

2006 Preliminary Roadless Area Inventory Shoshone National Forest

Inventoried roadless area ID	Inventoried roadless area name	Acres
02039	Windy Mountain	35,784
02040	Pat O'Hara	11,786
02041	Sulphur Creek	27,742
02042	Clarks Fork	41,791
02043	Sunlight	15,794
02044	Trout Creek	39,273
02045	Wapiti Valley North	20,658
02046	Rattlesnake	4,702
02048	Wapiti Valley South	50,417
02049	South Fork	66,853
02050	Carter Mountain	9,930
02051	Franc's Peak	67,855
02052	Wood River	57,017
02053	Castle Rock	8,214
02054	Telephone Draw	22,183
02055	Carson Lake	4,738
02056	East Dunoir	5,940
02057	South Dunoir	2,925
02058	Dunoir	29,630
02059	West Dunoir	7,047
02060	Sheridan Pass	11,745
02061	Benchmark	8,932
02062	Salt Creek	7,171
02064	Little Popo Agie	10,730
02065	Canyon Creek	8,692
02066	Pass Creek	4,185
02901	Middle Fork	59,743
02902	Warm Spring Creek	6,110
02903	Togwotee Pass	6,536
02911	Deep Lake	59,501
02913	North Boundary	181
02914	Reef	16,917
NF915	High Lakes	15,213
NF915a	High Lakes additional	5,401
	Total	751,336



Mapping results

The new inventory does not include 40,176 acres that were identified as roadless in the 1979 inventory. These acres mostly occur in smaller blocks, some of which are the result of apparent errors in the 1979 inventory, while others are the result of harvest and road construction that has occurred since 1979.

The 2006 inventory includes 104,962 acres that were not identified in the 1979 inventory. One new roadless area was identified (Salt Creek, 7,171 acres), while others occur in blocks across the various areas. These new blocks are a result of various situations. In some cases, blocks of roadless were not included in the 1979 inventory. The 1979 inventory included many boundaries that were a ¼ mile or more from roads. Criteria used in the new inventory moved many of those boundaries closer to the roads. In one area, the conversion of private land to National Forest System lands (Kirwin) resulted in a significant block of roadless.

In summary, the 2006 inventory increased the number of roadless acres outside of wilderness on the Shoshone to 751,336 acres, an increase of 64,787 acres. This amounts to 31% of the Forest, which is up from 28%. With the new inventory, the Shoshone is 87% roadless and wilderness.

Inventory process

Step one—inventory criteria

In step 1 we identified areas on the Forest that met the minimum size requirements and did not contain forest roads¹ (FSH 1909.12 71.1). The minimum size requirements that applied to the Shoshone are 5,000 acres or less than 5,000 acres if they are contiguous with an existing wilderness area. As part of the process we buffered all forest roads by 300 feet. This reflects the current direction that allows motorized travel within 300 feet of forest roads for parking or dispersed camping. This buffering did not result in the elimination of any areas, because of the size criteria. The 300-foot criterion was established by Region 2 to maintain consistency between forests in the region.

Step 1 resulted in the identification of 32 roadless areas. This was later changed to 34 roadless areas by splitting some of the original roadless areas.

Step two—criteria for including improvements and boundary adjustments

The results of step 1 included some areas of land that are not properly classified as undeveloped. Some of these lands are configured in a manner that is not characteristic of undeveloped lands, e.g., a narrow section of land between two roads. Other lands have had activities or include infrastructure that eliminates them from roadless consideration. Criteria for determining what types of existing development are allowable in inventoried roadless are identified in the directives (FSH 1909.12 71.11, included in this document).

In step 2, roadless area boundaries were adjusted to exclude areas of development and to address irregular configurations. The criteria related to area configuration and allowable development requires some amount of interpretation that is subjective. In order to achieve a level of consistency and to document the process, we developed a set of rules (Table 1) to apply when making boundary adjustments.

¹ Forest road – “A road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the national Forest System that the Forest service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of National Forest system and the use and development of its resources” (36 CFR 212.1). The Forest Service commonly refers to these as system roads. They are the ones that we identify on our roads atlas and associated database.



Table 1. Rules for applying criteria.

Situation	General rule
Boundary adjustments for improvements	
Road network penetrates the roadless area resulting in fingers of roadless with roads along each side	Based upon road density within a watershed (6 th level HUB) -If the road density is greater than 1 mile/sq mile, adjust the boundary to identify a portion that is undeveloped. -If the road density is less than 0.5 mile/sq mile, draw the boundary to cherry stem out the road. -If the road density is between 0.5 and 1.0 mile/sq mile, use best judgment to draw boundary.
Utility lines	Draw boundary off the line. Also exclude motorized routes that are required to maintain the utility line.
Areas of development, such as cabins and resorts	Draw boundary back 300 feet from structures. Use existing roadless inventory lines when appropriate.
Evidence of timber harvest	Boundaries were adjusted to exclude past areas of harvest and associated temporary roads and skid trails. Where electronic records existed those records were used to adjust the boundary. For small isolated areas of harvest that did not have associated skids trails and temporary roads the acres were not excluded from roadless. These small areas were generally light treatments that occurred more than 20 years ago. In some areas district staff identified areas of past treatment that were not included in the electronic records. In that situation, aerial imagery was reviewed and areas with visual evidence of past harvest were delineated from the imagery to adjust the boundaries.
Boundary adjustments for irregular area configuration	
Configuration of area results in a neck or peninsula	Truncate the neck if it is less than 1 mile wide.
Boundary contains a large number of undulations in a short distance or has multiple sharp angles	Smooth boundaries to follow the general lay of the land. Features such as ridge tops, streams, and other topographic features provide good guides. Consider using boundaries that were used in the 1979 RARE II roadless inventory.
Geographic features that were used in the 1979 RARE II inventory exist within the vicinity of the boundary	Adjust boundary to the geographic feature. Examples would be the reef south of Chief Joseph Highway and the base of the Palisades northeast of Rattlesnake Creek.



Corrections to the 2006 Roadless Inventory

The public is welcome to provide information that would correct the technical application of the roadless inventory process. This would include information such as forest roads or other developments that were not considered during the process. If in reviewing the rules for conducting an inventory, anyone is aware of an area of development that was not considered, please submit a map showing the location of the development and an associated description. Please note that old roads not identified on the Forest Service transportation atlas for long-term use are permitted in roadless areas. Specific questions can be directed to the forest planning team in the Supervisor's Office.

If input has to do with how an area is managed, that input is more appropriately submitted through the suitable uses discussion.



From Forest Service Handbook Interim Directive 1909.12-2006-1

71.11 Criteria for including improvements

Potential wilderness areas may qualify for the inventory even though they include the following types of areas or features:

1. Airstrips and heliports.
2. Cultural treatments involving plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.
3. Electronic installations, such as cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, and the like, provided their impact is minimal.
4. Areas with evidence of historic mining (50+ years ago). Do not include areas of significant current mineral activity, including prospecting with mechanical or motorized earthmoving equipment. The inventory may include areas where the only evidence of prospecting is holes that have been drilled without access roads to the site. Inventoried lands that may have potential for wilderness recommendation also may include:
 - a. Areas that otherwise meet inventory criteria if they are covered by mineral leases having a “no surface occupancy” stipulation.
 - b. Areas covered by mineral leases that otherwise meet inventory criteria only if the lessee has not exercised development and occupancy rights. If and when these rights are exercised, remove the area, or portion affected, from the inventory unless it is possible to establish specific occupancy provisions that would maintain the area in a condition suitable for wilderness.
5. National Grasslands and Prairies. National Grasslands and Prairies may have structures or evidence of vegetative manipulation resulting from past management practices. National Grassland and Prairie lands that contain the following features may be inventoried:
 - a. Vegetation type conversions that are reverting to native vegetation with minimal evidence of cultivation.
 - b. Less than 1 mile of interior fence per section.
7. Areas of less than 70-percent Federal ownership, if it is realistic to manage the Federal lands as wilderness, independent of the private land.
8. Minor structural range improvements (FSM 2240.5) such as fences or water troughs. Exclude areas where nonstructural range improvements are readily visible and apparent. Areas with spray or burning projects are permissible if there is little or no evidence of the project.
9. Recreation improvements such as occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps. As a general rule, do not include developed sites. Areas with minor, easily removable recreation developments may be included.
10. Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not evident, except as provided in section 71.12 for areas east of the 100th meridian. Examples include those areas containing early logging activities related to historic settlement of the vicinity, areas where stumps and skid trails or roads are substantially unrecognizable, or areas where clearcuts have regenerated to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas.
11. Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, etc., if a right-of-way has not been cleared.
12. Watershed treatment areas if the use of mechanical equipment is not evident. The inventory may include areas where minor watershed treatment has been accomplished manually, such as small hand-constructed gully plugs.

