10

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is currently used for a variety of recreation activities and for watershed purposes. Recreation use is generally low to moderate.

Appearance: Most of the roadless area is now designated as wilderness. It is assumed that those portions appear natural and unmodified. The Richey and Upson Creek areas are extensively roaded and harvested and appear modified.

Surroundings: Along its east side, the area is contiguous with the west side of the Fraser Experimental Forest on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. On the north, south, and west sides are other National Forest land administered by the Middle Park Ranger District. The southeast corner now includes and adjoins lands designated as the Vasquez Peak Wilderness under the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993.

Attractions: The area offers a variety of primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities in largely unspoiled settings, much of it above timberline.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as high. The terrain is diverse and rather well dissected. The heavy vegetative cover offers screening which, when combined with the current low use of the area, provides a feeling of solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a high degree of naturalness. Much of the area appears undisturbed.

Challenge: The area offers a high degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. Opportunities are available but are somewhat limited in scope by the relative size of the area.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as low due to the area's remote location relative to the more developed urban areas.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as outstanding. The area contains beautiful scenery, notably the alpine areas with high peaks, valleys, and lakes. High points in the area also offer remarkable views of surrounding areas.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is moderate. The area is of relatively small size but is sufficiently large and diverse to offer a sense of isolation.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated very low. Several roads closely parallel the area's boundaries, creating possibilities for intrusions. FDR 141 makes a small loop that actually crosses into the area.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 6,613 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 90,796.06 MBF (19,371.40 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 36% of the total area.

Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is prohibited in the portion of the area that is allocated to Management Area 3B, approximately 30% of the total area. Harvest activity is also prohibited in the portions that are now designated wilderness. Harvest activity is not precluded in the remaining portions, though harvest method may be restricted. There are currently no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has no potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

Approximately 95% of the area has low potential for locatable minerals, and the remaining 5% has medium potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Motorized Use - A small amount of motorcycle and ATV use occurs along Keyser Ridge and Kinney Creek and near the trailheads for the Lake Evelyn Trail, FDT 15.

Much of the area is currently open to snowmobiles. Use is low.

There are no proposed developed recreation sites identified.

Mountain Bike Use - Until it was precluded by wilderness designation, mountain bike use was permitted and occurred near Lake Evelyn.

National Scenic Trail - The proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, as identified in the 1983 Routt National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan, passes through the portion of this area that is now included in the Vasquez Peak Wilderness.

Special Uses

Water Diversion - Some of the facilities in place for water diversion by the Denver Water Department (DWD) are visible from the southern 1/3 of the area. In addition, at least one of the DWD's expansion proposals includes additional diversion structures in Darling Creek and a road between Kinney Creek and Darling Creek. It is thought that DWD owns most of the water rights for the Darling Creek and Williams Fork drainages.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area is adjacent to both the Byers Peak Wilderness (8,095 acres) and Vasquez Peak Wilderness (12,300 acres).

Distance to Population Centers: The area is about 110 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-74 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertypes	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	40
lodgepole pine	37
aspen	<1
shrubs	<1
grass/forb	19
non-vegetated	2
Douglas Fir	1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-75 has this same information for the Byers Peak Roadless Area.

Table C-75.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	3,701		3,758			
lynx	#4, #5	3,701		3,758			
marten	#4	3,701	15	3,758			
ring tail	#4				35		
goshawk	#4	3,701	15	3,758	35		
flamulated owl	#4			3,758			
ferruginous hawk	#4						1,936
loggerhead shrike	#4						1,936
purple martin	#4		15				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				35		
greater sandhill crane	#4					336	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	3,701					
white faced ibis	#4					336	
boreal western toad	#4					336	
wood frog	#4					336	
leopard frog	#4					336	
long-billed curlew	#4					336	

*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-76 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertype	Acres in Byers Peak Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir	137	35
lodgepole pine	3,758	5
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	15	<1
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	33	1

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-77) shows the management prescription allocations by Alternative for the Byers Peak roadless area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2		9,947					
1.32	5,115	22		3,194	2,387		
1.41						7,986	
3.21						1,848	
3.31	1,719			21			
4.3	460		1,635				2,383
5.11	1,608	101	8,435	6,854		236	7,224
5.12	182				468		463
5.13	986			1	7,215		

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

Table C-78 summarizes the Byers Peak roadless area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	6,834	9,969	0	3,215	2,387	9,834	0
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	3,236	101	12,070	6,855	7,683	236	10,070

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

R21133 Williams Fork - 35,954 Acres

Overview

History: This area is composed almost exclusively of the Routt National Forest portion of the Williams Fork Further Planning Area, as established by Congress in December 1980, with some small additions and subtractions to better reflect the situation on the ground. The area is on the north and east slopes of the Williams Fork Mountains.

Location and Access: T. 2S, R. 78W; T. 3S, R. 76, 77, and 78W; T. 4S, R. 76 and 77W. This area is located in Grand County southeast of Kremmling on the Middle Park Ranger District. It is bordered by FDRs 132, 138, 142, 144, 144.1A, and 144.1B. It is accessed by FDTs 21, 24, 31, and 35.

Geography and Topography: The terrain of this area is characterized by broad, steep slopes and high ridges and peaks. It is dissected by several perennial streams.

Soil: Soils in the area are generally loamy sand and sandy loam derived from granites and schist.

Vegetation: The area is dominated by spruce/fir forests, with some tundra occurring above timberline.

Ecosystem: This roadless area occurs within the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units.

Current Uses: The Forest Plan allocations for the area for Alternative A are displayed below:

Alternative A Management Areas	Acreage	% of Total
1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	35,752	99
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	202	1

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers

The area is currently used for a variety of recreation activities, some small-scale mining on unpatented claims and for watershed purposes. Recreation use is generally low to moderate.

Appearance: The northern half of the area has been rather extensively modified and does not appear natural. The southern half, however, is completely unmodified and appears pristine.

Surroundings: The area is contiguous along its west and south sides with the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness, designated under the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. On the north and east sides are other National Forest land administered by the Middle Park Ranger District. The southeast corner adjoins land administered by the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.

Attractions: The area offers a variety of primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities in largely unspoiled settings, much of it above timberline.

Capability

Environment

Opportunity for Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are rated as high. The terrain is diverse and rather well dissected. The heavy vegetative cover offers screening which, when combined with the current low use of the area, provides a feeling of solitude.

Naturalness: The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. The north half has been heavily modified, while the south half is completely unmodified.

Challenge: The area offers a high degree of challenge. A sense of remoteness and primitive adventure exists.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Opportunities for primitive recreation are rated as moderate. Opportunities are available throughout the area but are somewhat limited in scope in the northern portion by the extensive evidence of past activity.

Special Features

Education: Educational opportunities are rated as high due to the area's proximity to the Sugarloaf, South Fork, and Horseshoe developed recreation facilities.

Scenic Features: The scenic features of the area are rated as outstanding. The area contains beautiful scenery, notably the alpine areas with high peaks and valleys. High points in the area also offer remarkable views of surrounding areas.

Manageability

Size: The area's size rating for wilderness capability is high. The area is sufficiently large and diverse to offer a sense of isolation.

Boundaries: Manageability of boundaries is rated moderate. Several roads, especially on the east side, are very close to the area boundary and offer potential opportunities for intrusion. The western and southern boundaries, which adjoin existing wilderness, are clearly defined and manageable.

Conclusion

This area met the criteria and has been determined to be **Capable for Wilderness** and will be further evaluated for Availability and Need.

Availability

Resource Potentials

Timber

The area contains approximately 13,799 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest, with a standing volume for conifer of 174,306.40 MBF (37,576.98 MCF). The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 38% of the total area.

Based on 1983 management area prescriptions, harvest activity is prohibited in the portion of the area that is allocated to Management Area 3B, approximately 91% of the total area. Harvest activity is not precluded in the remaining portions, though harvest method may be restricted. There are currently no proposed timber sales located within the area boundaries.

Oil & Gas

The entire area has no potential for oil & gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area.

Locatable Minerals

Approximately 95% of the area has low potential for locatable minerals, and the remaining 5% has medium potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area.

Management Considerations

Recreation

Motorized Use - A small amount of motorcycle use occurs near the end of FDR 142 and around the Bobtail Mine on the eastern end of the area.

Small portions of the area are currently open to snowmobiles. Use is low but does occur around the Jones Pass area.

No proposed developed recreation sites are identified.

Mountain Bike Use - The trails in the area are currently open to mountain bike use. Use occurs mostly on South Fork Trail, FDT 21, which makes a loop through the area.

National Scenic Trail - The proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, as identified in the 1983 Routt National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan, and an alternative route identified subsequently, passes through the southeast part of this area.

Special Uses

Water Diversion - Some of the facilities in place for water diversion by the Denver Water Department (DWD) are visible from the eastern 1/3 and the northern 1/2 of the area. In addition, at least one of the DWD's expansion proposals includes additional diversion structures and roads in the Middle and South Fork and Short Creek drainages. Another alternative proposes a reservoir, pump station, pipeline and roads in the vicinity of Old Bald Mountain. DWD owns most of the water rights for Williams Fork drainage.

Other

There are four valid (as of 11/93) unpatented mining claims within the area. They are located in T. 3S, R. 76W, two in NE 1/4 of Sec. 33 and two in SE 1/4 of Sec. 28. In addition, there are five valid, unpatented claims which may also be within the area. This could not be determined with enough precision from the available records. These claims are located in the same township as the others, four in NW 1/4 of Sec. 34 and one in SW 1/4 of Sec. 27.

Conclusion

Based on the resource potentials and management considerations described above, this area has been determined to be **Available for Wilderness**.

Need

Nearby Wilderness: The roadless area lies approximately 1 mile west of the Vasquez Peak Wilderness (12,300 acres) and 2 miles south of the Byers Peak Wilderness (8,095 acres).

Distance to Population Centers The area is about 100 miles west of Denver.

Cover Type: Table C-79 displays percentages of the covertypes represented in this roadless area.

Covertype	Percent of Total
spruce/fir	38
lodgepole pine	19
aspen	2
shrubs	1
grass/forb	35
non-vegetated	5
water/wetlands	<1
Douglas Fir	<1

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Table C-3 lists species and their habitat complexes that do not compete with public use and development and species and their habitat complexes that have limited or vulnerable habitat. Table C-80 has this same information for the Williams Fork Roadless Area.

Table C-80.		Capable/Available Roadless Areas Acres in Habitat Complex - Needs Item 4 & 5					
		Habitat Complexes*					
Species	Needs Item	1 M.Conf	2 Asp	3 LPP	4 Shrub	5 R/WT	6 G/F
wolverine	#4, #5	10,094		6,914			
lynx	#4, #5	10,094		6,914			
marten	#4	10,094	828	6,914			
ring tail	#4				374		
goshawk	#4	10,094	828	6,914	374		
flamulated owl	#4			6,914			
ferruginous hawk	#4						12,600
loggerhead shrike	#4						12,600
purple martin	#4		828				
Columbia sharp-tailed grouse	#4				374		
greater sandhill crane	#4					600	
black-backed woodpecker	#5	10,094					
white faced ibis	#4					600	
boreal western toad	#4					600	
wood frog	#4					600	
leopard frog	#4					600	
long-billed curlew	#4					600	
*Habitat complexes: 1 Mature conifer; 2 Aspen; 3 Lodgepole pine; 4 Shrubs; 5 Riparian/Wetlands; 6 Grass/Forbs; Described in EIS Biological Evaluation							

Source: GIS (DWRIS)

Certain covertypes identified in Table C-4, have limited representation in the Rocky Mountain Region wilderness system. Table C-81 shows how this roadless area contributes to the acreages in Table C-4.

Covertypes	Acres in Williams Fork Roadless Area	Percent of Total Routt Capable/Available Roadless Area
ponderosa pine		
Douglas-fir	114	29
lodgepole pine	6,914	9
Gambel oak		
big sagebrush		
pinyon-juniper		
aspen	828	1
grass types (fescue's)		
limber pine		
cottonwood/willow	247	10

Source: GIS (DWRIS), roadless inventory and vegetation layers

Environmental Consequences

The following table (C-82) shows the management prescription allocations by alternative for the Williams Fork roadless area.

Mgmt Rx	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
1.2						35,555	
1.32	35,752	12,752	30,797	12,784	9,626		
1.41						110	
2.2		22,031		22,031	22,031		22,031
3.21						280	
3.31				352			
3.55						9	
4.3	202	1,138	1,914	750	1,044		8,363
5.11		32	3,243	37	2,349		5,559
5.13					903		

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layer

Table C-83 summarizes the Williams Fork roadless area acreage by alternative for the groups shown in Table C-7.

	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Alt G
Acres Retaining Wilderness Character	35,752	34,783	30,797	35,167	31,657	35,954	22,031
Acres Not Retaining Wilderness Character	202	1,170	5,157	787	4,296	0	13,922

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), roadless inventory and allocation layers