

GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST

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Agate Creek, (11,800 acres)

1. Description

Agate Creek CRA is located east of the town of Sargents, in Gunnison and Saguache Counties and is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The area parallels Highway 50 just west of Monarch Pass. This CRA borders the Chipeta CRA on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. This CRA is within the South Central Highlands (M331G Eco-section) with elevations ranging from 8,900' to 12,400'. Existing vegetation is dominated by lodgepole pine, mixed with aspen and spruce at the lower elevations, with aspen dropping out of the mix at the higher elevations. Riparian habitats occur along Agate Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This vegetative diversity provides for species requiring higher elevation conifer habitats. Most of this area is within the Poncha Pass lynx linkage area and is mapped as Canada lynx habitat. The area provides summer range for mule deer and elk. The higher alpine and lower lodgepole/aspen habitats provide summer concentration areas for elk. The highest elevations in the alpine habitat on the eastern edge are summer range for bighorn sheep. These alpine habitats also provide habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan. Suitable habitats for Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occur along the divide between the GMUG and the Pike/San Isabel NF. The forested portions of the Agate Creek area provide habitat for the following sensitive species: American martin, American three-toed woodpecker, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and golden crowned kinglet. Potential habitat for wolverine is also present in this area; however there have been no recorded sightings.

The rugged terrain and dense vegetation provide an atmosphere of remoteness. The sights and sound of Highway 50 can be heard from lands paralleling the road and an adjacent power line utility corridor. Once away from the road and corridor, the sense of solitude and remoteness increases. This area provides high valued mechanized recreation opportunities. NFST #531 (Monarch Crest Trail), a world class mountain bike trail is located within the unit. There are a total of 12 miles of single track motorized and mechanized trails including NFST #484 (Agate Creek Trail). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Current uses within this unit include the Agate Creek cattle allotment, a power line utility corridor adjacent to the northwest boundary, and the Larkspur and Cole Ditches, both with access roads along the ditches. There are no acres of land tentatively suitable for wood fiber production in this CRA. Approximately 1,500 acres of this CRA are within the community protection zones of Iris and Parkville at-risk communities under the National Fire Plan. The southernmost portion of this CRA lies within the Western Saguache County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) area. Future fuels treatments may be proposed within this area as part of the Tomichi Fuels Project. There are active unpatented mining claims in the south central portions of this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Chipeta = 16,200	11,800	Timber harvest and construction of roads in the southern portion of 2001 inventory lands. Adjusted boundary along private lands to the west for manageability.

American Flag Mountain, (11,900 acres)

1. Description

The American Flag Mountain CRA is approximately 14 miles northeast of the Town of Crested Butte in Gunnison County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. This unit is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,800' to 13,200'. Existing vegetation includes areas dominated by lodgepole pine in the east half, and spruce/fir dominated forest in the west half and at higher elevations in the southeast corner. Alpine habitats occur on American Flag Mountain. Riparian willow habitats occur along South Italian Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A portion of the American Flag Mountain is within the potential conservation area identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) for two alpine plant species (*Braya humilis* and *B. glabella*). The entire area is included in The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Cottonwood Pass Conservation Site. Species requiring high elevation conifer, riparian, and alpine habitats can find habitat within this area. The spruce/fir habitats are mapped as habitat for Canada lynx. The alpine areas provide habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan. The forested portions of the American Flag Mountain provide habitat for the following sensitive species: American martin, American three-toed woodpecker, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and golden crowned kinglet. Potential habitat for wolverine is also present in this area; however there are no recorded sightings in the area. This area provides summer range for mule deer and elk, with migration paths for both species bisecting the area. This CRA provides winter and summer motorized recreation opportunities. The area is bisected by two motorized trails NFST 411 (Star Trail) and NFST 534. Star Trail is an important motorized single-track which links NFSR 744 with the Reno Divide area creating a motorized loop system. Motorcycles frequently travel to the summit of American Flag Mountain. Winter motorized recreation occurs along Italian Creek.

The area is rugged and offers dense vegetation; however, the close proximity of roads and trails makes it difficult to escape the sound of motors, affecting the sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park cattle allotment is located within the area. There are approximately 2,800 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Timber harvest has occurred adjacent to the roadless area. There are several historic mine sites and the town sites of Dorchester and Lily Pond (which include log structures, flumes, and trams) located within the vicinity of the CRA. However, once away from these sites and roads, the area appears natural. There are several active unpatented mining claims in the eastern edge of this CRA. The potential for oil and gas in this area is low.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Boston Peak – 46,700	American Flag Mountain = 11,900 Granite Basin = 25,500 Total = 37,500	33 miles of road construction, 1800 acres of timber harvest and non National Forest System lands were removed from the Inventory.

Baldy, (2,300 acres)

1. Description

The Baldy CRA is approximately four miles southeast of the town of Ridgway in Ouray County. It is managed by the Ouray Ranger District. The CRA is bordered on the north by private land along the National Forest boundary and the Uncompahgre Wilderness to the east. Primary access is NFSR 872 from the south. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,400’ to 10,600’. The southern half of this area is semi-arid and dominated by Gambel oak, with pinyon-juniper at the lowest elevations. The northern half at higher elevations is a mix of grasslands, aspen, and spruce-fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is critical bighorn sheep habitat and is actively managed for this species with extensive habitat improvements. The northern half includes potential lynx habitat. This area is a black bear summer and fall concentration area, elk winter range and winter concentration area, elk production area, and is mapped as mule deer winter and summer range, as well as Merriam turkey overall range. There is evidence of previous habitat improvement projects, such as roller chopping and prescribed fire.

Two non-motorized trails NFST 216 and 216.1A run through the area. The area is adjacent to private land developments on three sides. Over half the area is brush and grass land.

The proximity to urban developments and the open brush and grassland vegetation limits the sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Two cattle allotments are located within this unit. Projects, such as prescribed fire and roller chopping, have occurred and are planned for the future. There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit and the potential for oil and gas is low. Approximately

500 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone of three at-risk communities (Park Estates, Piedmont Hills, Portland/Idlewild Estates) under the National Fire Plan. There is less than one acre of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Ponderosa Village/Portland currently overlays this CRA. There is an active unpatented mining claim in the southeastern edge of this CRA. Past mining activity has occurred in the central and southeastern portions of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Baldy Peak - 1,900	2,300	Roaded lands and non National Forest Lands were removed from the inventory and additional adjacent lands were added.

Battlements, (24,400 acres)

1. Description

The Battlements CRA is located 6 miles north of the town of Collbran in Mesa and Garfield Counties. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The northern boundary is bordered by the White River National Forest, where the lands are managed for non-motorized summer recreation, winter motorized recreation, and elk habitat. This area also borders the Mamm Peak CRA on the White River National Forest. The southern boundary is developed (roaded) BLM and private lands. The Battlements CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,500’ to 11,000’. It is steep and rugged terrain. Existing vegetation ranges from Gambel oak mixed with serviceberry and other mountain shrubs at the lower elevations, up through aspen dominated stands to spruce-fir and Douglas-fir stands at the higher elevations. An area of mostly bare cover occurs in the northwest portions of this IRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The vegetation diversity allows this CRA to provide habitat to very large numbers of bear, elk, mule deer, and wild turkey. A portion of the Dry Fork Kimball Creek Potential Conservation Area (PCA) overlaps the western edge of this CRA. The area has been identified as a PCA for the presence of three rare plants, two of which have known occurrences (*Lesquerella parviflora* and *Argillochloa dasyclada*).

The eastern edge of this CRA lies within the Battlement Mesa lynx linkage area. Higher elevation areas are mapped as habitat for Canada lynx. McCurry Reservoir, Kimball Creek, and Smalley Creek all support Colorado River cutthroat trout. Greenback cutthroat trout (threatened species) populations have been confirmed in Brush Creek, East Fork and West Fork Brush Creek and Hawxhurst Creek. The Gambel oak intermixed with aspen provides potential habitat for sensitive species like Lewis’ woodpecker. The Battlements CRA has received extensive controlled burning to increase big game and livestock forage and decrease fuel loading. The burning has imitated natural processes, but is the result of human intervention. McCurry Reservoir and numerous irrigation systems are located in this area. The area contains six motorized trails within its rugged terrain (NFST 532, 530, 531, 529, 527, and 504). These are

more frequently used during the fall big game season. Recreational use is low in the summer allowing one to experience a sense of remoteness and solitude. This is diminished during the fall game season. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Three cattle allotments are within this area. Some fences on these allotments are maintained using motorized vehicles. Other land uses include McCurry Reservoir, Collier ditch, Rauman ditch, Last Chance ditch and associated water transmission lines, access routes, head gates and diversion points. Plans to reconstruct McCurry Reservoir are being evaluated, and the trail to the reservoir would need to be improved and used temporarily as a road.

There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. Additional prescribed burning projects are planned for the lower elevations of the CRA.

The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. Portions of the unit are currently under lease or have expressions of interest for leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Battlement Mesa = 36,500	Sunnyside = 10,700 Battlements = 24,400 Total = 35,100	Constructed roads, areas where vegetation harvest occurred, water transmission and irrigation ditches and Non-National Forest lands were removed from the inventory.

Beaver (3,700 acres)

1. Description

This area is located eight miles west of Gunnison in the Gunnison Basin Ranger District. This small unit is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. The southern boundary of the CRA is the National Forest boundary. The Beaver CRA is accessed by NFSR 726 to the east, and NFSR 859 and 858.1B to the west. NFSR 726.2A (April Gulch) is a steep and rugged four wheel drive road that partially separates this unit from the West Elk Wilderness along the northern boundary. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,200’ to 11,600’. Existing vegetation is dominated with mixed forests of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine with Engelmann spruce mixed in at the higher elevations. Sagebrush occurs in the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Beaver Creek, a distinctive canyon has been identified as a potential state conservation area by the Colorado Division of Wildlife for its (*Populus angustifolia/Salix lucida*) riparian woodland. The entire area lies within the much larger Gunnison Basin conservation site identified by The Nature Conservancy. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the spruce/fir habitat at the northern end of this area. Gunnison sage grouse winter range occurs at the southern, lower end. During the winter, bald eagles forage along Beaver Creek. This area is also identified as

bighorn sheep habitat. A concrete fish barrier and the application of Rotenone chemical pesticide have occurred in the creek to protect and enhance cutthroat trout lineage fish populations. Most of the area is summer range for elk and mule deer. The southern portion is also identified as elk and mule deer winter range. Several elk migration corridors cross this CRA.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. There is an existing motorized trail in the Beaver Creek CRA; however, the trail becomes non-motorized once it crosses onto adjacent Colorado State lands. The recent Gunnison travel management decision will convert NFSR 726.2A to a non-motorized trail. The terrain is rugged with dense vegetation particularly below the canyon rim which provides high quality opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. This diminishes above the canyon rims and lands adjacent to the roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Antelope and Beaver cattle allotments are located in the Beaver Creek portion of this unit. There are approximately 350 acres within the CRA that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. This CRA is currently being evaluated for future prescribed burning projects to improve wildlife habitat. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Beaver-Castle = 35,700	Beaver = 3,700 Castle = 9,400 Steuben = 3,500 East Elk = 6,000 Willow Creek = 300 Total = 22,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features and administrative boundaries.

Beckwiths, (18,400 acres)

1. Description

The Beckwiths CRA is approximately 17 miles east of Paonia and 15 miles west of Crested Butte, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The southern boundary of this area is the West Elk Wilderness. Private land developments and the Lost Lake Campground and Reservoir are located north of the area. This CRA is accessed from NFSR 709 (Coal Creek) along the west boundary, and NFSR 706 and County Road 12 Kebler Pass (part of the West Elk Scenic Byway) along the north boundary. The Beckwiths CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,300' to 12,000'. Existing vegetation consists of aspen, spruce and fir mixed forests, with alpine habitats in the highest elevations, and mixed mountain shrub habitats at the lower elevations. Riparian habitats occur along streams within the area. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) has identified three potential conservation areas for montane riparian forest and shrub land types within the Beckwiths CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested areas of this CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine area on both West and East Beckwith mountains. Bald eagles have winter range along the lower portions of Coal Creek and Snowshoe Canyon. Sensitive species that rely on aspen, high elevation conifer and alpine habitats would also find habitat in this CRA (Northern goshawk, American marten, American three-toed woodpecker, and wolverine). This area provides calving areas and summer range for elk, with some winter range in the Coal Creek drainage. Black bear fall concentration areas occur in the mixed mountain shrub habitats, along Coal Creek.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. Winter motorized activities (snowmobiling) are common in this unit. The area is rugged and retains a high degree of naturalness. The CRA is characterized by rugged terrain and a relative sense of remoteness. However, the sense of solitude is limited by winter snowmobiling, adjacent private land developments, the Lost Lake Campground, and the Floresta town site (east of the CRA). This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Snowshoe Cattle allotment is within this unit. There are no acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Approximately 10 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone of Crystal Meadows Subdivision, an at-risk community under the National Fire Plan. Only a portion of the area has any potential for oil and gas and that portion is covered with a No Lease stipulation. The remainder of the area is not available for oil and gas lease. The CRA may have potential for coal mining. Currently there are no existing leases, lease applications or exploration applications. The Norris Ditch is included in this CRA along the north central boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mt. Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed road, 500 acres of lands treated with vegetation harvest, areas with coal leases and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory.

Calamity Basin, (12,500 acres)

1. Description

The Calamity Basin CRA is on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately nine miles east of Gateway in Mesa County. The unit lies along the western perimeter of the Uncompahgre Plateau, within the Grand Valley Ranger District. The CRA is encircled and can

be accessed from NFSR 416, 416.1A, 405, 405.2a, and 404. The area is bordered to the west by developed and roaded BLM lands. Calamity Basin CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco- Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,500' to 9,100'. Existing vegetation includes pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations, mixing with and transitioning to Gambel oak. Aspen and ponderosa pine mixed forests occur at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Calamity Basin has been extensively managed for the last 20 years to reduce fuel loading, and improve range condition and habitat for big game. This area is used by elk, deer, black bears, mountain lion, Merriam's turkey, and blue grouse throughout the spring, summer, fall and winter. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Dolores River drainage.

Two roads intrude into the area, NFSR 405.4A and 416.1A, creating a cherry stem effect. Remnants of timber harvest from the 1950s are evident along the northern perimeter of the unit. Both motorized and non motorized trails are within the unit. One motorized trail, NFST 608, bisects the unit and is linked to a larger motorized trail system on the Plateau. The relatively open vegetation and close proximity to sights and sounds of roads and trails diminish the sense of remoteness within this unit. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Blue Creek cattle allotment and minor portions of the Mudholes and Lakes allotment are within this CRA. Existing livestock fences and stock ponds are maintained with motorized equipment. Approximately 700 acres of tentatively suited timber lands are within this unit. There are several active unpatented mining claims in the southwestern portion of this CRA. The area is considered to have a moderate mineral potential. Portions of the area are available for oil and gas leasing, with additional portions of the unit have expressions of interest for leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Ute Creek = 29,800	Calamity Basin = 12,500 UnawEEP = 12,200 Total = 24,700	14 miles of constructed roads, lands commercially harvested and non National Forest lands were removed from these units.

Cannibal Plateau, (14,500 acres)

1. Description

The Cannibal Plateau CRA is approximately three miles from Lake City in Hinsdale County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. This area is bounded by the Powderhorn Wilderness to the east and north. The western boundary is composed of BLM and private land. The area can be accessed by NFSR 788, and the Los Pinos-Cebolla Road from the south. This CRA is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,600' to 12,600'. Existing vegetation is very diverse due to variations in elevation, terrain and aspect. The east and west sides of the area are dominated by spruce/fir and aspen mixed forests.

Alpine habitat exists on the Cannibal Plateau, including areas of bare rock, grass/forb types and willow.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Brush Creek is located within this CRA. It has been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, and The Nature Conservancy as the Cannibal Point conservation site, for its montane riparian willow habitat. The CRA provides summer range for black bear and mule deer. It provides important habitat and is a concentrated use area for elk and moose. Lynx habitat is mapped throughout this area. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine elevations. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Lake Fork of the Gunnison drainage. Sensitive species dependent on spruce/fir and riparian habitats, such as the American marten, American three-toed woodpecker, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, and wolverine also have potential habitat within this CRA.

Non-motorized and motorized dispersed recreation occurs in the area. The motorized recreation opportunities are highly valued by the Lake City community. Three motorized trails traverse the CRA, representing an important and popular ATV route in the Lake City area. There is also a groomed snowmobile route within the CRA. The sense of remoteness is high along the crest and away from motorized trails. However, the town of Lake City and developments can be viewed from the western rim. In addition, the relatively close proximity to roads, trails, and sights and sounds of development diminish the sense of remoteness. There are approximately 80 acres of the 288 acre Slumgullion Slide Special Interest Area within the CRA. This was designated for geologic reasons. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (LaGarita Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Cannibal sheep allotment is in this CRA. Approximately 300 acres of land are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,100 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for three at-risk communities (Elk Meadows Subdivision, Lake Forks Estates Subdivision, Rancho Carramba Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Cannibal Plateau = 14,200	14,500	Adjusting the boundary to a more identifiable feature accounts for the increase in acreage.

Canyon Creek (10,900 acres); Canyon Creek/Antero, (1,700 acres)

1. Description

The Canyon Creek and Canyon Creek/Antero CRA is along the Continental Divide, approximately six miles from the town of Pitkin in Gunnison County. It is within the Gunnison

Ranger District. This CRA is south of the Mirror Lake CRA. The Alpine Tunnel Road and Middle Quartz Creek Road separate the two CRA's and also provide public access points to each. This CRA is directly south of the Alpine Tunnel Historic District. The Canyon Creek/Antero unit borders the Mt. Antero roadless area, located on the Pike- San Isabel National Forest. The Tomichi Creek Road (NFSR 788) separates the Canyon Creek/Antero Unit from the Canyon Creek Unit. The Canyon Creek Unit is bounded to the east by patented mining claims along NFSR 788 (Tomichi Creek Road). The western boundary follows Canyon Creek. Stella and Granite Mountains are prominent features. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,400' to 12,600'. The Canyon Creek portion is dominated by lodgepole pine mixed with spruce/fir forests in the southwest half, transitioning to alpine habitats on Stella, Granite and Paywell mountains. The Canyon Creek/Antero portion of the area is entirely alpine habitat

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Whitepine Iron Fen Potential Conservation Area identified for an iron fen and subalpine riparian habitats occur within this CRA. Alpine habitats provide summer range for mountain goat. Lower elevation habitats provide summer concentration areas for elk. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested areas. Suitable habitat for the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs adjacent to this CRA, within the Pike/San Isabel NF. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine areas. Roads and vegetation treatments adjacent to Canyon Creek on the western side of this CRA influence the naturalness of the area. Away from the Tomichi Creek road, the Canyon Creek/Antero portion of the CRA has a high degree of naturalness.

Some winter motorized activities occur in the vicinity of Granite Mountain, South Quartz Creek, and the Tomichi Pass area. There is a network consisting of three motorized trails in the unit. The high density of motorized routes in the Canyon Creek segment diminishes the sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. However, the rugged terrain, dense vegetation, and distance from sights and sounds of developments provide a sense of naturalness and remoteness in the Antero segment. The CRA is within the Quartz Creek drainage a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Tomichi and Pitkin cattle allotments are located in this CRA. The area is adjacent to the Buffalo Fork timber sale unit. There are less than 10 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,300 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Tomichi Park Subdivision, Whitepine) under the National Fire Plan. Future fuels treatments may be proposed within this area as part of the Tomichi Fuels Project. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development. Past mining activity has been extensive between the Canyon Creek/Antero and Canyon Creek Units, as well as along the southern portions of both units. Future mine reclamation work may occur in both of these areas to address known physical hazards.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Canyon Creek = 12,600	Canyon Creek = 10,900 Canyon Creek/Antero = 1,700 Total = 12,600	Removed non National Forest lands, constructed roads and lands treated with vegetation harvest. Acres added adjacent to roadless on Pike/San Isabel NF.

Carson, (6,000 acres)

1. Description

The Carson CRA is approximately seven miles south of Lake City in Hinsdale County and bordered by a segment of the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The Rio Grande National Forest borders the southern section of the CRA. This area shares a boundary with the Big Buck/Kitty/Ruby Lake CRA on the Rio Grande National Forest. The two forests share the Continental Divide. The adjacent lands on the Rio Grande NF are inventoried as roadless. BLM and private land border the area to the north. The CRA is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,400’ to 13,300’. Existing vegetation transitions from aspen dominance to spruce dominance, with elevation gain. Scattered riparian and alpine habitats can be found at the highest elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is within The Nature Conservancy’s Uncompahgre/Red Cloud conservation site. The Carson CRA has summer range for elk, mule deer and moose. This CRA has key Canada lynx habitat. Several lynx den sites have been identified in and within one mile of this area. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Lake Fork of the Gunnison drainage. Sensitive species dependent on spruce/fir, such as the boreal owl, American marten, and American three-toed woodpecker have identified habitat in this area.

The area has a high degree of naturalness. The highest point along the Continental Divide (Coney) is located in this CRA. The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway located north of this CRA is a nationally significant four wheel drive road. Snowmobiling is popular on the byway in the winter. A high volume of traffic along this road during the remaining part of the year affects the sense of solitude and remoteness. NFST 476, open to mountain bikes runs through the CRA, north from NFSR 47 (LaGarita Stock Driveway), to the Alpine Loop Road. Some snowmobiling originating from the Rio Grande National Forest also occurs within this unit. Once away from the road corridor, the rugged terrain, dense vegetation, and lack of trails in the CRA provide a sense of solitude and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (LaGarita Wilderness and Weminuche Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a closed livestock allotment within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands within this unit. Approximately 2,700 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone

for nine at-risk communities (Bent Creek Subdivision, Berry Lands Subdivision, Hemsley’s Haven Subdivision, Homer Hensley Homesites Subdivision, Joel Swank Homesites Subdivision, Ragel Lands Subdivision, Red Cloud Subdivision, smith Subdivision, Wyss Land Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. This area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Carson Peak 25,300	Carson = 6,000 Cataract = 10,200 Total = 16,200	Timber harvest in Rambouillet Creek drainage, 16 miles of constructed roads and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory.

Castle, (9,400 acres)

1. Description

The Castle CRA is approximately seven miles northwest of Gunnison, in Gunnison County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. This CRA adjoins the eastern boundary of the West Elk Wilderness. The unit is bordered to the northeast and east by private land. Public access to the area is primarily through private lands and NFSR 728 (Castle Creek Road). This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,900’ to 12,000’. Existing vegetation has aspen mixed with spruce/fir and lodgepole pine at the lower elevations and on south-facing slopes. Spruce/fir forests occur on north-facing slopes. Riparian habitat occurs along the forks of Castle Creek and Little Pass and Pass Creeks, and around ponds and wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Most of the area is within The Nature Conservancy’s Crested Butte conservation site. The North Castle Creek Potential Conservation Area identified for willow riparian habitats extends into the unit. This area provides elk summer concentration and production areas, and a major migration route to winter ranges to the south and west. This CRA is also summer range for mule deer, black bear and mountain lion. A portion of the lower elevations is mule deer winter range. The CRA is identified as suitable lynx habitat and occasional individuals have been located in the area. The western portion has bighorn sheep overall range and a bighorn sheep lambing area.

This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (West Elk Wilderness). NFST 438 (Lowline Trail) runs through the CRA and provides a non-motorized single-track backcountry trail opportunity that is a limited recreation resource in the Gunnison Basin. The area receives moderate to heavy visitor use during the fall big game hunting season. The unit is located above adjacent lands that have been previously harvested along the southern boundary. To the east, the CRA is well screened from the adjacent private lands which are currently agricultural. The dense vegetation, distance away from roads and trails, and lack of sights and sounds of developments create a sense of remoteness. This CRA lies within a delineated source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Beckwiths Cattle allotment is in this CRA. Two water transmission ditches and associated access roads are in the CRA. The unit has a commercial outfitter and guide operation for big game hunting operations. Water transmission ditches are currently accessed and maintained by motorized and mechanized equipment. There are approximately 2,000 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suited for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,000 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for three at-risk communities (Mill Creek Subdivision, Mill Creek Addition Subdivision, and Wilderness Streams Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. Future fuels treatments may be proposed within these CPZs.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Beaver-Castle = 35,700	Castle = 9,400 Beaver = 3,700 Steuben = 3,500 East Elk = 6,000 Willow Creek = 300 Total = 22,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features.

Cataract, (10,200 acres)

1. Description

The Cataract CRA is approximately 10 miles southwest of Lake City and 10 miles northeast of Silverton, in Hinsdale County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA is bordered by the BLM to the north, the Rio Grande National Forest to the south and shares the Continental Divide. The area is separated from the Carson CRA by NFSR 568 (Wager Gulch (aka Carson) Road). This CRA is within ten miles of four wilderness areas: Uncompahgre, La Granita, Powderhorn, and Weminuche. It is adjacent to the Handies Peak BLM Wilderness Study Area and to the Pole Mountain/Finger Mesa CRA on the Rio Grande National Forest. It is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 10,900’ to 13,900’. It is dominated by alpine habitats. Riparian habitats are scattered throughout the area. Spruce/fir forests occur at the lower elevations of drainages and in the northeast corner.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is within The Nature Conservancy’s Uncompahgre/Red Cloud conservation site. The Half Peak Potential Conservation Area has been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for several alpine plants, including the sensitive species *Gilia sedifolia*. The CRA is also suitable habitat for moose. Several have been sighted on a regular basis in the area near and around both Cuba Gulch and Cataract Gulch. This area also provides summer range for mule deer, black bear and elk as well as an elk concentration area in Mill Gulch.

Suitable habitat for Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs within this CRA. Suitable lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested habitats within this CRA. This area is adjacent to the Silverton-Lake City lynx linkage area. Other species, like wolverine are also likely to use this linkage area to move between ranges. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs throughout this area.

The Cataract CRA is critical summer and winter range for bighorn sheep as well as a production area where several bighorn ewe and lamb groups have been seen on a frequent basis. Some evidence of historic mineral development may be seen throughout the CRA. However, overall, the area has a high degree of naturalness. Travel is moderate to heavy along the Wager Gulch Road. The dense vegetation, distance away from roads and trails, and lack of sights and sounds of developments create a sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude.

This CRA along the Continental Divide has spectacular views. Cataract Lake is a scenic high alpine lake, which are fairly rare in the Gunnison National Forest. Three 13,000' peaks are within the area. Two popular mountain bikes trails are located within this CRA; NFST 475 (Cataract Creek Trail) runs north-south through the area and NFST 477 (Cuba Gulch) is located on the western side of the unit. Some winter snowmobiling originating from the Rio Grande National Forest takes place in the Cataract Lake area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply) and within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Weminuche Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Cottonwood and Cataract-Cuba cattle allotments are in this CRA. There are no suitable timber lands within the capable portion of this unit. Approximately 500 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for eight at-risk communities (Bent Creek Subdivision, Berry Lands Subdivision, Hemsley’s Haven Subdivision, Joel Swank Homesites Subdivision, Honahan Land Subdivision, Smith Subdivision, That Part of Colorado Placer Subdivision, Thompson Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. This CRA has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Carson Peak 25,300	Carson = 6,000 Cataract = 10,200 Total = 16,200	Timber harvest in Rambouillet Creek drainage, 16 miles of constructed roads and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory.

Cimarron Ridge, (12,600 acres)

1. Description

The Cimarron Ridge CRA is approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Ridgeway. It is within the Ouray Ranger District, located in both Ouray and Gunnison Counties. This area is also approximately two miles northwest of the Uncompahgre Wilderness and within a mile of the Turret Ridge CRA (#20451). NFSR # 858 (Owl Creek-Cimarron Road) borders the east and south boundary of the CRA. This road provides access to the area. The Big Cimarron River runs along the eastern boundary. The National Forest boundary is along the northern border. There is no public access from the north. Both the Deer Creek Trail (#223) and the Nate Creek Trail (#221) run along the western border. The CRA is within the South – Central Highlands Eco-section (M331G) with an elevation that ranges from 8,800' to 11, 900'. Existing vegetation

includes aspen forests at the lower elevations, transitioning to aspen mixed with spruce/fir, to spruce/fir mixed with aspen, with only spruce/fir at the higher elevations. Open parks are scattered throughout the area, along with cliff outcrops along the ridgeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Two Colorado Natural Heritage Program potential conservation areas extend just into this area. The Nate Creek Potential Conservation Area (PCA) is designated for Colorado River cutthroat trout. The Lou Creek PCA is designated for riparian habitats. It is occupied by black bear, turkey, mule deer, and elk. The area provides elk and mule deer summer range, as well as elk concentration areas. Moose likely use the east side of this CRA. Potential lynx habitat exists within this CRA. Peregrine falcon nesting habitat occurs along the cliff band. Nate Creek is designated as native cutthroat trout water and has a population of Greenback cutthroat trout (threatened). The southern end of this CRA is within bighorn sheep range. Other sensitive species that rely on aspen and high elevation conifer habitats that occur in this area include the American marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, and the American three-toed woodpecker.

Along the eastern perimeter of the area, there is evidence of aspen clearcuts that occurred during the 1950s and 1960s. The Silver Jack Reservoir and campground are along the east side of the Big Cimarron River. Cimarron Ridge divides the CRA into two segments, west and east. The west side of the ridge retains a higher degree of naturalness in comparison to the east side which is influenced by past timber harvests, evidence of roads, and the influence of the reservoirs and dams. The west side away from the private lands appears natural and undisturbed. There are several motorized trails system within this CRA. Connected motorized single-tracks NFST 221 (Nate Creek Trail) and NFST 222 (Lou Creek Trail) bisects the CRA in half north to south. NFST 249 (Fox Creek Trail), a double track ATV route, spurs off of the Lou Creek trail and travels north along the Big Cimarron River. NFST 244 (Cowboy Lake Trail) parallels the boundary separating the CRA from the Silver Jack reservoir.

The Nate Creek-Lou Creek motorized trail system along the west side of Cimarron Ridge, has a limited use season. Generally, motorized activity on the trail is intermittent and light; however, during special recreation events the trail receives high volumes of traffic. The Nate Creek trail draws users for a recreation event from across the nation. The Fox Creek Trail is a double track ATV trail with no seasonal restrictions; it spurs off the Lou Creek trail and heads north to the National Forest boundary. Generally, motorized activity on this trail is intermittent and light. Use increases during fall big game hunting.

The area west of Cimarron Ridge is more rugged and provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. On the eastern side of the ridge, this is diminished by the sights and sounds of trails and other developments such as the Silver Jack Reservoir. Water developments skirt the eastern boundaries. The Montrose Reservoirs are located along the northeast boundary and the Silver Jack Reservoir is east of the Big Cimarron River. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Cimarron and Lou Creek cattle allotments are within this unit. Private lands along the eastern boundary are currently being developed as ranchettes. There are approximately 4,200 acres of tentatively suitable timber for wood fiber production within this unit. Approximately 1,300 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for four at-risk

communities (Bearclaw Subdivision, Eagles Rest Subdivision, Little Big Horn Subdivision, Silverjack Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. This CRA has a low potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Cimarron = 15,600	12,600	Non National Forest lands and the Montrose Reservoirs were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain and natural features.

Clear Fork, (24,300 acres)

1. Description

The Clear Fork CRA is approximately 20 miles north of Paonia in Gunnison County. It is within the Paonia Ranger District. The headwaters of the east Fork of Muddy Creek and the Clear Fork are within this CRA. The northern boundary is shared with the White River National Forest boundary. This area borders both the East Willow and Thompson Creek CRAs on the White River National Forest. The eastern boundary is adjacent to Henderson Creek Road and private land; a gas pipeline runs just inside the western boundary. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,600’ to 11,800’. Aspen forests dominate most of this CRA. Spruce/fir mixed with aspen occurs at the higher elevations, shifting to spruce/fir without aspen near Huntsman Ridge. Oak occurs in the lower Clear Fork drainages, and snowberry occurs in the species mix at higher elevations. Extensive areas of riparian habitat follow the drainages in this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Huntsman ridge portion of this CRA is within The Nature Conservancy’s McClure Pass conservation site. This area is year round habitat for moose. This CRA provides calving areas and summer range for elk, as well as winter range at the lower elevations. Summer range for mule deer, black bear, and turkey also occur here. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. Clear Fork Muddy Creek, Second Creek, North Twin Creek, and South Twin Creek are designated native cutthroat waters. These streams contain conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. Greenback cutthroat trout (threatened species) populations have been confirmed in Rock Creek and South Twin Creek. Several purple martin nesting colonies occur in this CRA. The Audubon society has identified this area as an important bird area due to the presence of these colonies. Northern goshawk and flammulated owl also inhabit portions of the area with large diameter aspen. Once away from the gas wells, roads and pipelines the terrain and vegetation appear natural. With only a limited number of non-motorized trails through the area, the CRA offers a sense of remoteness. This CRA lies within a delineated source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Deadhorse and Muddy sheep allotments are in this CRA. There are approximately 2,600 acres of land that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The entire CRA has a high potential for oil and gas. Most of the area is currently leased for oil and gas has expressions of interest for leasing. Several active gas pipelines (Bull Mountain Pipeline, Ragged Mountain Pipeline) within a cleared Right-of-Way (ROW) lie within the western boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Clear Creek = 42,900	Turner Creek = 12,800 Clear Fork = 24,300 Total = 37,400	Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Cochetopa, (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The Cochetopa CRA is approximately 27 miles east of Lake City in Saguache County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger district. The Cochetopa CRA is adjacent to the northeast boundary of the La Garita Wilderness (in the vicinity of Chavez Creek and Cochetopa Creek). It follows the Continental Divide to the south and extends to the Forest boundary to the north. The Ignacio Park Road (NFSR 7794.2A) forms much of the western border. This unit is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,700’ to 10,900’. Existing vegetation in this area includes forested stands mixed with aspen, lodgepole pine, limber pine, bristlecone pine, and Engelmann spruce. Riparian habitat extends along Cochetopa Creek. Large meadows occur near the Continental Divide.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer habitat for big game species (black bear, mule deer, elk, and moose). Due to the terrain of the canyon, the area provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The portion outside the canyon, however, is on a bench adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest where the lands are roaded and experience heavy motorized use. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply) and is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (LaGarita Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Saguache Park and Cochetopa cattle allotments are in this CRA. There are approximately 800 acres of suitable timber lands within this unit. This CRA lies within the Western Saguache County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) area but no related projects have currently been identified in this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Middle Fork = 11,200	6,600	Constructed roads and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Cochetopa Hills, (48,500 acres)

1. Description

The Cochetopa Hills CRA is south of Highway 50 and north of the Continental Divide, approximately 23 miles southeast of Gunnison and two miles south of the town of Sargents in Saguache County. It is part of the Gunnison Ranger District. The southern portion follows the boundary with the Rio Grande National Forest (not within a roadless inventory). This CRA extends west to the Forest boundary near Antelope Mountain and east to Long Branch Creek. The lands east of Long Branch Creek to the Forest boundary with the Rio Grande National Forest have been heavily altered by intensive timber management. This unit is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,400' to 11,700'. Existing vegetation is dominated by lodgepole pine. Drier sites have lodgepole pine mixed with Douglas-fir and limber pine. More mesic sites have lodgepole pine mixed with spruce/fir. Riparian habitats occur along drainages. Sagebrush parks occur at lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Most of this CRA lies within the Trickle Mountain conservation site or the Gunnison Basin conservation site and potential conservation area. This area provides summer range for black bear and mule deer. This CRA also provides elk summer concentration areas and production areas in the Long Branch Baldy to Green Mountain areas, as well as the Razor Creek Dome to West Baldy. It provides big game wintering areas and potential sage grouse habitat in the lower elevations. Pronghorn use the lower elevations for summer habitats. This CRA contains lynx habitat and the North Pass/Cochetopa Hills lynx linkage area (movement corridor). Lower elevations provide summer range for Gunnison sage grouse. Bald eagle winter range extends into the northern edges of this CRA. NFSR 781 (Needle Creek Road) bisects the area, leaving two unroaded segments, one to the east and one to the west. Portions of the eastern unit have low naturalness due to past management activities. In the western segment, the Hicks Gulch drainage, specifically the ponderosa pine lands, has evidence of dozer lines and past prescribed fire activities. Once away from roads and harvest units on the eastern edge of the unit, the remainder of the western segment retains a high degree of naturalness.

An interconnected series of nine single-track motorized trails are in the CRA. Trails are used by both motorcyclists and mountain bikes. Needle Creek Reservoir, a popular camping area, is adjacent to the northern boundary of the CRA. A segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) is located within this unit. The high density of motorized trails influences the sense of solitude. Once away from the roads and trails, the rugged terrain and

dense thickets of lodgepole pine vegetation provide for a sense of naturalness and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Long Branch, Razor, Needle, and Rock cattle allotments are in this CRA. Approximately 8,000 acres in the CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,900 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for three at-risk communities (Deer Haven Subdivision, Monarch Valley Subdivision, Sargents) under the National Fire Plan. This CRA lies within the Western Saguache County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) area. Future fuels treatments may be proposed within this area as part of the Tomichi Fuels Project in the eastern portion of the CRA. Ponderosa pine restoration, fuels management and habitat improvement utilizing prescribed fire are planned for the western (Barret project) and northern (Dutchman) portions of the unit. Some mechanical fuels treatments (potentially 1000 acres) may occur. There is no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Cochetopa Hill = 71,400	48,500	67 miles of constructed roads, lands harvested in the Long Branch and Tank Seven Creek drainages, and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain and natural features where possible.

Cottonwoods, (11,200 acres)

1. Description

The Cottonwoods CRA is on the Grand Mesa, east of Highway 65 and approximately eight miles southwest of Collbran in Mesa County. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger district. The CRA is bounded on the north and west by BLM and private lands. Access from the north is difficult. There is no public access across the private land to the west. Access from the south is provided by NFSR 254.1A (Long Slough Road). The east boundary of the unit parallels the penstock that transports water from various reservoirs in the Bureau of Reclamation’s Collbran Project to power generation stations north of the Forest boundary. The unit is within the Northern – Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,400’ to 10,100’. The Cottonwoods CRA supports a number of ecosystems that vary with elevation, including spruce-fir-aspen, aspen, and shrub-oak-serviceberry. Riparian habitats occur along Cottonwood Creek and around fens, ponds and lakes

2. Roadless Characteristics

The eastern portion of this CRA is within The Nature Conservancy’s Debeque South conservation site. The southern half is within the Grand Mesa Lakes Megasite identified by

Colorado Natural Heritage Program for the large concentration of fens, wetlands, lakes and associated species. The Cottonwoods CRA is home to a variety of wildlife including black bear, bobcat, deer, elk, mountain lion, mule deer, and wild turkey. The Colorado Division of Wildlife recognizes the Cottonwoods CRA as summer range and a summer concentration area for elk and summer range for mule deer. The area is also overall range for black bear, mountain lion, and wild turkey, with the northern edge of the area also supporting a fall concentration of black bears. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the upper elevations of this CRA. Habitat for sensitive species dependent on aspen and high elevation conifer habitats (Northern goshawk, American marten, purple martin, flammulated owl, and boreal owl) have suitable habitat within this area.

Several thousand acres near Nick Mountain have been control-burned. Crum Reservoir, a human-made development, is in the CRA. Other irrigation systems extend into the area from Twin Basin Reservoir and Bull Reservoir. A water transmission line comes out of Cottonwood Creek between Nick and Bald Mountains and runs north to the Forest boundary. A penstock, road and 12.5 KV power line form the east edge of the area. These activities have modified natural processes in their immediate area, however, away from these influences, the area appears natural. This unit has pre-existing rights of access for both water resources and an oil and gas lease.

One motorized trail NFST 511 (Crum Reservoir Trail), bisects the west quarter of the area. Motorized routes, NFSR 254.1A and NFST 507 (Bull Basin Trail), run along the southern border. The eastern edge of the CRA follows a road, a penstock, and a 12.5 KV power line. Extensive unauthorized motorized use from private lands is a growing problem as lands become developed to the north. Motorized winter over snow activities occur in the area. Summer recreation use is low, but the sense of solitude is tempered by uses that occur in the vicinity of NFSR 254 (Long Slough Road), reservoirs to the south, and other water uses in the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Bull and Cottonwood Creek cattle allotments are in this CRA. Fences are maintained using motorized vehicles. There are several irrigation reservoirs (Crum, Pine Park No. 1 and No. 2, Spring Creek No. 1) water transmission lines (Coon Creek outlet, Park View, Last Chance, Mormon Mesa) and associated access routes and diversion points within the area. There are approximately 1,000 acres within the CRA that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area is considered to have a high potential for oil and gas resources. Prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat are proposed over the next 10 years.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Nick Mountain = 10,400	11,200	Lands altered by developments were removed from the inventory, lands were added to adjust the boundary for better manageability

Crystal Creek, (500 acres)

1. Description

The Crystal Creek CRA is located approximately 20 miles northeast of the city of Gunnison in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The unit lies north and immediately adjacent to the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. It is bounded to the north by NFSR 742.0 (Taylor River Road). The south boundary is contiguous with the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. This unit is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000' to 10,200'. Vegetation generally consists of spruce -fir on mountain flanks, side slopes, ridges, and peaks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

NFSR 742.0 (Taylor River Road), a paved two lane road, runs along the bottom of the canyon to the north of this CRA and receives a heavy level of use. Two campgrounds (Lodgepole and Cold Springs) are within this road corridor. The portions of the area in close proximity to roads and trails have a diminished sense of remoteness and solitude. Once away from the road corridor, these opportunities increase. The CRA has rugged terrain with dense vegetation and has a high degree of naturalness. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park cattle allotment is located within this unit. There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. Approximately 100 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (Crystal Creek Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Crystal Creek = 28,700	Crystal Creek = 500 Union = 1,600 Total = 2,100	The 2001 original acreage included the lands (44,000) that were Congressionally designated as the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (Public Law 103-77). These have been eliminated from the 2001 IRA acreage. Of the remaining lands, non- National Forest lands and roaded lands were removed from the inventory.

Crystal Peak, (11,500 acres)

1. Description

The Crystal Peak CRA is approximately three miles west from Lake City and is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, in Hinsdale County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. It borders BLM land to the south. The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway runs through the adjacent BLM land. It is part of the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G), with elevations ranging from 9,400' to 13,100'. Aspen dominated stands occur at the lowest elevations, transitioning to aspen/spruce/fir, to spruce/fir, to alpine tundra and rocky areas. Riparian habitats exist along stream courses and in scattered wetlands at all elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area lies within The Nature Conservancy's Uncompahgre/Red Cloud conservation site. The eastern side of this CRA extends into the Uncompahgre Potential Conservation Area, established by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. This area provides summer range for moose, elk, mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. Lynx habitat occurs in the forested habitats of this CRA. A known colony of Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly inhabits this CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine areas. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Lake Fork of the Gunnison drainage. Bighorn sheep range also extends into portions of this CRA.

Historic roading for mineral prospecting exists east of the Nellie Creek Road. Portions of the area are recovering from historic mining activities. The remainder of the area possesses a high degree of naturalness. NFSR 877 (Nellie Creek Road) provides access to the Wilderness trailhead and the 14,000 foot Uncompahgre Peak. NFST 236 to Larson Lakes receives some mountain bike use. Winter snowmobile activity is light. The high elevation rugged mountain landscape and dense vegetation creates a sense of remoteness and solitude once away from the Nellie Creek road. The exclusion of motorized vehicles furthers the desired sense of remoteness and solitude. This area is popular with day hikers and horse riders. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply) and within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (LaGarita Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Crystal Peak/Lower Elk sheep allotment, which is currently vacant, is within this unit. The San Juan Springs Irrigation ditch is a Special Use Permit to Colorado Division of Wildlife at Larson Lakes for fish culture. There are approximately 50 acres of land tentatively suited for wood fiber production in this CRA. Approximately 4,900 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for thirteen at-risk communities (Creel Lands Subdivision, Henson, Lake City, Lake City Heights Subdivision, Lake city North Subdivision, Lake San Cristobal Subdivision, Packer's Knob Subdivision, Park Creek West Subdivision, Riverside Estates Subdivision, San Juan Hills Subdivision, San Juan Meadows subdivision, San Juan Ranch Estates Subdivision, San Juan Springs Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has no known potential for oil and gas. The southern portion of this CRA is within the Henson Creek mineralized area.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Crystal Peak = 5,500	11,500	Lands not included in the 2001 inventory were added.

Curecanti, (12,400 acres)

1. Description

The Curecanti CRA is approximately 16 miles southeast of Crawford and three miles north of Curecanti National Recreation Area and Blue Mesa Reservoir. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The area adjoins the south end of the West Elk Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section. (M33IH) with an elevation that ranges from 8,100’ to 12,200’. The existing vegetation is dominated by mixed forest of aspen, Douglas-fir and spruce/fir, with interspersed meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides a large portion of elk and mule deer winter range and winter concentration areas. The area also contains habitat for black bear and mountain lion. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area. This eastern half of the CRA is mapped as bighorn sheep habitat. Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in Mill Creek. Potential habitat for Gunnison sage grouse has been identified in the lower elevations.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The CRA provides high quality recreational fisheries and has a high degree of naturalness. NFSR 720 (Curecanti Creek Road) cherry stems into the middle of the area for approximately five miles, diminishing the sense of remoteness and solitude. It also parallels the creek that runs along the bottom of the drainage. The landscape north of the road provides a more rugged character and heightened sense of remoteness. Vehicle traffic, dispersed camping, and motorized recreation takes place along NFSR 720 and NFSR 721 (Soap Creek Road). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Mesa and Soap Creek Cattle allotments are in this CRA. Approximately 300 acres of land are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. Extensive prescribed burning for fuels and habitat treatments are proposed in this CRA. This CRA has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mt. Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Currant Creek, (10,800 acres)

1. Description

The Currant Creek CRA is seven miles northeast of Cedaredge in Delta County. It is within the Grand Valley Ranger District. The CRA is bordered in the north by Forest Service lands (adjacent to the Flattops/Elk Park CRA) and follows the Forest boundary to the west and south. Adjacent to the Forest boundary is a mix of BLM and private lands. It is in the Northern – Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,500’ to 10,200’. Gambel oak dominates the lower elevations, transitioning to aspen forests, with spruce/fir only at the highest elevations along the Green Mountain trail.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Current Creek CRA is an important calving and fawning ground, as well as winter range for both deer and elk. It is also highly utilized by black bear in the fall due to high density of acorns and chokecherries (mapped by CDOW as both summer bear concentration area and fall concentration area). This area also provides Merriam’s wild turkey habitat. Lynx habitat is mapped in the highest elevations. Sensitive species that may occur in this area include: Lewis’ woodpecker, American marten, purple martin, northern leopard frog and northern goshawk. The area serves as a corridor for wildlife species moving on and off the Grand Mesa, as well as traversing along the southern flank. There is little evidence of human-induced change, and the area appears natural.

One motorized route, NFST 719 (Green Mountain), runs along the north boundary of this CRA and the south boundary of Flattops/Elk Park CRA. One non-motorized trail NFST 710 (Currant Creek) provides access into the CRA from Green Mountain Trail.

The area is bordered on the south by the National Forest boundary with private land. There is no public access across this private land. The difficulty of access makes this area remote. The lower third of the CRA includes steep oak brush canyons. Cross country travel is difficult. This CRA is within a state defined source water Assessment area (municipal water supply). The landscape contains many tributaries to the Gunnison River.

The landscape contains many tributaries to the Gunnison River: Currant Creek, Dry Creek and Leroux Creek. Watershed condition within the CRA is generally good. Tributaries off the national Forest below the CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for selenium impairment

under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality, due to the Mancos Shale geologic material in the area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Green Mountain and Leroux Creek cattle allotments are in the CRA. There is one commercial outfitter operation, including two authorized camps. The Patterson and Carl Smith Reservoirs lie just outside this CRA on the southeast corner. Less than 20 acres of land in this CRA are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas; however, most of this area away from the Green Mountain Trail corridor was designated as not available for oil and gas leasing (discretionary No Lease) due to the intact roadless character of this area in the 1993 Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis. One oil and gas lease exists within the Green Mountain Trail corridor, which has standard lease terms and Controlled Surface Use stipulations. No exploration activity has occurred on this lease.

The Currant Creek CRA has high potential for occurrence of coal resources. Potentially recoverable coal resources occur in 8,900 acres of this CRA, which overlies a portion of the Grand Mesa Coalfield. According to the BLM, the coal resource on NFS lands in this area lies at or near the overburden limit of recoverable coal reserves. The coal quality in this area (in terms of overall energy production potential) is slightly lower than that of the coal being mined from the North Fork Valley, however remains desirable for its consistent low sulfur content and overall compliant quality with CAA standards. In 2005, BLM projected that coal companies would be stimulated to seek coal reserves such as these along the south flank of Grand Mesa in the 10 to 15 years following 2005 as reserves in the North Fork Valley deplete. Based on very general in-place coal reserve estimates, the Currant Creek area could contain more than 160 million tons of mineable coal, which represents about 20% of the recoverable coal resources identified as acceptable for further consideration for leasing in the Proposed GMUG Forest Plan.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Priest Mountain = 95,000	Currant Creek = 10,800 Flattops/Elk Park = 75,700 Total = 86,500	Lands altered from road construction, timber harvest, water development, water transmission lines, and Non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory.

Deer Creek, (9,500 acres)

1. Description

The Deer Creek CRA is approximately two miles east of Crested Butte, in Gunnison County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA adjoins the Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness on the north and parallels the East River to the town of Gothic. West Brush Creek separates the unit into the western Deer Creek segment and the eastern Brush Creek segment. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000' to 12,600'. The eastern portion is dominated by mixed forests of

aspen, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The western portion transitions to more open grass/forb and sagebrush within the East River drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Most of this CRA is within The Nature Conservancy’s Crested Butte conservation site. The West Brush Creek Potential Conservation Area identified for boreal toad, and several types of riparian habitat occurs in this CRA. This area provides summer habitat for black bear, with fall concentration in the East River, Deer Creek, West and Middle Forks of Brush Creek. This entire CRA is an elk production area. It also has essential habitat components for elk winter range. Lynx habitat is mapped primarily in the forested portion of this CRA. Potential habitat for Gunnison sage grouse occurs along the East River. Breeding populations of boreal toad occur in both West and Middle Brush Creek Drainages.

This CRA is adjacent to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness and within a 10-mile radius of the West Elk Wilderness, both are mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The major portion of this area overlooks the Crested Butte Ski area, the town of Mount Crested Butte, and associated developments. Two motorized trails, NFST 554 (Teocalli Mountain) and NFST 557 (Teocalli Ridge) are in the eastern half of this CRA. One mountain bike trail, NFST 568 (Deer Creek), bisects the CRA. This is one of the few mountain bike trails closed to motorized travel in the area and receives high use.

The CRA in general has gentle terrain and the vegetation offers minimal screening of the roads, trails, and developments. The visibility of the Gothic Road detracts from a sense of remoteness and solitude. The motorized trails and the heavily used Deer Creek trail detract from the sense of solitude. However, there are isolated pockets of land where one can find solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Deer Creek, Dry Basin, and Gothic cattle allotments are in this CRA. The area along the East River contains private in-holdings. No acres of this CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 600 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Gothic, Gothic Mountain Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. Oil and gas potential in this unit is low.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Elk Mountain- Collegiate = 65,100	Deer Creek = 9,500 Double Top = 23,800 Italian Mountain = 9,000 Texas Creek = 2,600 Schofield Pass = 900 Part of Gothic = 5,800 total acres Total = 45,800 and part of 5,800	72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Dominguez, (12,500 acres)

1. Description

The Dominguez CRA is on the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 24 miles southwest of Grand Junction in Mesa County. The eastern edge of the CRA is bounded by Bureau of Land Management Dominguez Wilderness (recently designated). It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,600' to 9,000'. Existing vegetation is dominated by Gambel oak mixed with serviceberry, mountain mahogany, and snowberry, which transitions into sage and pinyon-juniper. Pockets of ponderosa pine exist in the Winter Camp area. The Dominguez drainage is dominated by pinyon/juniper stands, Gambel oak hillsides and open sage parks. Riparian habitat occurs along Red Creek and Keith Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is overall range for deer and elk, from calving and fawning to winter range. Turkey summer range and production areas occur in this, as well as overall range for black bear and mountain lions. Bald eagle winter range extends into this CRA along the lower reaches of Little Dominguez Creek. The CRA contains the forb *Draba rectifruca* (mountain draba), an emphasis species. This species occurs in New Mexico and Utah, and its eastern range extends into Colorado. There has been historic use by Columbian sharp-tail grouse and Gunnison's sage grouse within this CRA. Because this area is important big game summer range, vegetation is actively managed. This along with evidence of old road prisms affects the naturalness of the area.

There are three non-motorized trails NFST 645 (Winter Camp), NFST 635 (Bad Land), and NFST 613 (Black Point). Unplanned roads established by recreation users have been systematically closed or converted to trails (NFST 645 and 635) as a result of the Uncompahgre Travel Plan decision of 2000. Although the steep terrain makes travel through much of this country arduous to impossible, the area is popular for hunting and wildlife viewing. It is particularly congested during the fall big game hunting season. Summer recreation use is minimal due to the dry and hot conditions. The generally open and relatively flat terrain allows for views of distant roads and people. Only after dropping off of Black Point into the canyon is there a feeling of solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA contains slightly over one mile of tributaries to the Gunnison River that are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality due to selenium which occurs in the Mancos Shale parent material.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Smith, Dominguez, and Musser cattle allotments are in this CRA. Livestock fences, both interior and along the boundary, are maintained using motorized equipment. Stockponds are currently maintained with heavy equipment. Prescribed fire activities and mechanical activities for wildlife habitat improvement have occurred within the last three years. There are no acres of suitable timber in this CRA. This CRA has no known potential for oil and gas resources. It has not been analyzed for leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Black Point = 9,900	12,500	Constructed roads and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. Lands were added that were not within the 2001 inventory.

Double Top, (23,800 acres)

1. Description

The Double Top CRA is approximately five miles east of Crested Butte in Gunnison County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA adjoins the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. It is bordered by National Forest to the east and west and private land to the south. This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,200’ to 12,800’. Existing vegetation is dominated by mixed forested stands of aspen, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. On drier sites, Douglas-fir is present. Spruce and fir dominate the sites with more moisture (north facing slopes) and higher elevations. The northern third of this CRA is alpine. Riparian habitats occur along the major drainages of Middle Brush Creek, East Brush Creek, Farris Creek, and Cement Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Most of the area is either in The Nature Conservancy’s Crested Butte or Cottonwood Pass conservation sites. Two potential conservation areas identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for aquatic vertebrate species and riparian habitat types overlap this CRA in the Brush Creek and Cement Creek drainages. This CRA provides summer habitat for black bear, with fall concentration areas in both Cement Creek and Brush Creek drainages. Summer range is available for mountain lion and mule deer. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep range occurs just north of this CRA. This area has essential habitat components for elk winter range, winter and summer concentration areas, and calving areas. The majority of this CRA has been identified as lynx habitat. A breeding population of boreal toad inhabits Brush Creek. Colorado River cutthroat trout populations occur in Middle Brush Creek and East Brush Creek. The lowest elevations in the East River valley have potential Gunnison sage grouse habitat. White-tailed ptarmigan occur in alpine habitats. The high elevation conifer areas provide habitat for American marten, American three-toed woodpecker, Northern goshawk, and boreal owl.

This CRA is adjacent to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The CRA is bordered by NFSR 740 (Cement Creek) to the east; NFSR 738 (Brush Creek) to the west, and private land to the south. One non-motorized trail, NFST 580 (Beaver Slide) is in the CRA. The area has a high density trail network of 11 interconnected single tracks used heavily by both motorized and mechanized users. It is difficult to get away from the sights and sounds of motorized travel with this density of motorized trails throughout the area. State Highway 135 and private land

development of Crested Butte South also influence and detract from the sense of remoteness and solitude. Within the CRA are pockets of dense timber, providing a vegetation buffer from the sights and sounds of development and motorized recreation. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Brush Creek cattle allotment is in the western portion of the CRA. The Cement Creek cattle allotment is in the eastern portion. Morgan Ditch has Ditch Bill Easement. No acres in this CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,500 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for five at-risk communities (Cement Creek SHG, Cement Creek Subdivision, Crested Butte Highlands Subdivision, East River Ranches Subdivision, and River Rim Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The CRA has a low potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100	Deer Creek = 9,500 Double Top = 23,800 Italian Mountain = 9,000 Texas Creek = 2,600 Schofield Pass = 900 Part of Gothic = 5,800 total acres Total = 45,800 and part of 5,800	72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

East Elk, (6,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately eight miles west of Gunnison, in Gunnison County, and managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. This small unit is contiguous with the southeastern boundary of the West Elk Wilderness. The southern boundary is the Sapinero State Wildlife Area south of the Forest boundary. East Elk is a distinct canyon long and narrow, less than one mile wide in most of the area, located between NFSR 724 (Rainbow Lake) to the east and NFSR 723 (Red Creek) to the west. The unit is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,200’ to 11,600’. The existing vegetation is predominantly forested with aspen, Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. Douglas-fir growth is found on the drier sites, and spruce/fir is characteristic of the higher and moister sites. Riparian habitat occurs along the East Elk Creek drainage

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA has critical wildlife values for elk and deer. Most of this area is identified as severe winter range for elk and deer. An elk production area and several elk and deer migration corridors also occur within the area. The higher elevations provide mule deer summer range. East Elk CRA is a fall concentration area for black bear, and the entire area is black bear summer range. The CRA has suitable lynx habitat and several lynx have been located here in the recent past. Bighorn sheep production areas also occur within this unit.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. High quality opportunities for solitude and sense of remoteness exist below the canyon rims. Areas above the canyon rims and areas adjacent to roads provide a lesser degree of solitude and sense of remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Red Creek and Rainbow cattle allotment is in the East Elk Creek portion. This unit has a private land in-holding within the unit. Approximately 800 acres in this CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The lower elevations of this CRA are proposed for prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat and reduce hazardous fuels. The area has no known potential for oil and gas. A portion of the Elk Home Ditch passes through the northern end of this CRA, adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Beaver-Castle = 35,700	Castle = 9,400 Beaver = 3,700 Steuben = 3,500 East Elk = 6,000 Willow Creek = 300 Total = 22,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features.

Electric Mountain, (9,800 acres)

1. Description

The Electric Mountain CRA is approximately 8 miles north of Paonia, in Delta County. Electric Mountain is located in the center of the CRA. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The area is contiguous with the National Forest boundary to the south. The west boundary is the 230 KV power line. The remaining boundaries are formed by roads and private land in-holdings encircling Electric Mountain. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 8,000’ to 10,300’. Existing vegetation in this CRA is dominated with aspen and aspen mixed with spruce/fir forests. Snowberry growth occurs in openings and in the understory of some aspen. Riparian habitat occurs along the drainages of Beaver Creek and Cow Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides summer range for elk, mule deer, black bear and moose. Moose also use this area year round. Lynx habitat has been mapped within this CRA. Habitats for aspen dependent sensitive species are also present (Northern goshawk, purple martin, American marten, and flammulated owl).

Although the CRA retains its roadless character, it is surrounded by roads. The Forest boundary to the south is bordered by private lands which are developed into 35 acre ranchettes. The power line and its associated road are adjacent to the west boundary. An irrigation ditch near Beaver Creek is within the area. A foot and horse trail NFST 802 (Terror Trail), bisects the CRA.

Activities along the edges of the area are particularly widespread during the hunting season, limiting opportunities for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Electric Mountain, Condemit Park, Hubbard Park, and West Muddy sheep allotments are in this CRA. Western Area Power Association electrical transmission line runs along the western boundary. Approximately 3,600 acres are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The CRA has a high potential for oil and gas. There is a small portion of the CRA with oil and gas leases.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Electric Mt. = 8,200	9,800	Boundary adjustments.

Failes Creek/Soldier Creek, (8,900 acres)

1. Description

The Failes Creek/Soldier Creek CRA is approximately 20 miles northeast of the town of Ouray, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Ouray Ranger District. It is bordered to the north by the BLM and the south by the Uncompahgre Wilderness Area. The CRA is split by the Big Blue Creek into the western portion, the Failes Creek area and the Soldier Creek portion to the east. NFSR 864 (Little Cimarron Road) is the western boundary and NFSR 868 (Alpine Road) is the east boundary. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,800' to 11,900'. Existing vegetation varies with elevation, slope and aspect throughout this CRA. The area is predominately a spruce-fir forest that has not been altered. The Big Park area is dominated with spruce/fir forests intermixed with wet meadows. Slopes east of Failes Creek are spruce/fir. The Big Blue Creek drainage is dominated by willow riparian habitats. The area south of Soldier Creek is also dominated by spruce/fir, transitioning into aspen and Douglas-fir in the eastern end.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Big Blue Campground Potential Conservation Area has been identified in this area because of the subalpine riparian willow carr with aspen extending up the side slopes. This diversity in elevations and habitats provides for many different species. Summer range for black bear, mountain lion, mule deer and elk exist in this unit. Elk summer concentration and calving areas can be found in the Big Park area. Moose use this area with a moose concentration area occurring along Big Blue Creek in the willow habitat. Lynx habitat has been mapped throughout this CRA. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River drainage. Bighorn sheep habitat extends into this area in the Big Park area. Sensitive species dependent on spruce/fir and riparian habitats occur within this area (American marten, American three-toed woodpecker, and boreal owl).

The Motorized NFST 225 (Alpine Trail) runs through the northern portion of this unit and is linked to a larger trail system. NFSR 868 (Alpine Road), which borders the Soldier Creek

segment, provides access to the Big Blue Creek (Uncompahgre Wilderness) trail head. Two non-motorized trails are within the unit, NFST 230 (Failes Creek Trail) and NFST 234 (Big Park Trail). Parks and meadows within this unit are popular winter snowmobiling areas. The unit is surrounded by roads and one motorized trail. The segment of the Little Cimarron Road that borders the unit is closed to public access; therefore, disturbances from the road are minimal. The Alpine Trail receives generally low levels of use with the exception of annual motorcycle events where the volume of users is significant during event days. The Alpine road along the Soldier Creek segment receives steady use during the summer and fall. Generally, the eastern Failes Creek segment offers opportunity for solitude and sense of remoteness similar to the adjacent Uncompahgre Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Park and Alpine Plateau cattle allotments are within this unit. There are approximately 1,300 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. This area has no known potential for oil and gas development. Portions of four ditches occur in the southeastern corner of this CRA (Thomas Roach No. 2, Thompson Irrigating, Thompson 2, Whinnery Elk Creek- Narrow Gauge).

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Elk Creek = 2,700 Uncompahgre = 26,100 Total = 28,800	Failes Ck/Soldier Ck = 8,900 Little Cimarron = 4,200 Turret Ridge = 5,500 Total: 18,600	Timber harvest, road construction, boundary alignment.

Flatirons, (11,500 acres)

1. Description

This area is located approximately nine miles east of Paonia, and north of, although not contiguous to, the West Elk Wilderness. It is within Gunnison County in the Paonia ranger District. The National Forest boundary is to the north with checker-boarded ownership pattern of BLM and private lands. NFSR 711 (Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek) borders the southern boundary and creates a cherry stem in the eastern portion of this CRA. The Pines road 711.3C and East Flatiron 711.3B also extend into this CRA. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,300’ – 12,000’. Lower elevations are dominated by Gambel oak and mixed mountain shrub. Aspen mixed with spruce/fir and Douglas-fir in some locations occurs at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is a fall concentration area for black bear due to the abundant oak mast. This area provides calving areas, summer range, and winter range for elk. Mule deer also summer in this area. The forested areas have been mapped as lynx habitat. This CRA provides habitat for sensitive species that key into oak, like Lewis’ woodpecker. This CRA is north of the West Elk

Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act.

This area is bounded by roads. The western portion of the area shows evidence of multiple temporary roads previously used for mineral (coal) exploration and development. The eastern portion retains its naturalness once away from NFSR 711, 711.3B and 711.3C. Opportunities for remoteness and solitude are limited due to the motorized access into the area. The influence of State Highway 133 can be seen and heard from within portions of the area. The area is heavily used during the hunting season. Although the CRA has areas with steep and natural terrain, the sights and sounds of roads and development detract from a sense of remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Dry Fork cattle allotment is within this unit and is currently vacant. There are no acres suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,200 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (Crystal Meadows Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has recoverable coal reserves and currently contains approximately 2,068 acres of authorized Federal Coal Leases. Most of the CRA are within the North Fork Coal mining area. The Deer Creek Shaft and E Seam Methane Drainage Wells Project EIS decision authorized construction of methane drainage wells and access roads in this CRA. These coal leases have a variety of no surface occupancy for areas with wetlands, steep slope, or high geologic hazards and controlled surface use stipulations for areas with big game winter range, or moderate slopes. There are no existing authorized gas leases in the Flatirons CRA; however, there are expressions of interest for oil/gas leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mt. Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Flatop Mountain (5,400 acres)

1. Description

The Flatop Mountain CRA is approximately 9 miles north of Gunnison. This CRA is in Gunnison County and is managed by the Gunnison District. Flatop Mountain is bounded on the north by Alkali Road (NFSR 603) and private land; on the west by Flat Top Bench Road (NFSR 955) and Flat Top Bench Spur G Road (NFSR 955.1G); on the south by Flat Top road (NFSR 863) and Flat Top Cutoff (NFSR 862.3A); and private land on the east. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,900' to

10,600'. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen at higher elevations, with some spruce-fir, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Lower elevations are dominated by grass/forb and sagebrush.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Flattop Mountain CRA is the remaining unroaded portion of that RARE II Flattop Mountain inventoried roadless area. Descriptively named, this flat topped mountain is surrounded by roads and development on all sides. Bald eagle winter range overlaps the area. Elk and mule deer use the area year round. Lynx habitat is mapped in the area. Important Gunnison sage-grouse habitat occurs in this area. Additional sensitive species dependent on high elevation conifer and aspen occur in this area (Northern goshawk, boreal owl, flammulated owl, American martin, purple martin, American three-toed woodpecker).

Roads surround Flattop Mountain, with multiple spurs ranging from one-quarter mile to just over one mile long occurring along the lower elevations. Only the top of Flattop Mountain retains unroaded character. The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (West Elk Wilderness). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Fisher Basin, Little Alkali, Red Mountain and Slate River allotments overlap this CRA. There are no areas tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 80 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for three at-risk communities (Almont Subdivision, Gordon Tracts Subdivision, Mountain View Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. Prescribed burning activities to treat fuels and wildlife habitat are planned for this area. This area has no known potential for oil or gas resources. Prescribed burning activities have occurred in the lower elevations to improve big game winter range forage.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Flattop Mountain = 20,400	5,400	Boundary adjusted to avoid existing roads.

Flattops/Elk Park, (75,700 acres)

1. Description

The area is located approximately 10 miles north of Paonia. The watershed divide (Buzzard Divide) which separates Mesa and Delta Counties also separates this CRA into two distinct segments. The Flattops located within Mesa County and managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District, is between the Divide and NFSR 262 (Park Creek Road). The second, Elk Park, is located within Delta County, between the Divide and the Overland Ditch. This segment is located within both the Grand Valley Ranger District (western most portions) and the Paonia Ranger District (eastern portion). The area is bounded to the west by NFSR 262 and NFSR 265 (Buzzard Divide Road) and the Overland Ditch to the south and east. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,500' to 11,300'. The Flattops CRA can be characterized by its large open meadows and

numerous spruce-fir pockets. It also has large expanses of aspen, wet meadows, and mountain shrub. Riparian areas are common surrounding the many streams, natural ponds and reservoirs. A very large portion of this CRA is dotted with wet seeps, springs, creeks, and wetlands that would be both problematic and sensitive to further road development.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The general elevation is very high for the Grand Mesa, so wildlife predominantly use the area in the summer and fall. Elk, moose, mule deer, and many other species are found throughout this CRA. The area has many production areas for deer and elk where they also tend to raise their young until they migrate in the late fall. Black bear are common but tend to prefer elevations below 9,000'. Moose will spend the majority of the year in the CRA concentrating on the lower elevations of the east end during the heavier snow months. Lynx habitat has been mapped throughout this CRA. Suitable boreal toad habitat is abundant throughout the area and should be preserved whenever possible. Colorado River cutthroat trout populations occur in Park Creek, Willow Creek, Dyke Creek, Hubbard Creek, Middle Hubbard Creek and West Hubbard Creek. Greenback cutthroat trout (threatened species) populations have been confirmed in, Buzzard Creek, Hunter Reservoir, Dyke Creek, Hubbard Creek, Middle Hubbard Creek, West Fork Terror Creek and East Fork Terror Creek. Sensitive species dependent on high elevation conifer, aspen and riparian habitats occur in this area (Northern goshawk, boreal owl, flammulated owl, American martin, purple martin, American three-toed woodpecker).

The southwest portion of the Flattop segment is heavily influenced by water developments. Away from these developments and boundary roads, the area retains a high level of naturalness. There are several popular motorized ATV trails within this unit. Trails within the Flattops segment are: NFST 515 (High Trail), 518 (Monument Trail), 519 (Buzzard Park Trail), and 730 (East Leon Trail). Trails within the Elk Park segment are NFST 800 (Elk Park Trail) and 730 (East Leon Trail). The dense vegetation and limited trails within the Elk Park segment allow for a sense of remoteness. A greater portion of the trail systems occur in the Flattops segment. The relatively open vegetation and flat terrain cannot screen the motorized activities within the Flattops, which influence the sense of solitude and remoteness in this area. Many water developments occur within this CRA including multiple reservoirs. Hunter, Miller, Fairmont Park, Monument #1 and #2 located in the center of the Flattop segment, ditches: LCWA-Holy Terror, Old Erie Canal, Harman Reservoir Feeder; and associated access routes and diversion points. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Leon, Buzzard, and Dyke cattle allotments are located within this area. The Elk Park segment area is within the West Muddy and West Terror cattle allotments. There are approximately 18,000 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. Most of the Flattops portion is not available for leasing or covered by a no surface occupancy stipulation. Parts of the Elk Park area are currently available for oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. A small portion of the area is encumbered with existing oil and gas leases and there are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing within the Flattops/Elk Park CRA.. Plans to enlarge Hunter reservoir are currently being evaluated in an EIS. The reservoir access road will be relocated and the new route has been

removed from the CRA. Prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat on the north flank of the Grand Mesa are proposed over the next 10 years.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Priest Mountain = 95,000	Currant Creek = 10,800 Flattops/Elk Park = 75,700 Total = 86,500	Constructed roads, water developments and transmission lines, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Gothic, (5,800 acres)

1. Description

The area is located four miles north of the town of Crested Butte and west of the Gothic Town site in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA lies between NFSR 317 (Schofield Pass Road) to the east and NFSR 811 (Washington Gulch) to the west. The lands north of the CRA are within the White River National Forest and managed for dispersed recreation allowing motorized uses. Private lands are adjacent to the unit in the south and within the unit, a result of patented mining claims. The CRA abuts the ski area permit boundary for Mount Crested Butte on Snodgrass Mountain. The area includes Gothic Mountain (12,625'). The CRA is separated from the Schofield Pass CRA by Schofield Pass Road (NFSR 317). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 6,300' to 12,625'. The Gothic Mountain and the northern end are primarily alpine habitat. Spruce forests dominate in the land between Gothic Mountain and the alpine habitat. Riparian habitats occur in the East River drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The 1,080 acre Gothic Research Natural Area (RNA) is located in the northern portion of this CRA. This RNA was established as a representative Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir community. The entire area is within The Nature Conservancy's Crested Butte conservation site. Two Potential Conservation Areas (PCA's) extend into this CRA; the East River PCA at Rustler's Gulch, identified for the presence of boreal toad and pygmy shrew; and the Mount Bellview PCA, identified for rare alpine plants. This area provides summer range for big game species. Lynx habitat is present within this CRA. Boreal toad and pygmy shrew are both known to inhabit the East River drainage. White-tailed ptarmigan use the alpine habitats along the northern edge of this unit.

The area along the East River is a popular and heavily used recreation corridor. Winter snowmobiling occurs on the west (Washington Gulch) side of the unit. Presently, the Gothic corridor is closed to public winter motorized use. The CRA has one mountain bike trail; NFST 403 (Washington Gulch). NFST 403, an advanced mountain bike route, runs through the area and connects to a larger system.

Although the area offers steep terrain and pockets of dense vegetation, the sense of remoteness is diminished by the following factors: the Schofield Pass road corridor and the corresponding high volume of recreation traffic. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness and West Elk Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Gothic and Slate River Cattle allotments are located within this area. There are approximately 250 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,900 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Gothic, Gothic Mountain Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The CRA is adjacent to Snodgrass Mountain currently identified within the permitted lands for the Mt Crested Butte Ski Area. With the exception of an administrative access road, these lands are currently undeveloped. There are several active unpatented mining claims in the southwestern edge of this CRA. Past mining activity occurred in the northwestern portion and near Schofield Pass. Future reclamation work may occur at some of these areas. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Gothic Mountain = 6,200 Part of Elk-Mountains Collegiate = 65,100	Deer Creek = 9,500 Double Top = 23,800 Italian Mountain = 9,000 Texas Creek = 2,600 Schofield Pass = 900 Gothic = 5,800 Total = 5,800 and part of 45,800	Adjustments of boundaries to natural features, eliminate private land, and 943 acres removed as part of the Crested Butte Ski Area permit.

Granite Basin, (25,500 acres)

1. Description

This area is approximately eight miles north of the town of Almont in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The unit lies between NFSR 744 (Spring Creek) to the east and north, NFSR 640 (Cement Creek) to the west, and private lands to the south. Boundaries follow roads and topography, and, in some places, private land boundaries. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,500’ to 12,200’. Existing vegetation is dominated by forested cover types. South and east facing slopes have lodgepole pine mixed with Douglas-fir. North and west facing slopes have lodgepole pine mixed with aspen and spruce. Alpine habitats occur at the highest elevations. Riparian willow habitat is concentrated along Rosebud Gulch, Deadman Gulch, and Bear Creek

2. Roadless Characteristics

Two Potential Conservation Areas, Cement Creek and Spring Creek, have been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for riparian habitat types. The area provides black

bear summer range, with fall concentration areas occurring along the major drainages (Cement Creek, Spring Creek, Rosebud Gulch, Deadman Gulch, and Bear Creek). This area provides important summer range for mule deer, with several migration routes passing through it. It also provides summer range, summer concentration and calving areas for elk in the higher elevations and migration paths to winter range at lower elevations. Lynx habitat occurs within this CRA. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Slate River drainage. Gunnison sage grouse habitats extend into the southwestern edge of this area. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine areas on Cement and East Cement mountains.

Winter snowmobile recreation occurs along the Spring Creek road. Five single-track motorized trails exist within the area. NFST 415.0 (Bear Creek) and NFST 420 (Deadman Gulch) are considered premier single track mountain bike routes. These single tracks are also used by motorcycles. These routes connect to a larger motorized trail system within the Crested Butte area. The deep canyon and rugged terrain, along with the heavy conifer vegetation, provide a sense of remoteness. However, the heavily used trail system adversely influences the opportunity for solitude. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness). The CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Creek and Cement Creek Cattle allotments are within this unit. There are approximately 1,900 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 5,800 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for 16 at-risk communities (Allen Homesites Subdivision, Cement Creek SHG, Cement Creek Subdivision, Creekwood Subdivision, Danni Ranch Subdivision, Eubank’s Acres Subdivision, Eubank’s Spring Creek Tracts Subdivision, River Rim Subdivision, Roaring Judy at Round Top Subdivision, Roaring Judy Subdivision, Spring Creek Estates Subdivision, Spring Creek Resort Subdivision, Staples East River Est. Subdivision, Taylor River Acres Subdivision, Taylor River Tracts Subdivision, Thornworth Estates Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. There are approximately 20 acres of the Spring Creek Development CWPP that overlays this CRA. The southern half of this CRA is proposed for future prescribed burning to treat fuels and improve wildlife habitat. This area has no known potential for oil and gas development. The Bear Gulch ditch occurs in the southwestern portion of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Boston Peak = 46,700	American Flag Mountain = 11,900 Granite Basin = 25,500 Total = 37,500	33 miles of road construction, 1800 acres of timber harvest and non National Forest System lands were removed from the Inventory. After removing the above lands, logical manageable boundaries were described.

Hightower, (3,600 acres)

1. Description

The Hightower CRA is located approximately 17 miles east of Collbran, in Mesa County. It is located on the Grand Mesa and managed by the Grand Valley District. The Hightower CRA is contiguous with the Reno Mountain CRA on the White River National Forest. The western boundary of the Hightower CRA is bounded by a Colorado Ute Power line; the southern boundary is the Owen's Creek Road (NFSR 268). The northern boundary is the watershed break between the Grand Mesa and White River National Forests. The two sections of the CRA are separated by private land. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 8,000' to 9,700'. Aspen forests dominate most of the northwestern and eastern portions of the CRA, with snowberry dominated areas in the middle section.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides overall range for turkey, summer range for mule deer and elk, including an elk calving area. Moose and lynx habitat also occurs in this area. The majority of the area is natural in character once you are out of sight of the power line corridor.

Two ATV trails (Owen's Loop NFST 539, Boundary NFST 525) pass through this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Buzzard allotment overlaps this CRA. Approximately 1,300 acres of aspen have been identified as tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has high potential for oil and gas resources and there are existing oil and gas leases in this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Hightower = 4,600	3,600	Boundary adjusted to avoid private land, past harvest activities.

Hope Lake, (8,200 acres)

1. Description

This unit is located approximately 6 miles south of the Town of Telluride, in San Miguel County. It is managed by the Norwood Ranger District. The CRA lies east of Highway 145 in the vicinity of Lizard Head Pass and is bordered to the south by the San Juan National Forest. Private lands exist along the north boundary. The San Juan NF, including the San Miguel CRA, is adjacent to this CRA. The CRA is within the South – Central Highlands. Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations that range from 9,900' to 13,900'. Part of this CRA is dominated by alpine habitat with little to no vegetation. The western portion has spruce/fir south of Trout Lake, and willow carr occurs along Lake Fork and its tributaries. In the eastern portion spruce/fir, willow, and grass/forb vegetation occur at the lower elevations of Waterfall and Swamp canyons.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides summer range for mule deer, elk, black bear, and mountain lion. Lynx habitat is mapped within the spruce/fir and willow riparian habitats. The eastern segment also extends into the Lizard Head Pass lynx linkage area. This linkage area would also provide passage for species like wolverine, mountain lion and black bear. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine habitats in this CRA. The majority of the area is natural in character except for evidence of historic mining activities. The presence of the Hope Lake dam (part of the Ames Hydro-Electric Development Project) is a detraction from the roadless character. The water draw of the lake each fall causes “unnatural” lake levels that likely impact native flora and fauna associated with the lake. The Hidden Lakes subdivision lies along the northwestern edge.

One mechanized trail, NFST 634 (Swamp Canyon), bisects the east portion of this area. The steep, rugged terrain in this area limits the sights and sounds of traffic on Highway 145 and associated with the scattered home sites on adjacent private lands. There are many opportunities for various types of recreation including rock climbing, peak climbing, and back country skiing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply) and within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Weminuche Wilderness).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Xcel Energy operates the Ames Hydro-Electric Project which includes the Hope Lake dam and water storage in the lake. There are no acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. A commercial heli-ski operation is authorized to conduct tours in this area and other non-roadless areas within the Ouray-Telluride vicinity. Approximately 400 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone of Ophir, an at-risk community under the National Fire Plan. A very small portion of the Trout Lake WUI area identified in the San Miguel County CWPP overlays this CRA but no related projects are currently planned in this area. There is an active unpatented mining claim southeast of the end of the Hidden Lake Road (NFSR 627.0) within this CRA. Past mining activity occurred in the northern portions. Future reclamation work may occur at some of these areas. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
San Miguel = 9,100	8,200	Boundaries were adjusted to avoid private land in the northern part of the CRA.

Horse Ranch Park, (3,900 acres)

1. Description

This area is located approximately 10 miles west of Crested Butte in Gunnison County. It is within the Paonia Ranger District. The area adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness along Dyke Creek and is bounded by County Road 12 – Kebler Pass Road to the south. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section. (M33IH). Elevations range from

6,800’ to 13,000’. Existing vegetation in the CRA is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with spruce/fir. Riparian habitats exist along streams and small wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program has proposed the Horse Ranch Park potential conservation area for its montane riparian shrubland type (*Alnus incana* and *Salix drummondiana*). This area has been mapped as lynx habitat. It also provides summer range for elk and mule deer. There are important trout waters in the Ruby Anthracite Creek with adjoining Colorado River native trout waters in some tributaries to the north.

This area has retained a high degree of naturalness. NFST 837 (Dyke Trail), for mountain bikes, is partially located in the unit. The private and public developments at Lake Irwin and County Road 12 provide sights and sounds of development. Vehicle travel along the Kebler Pass road can be heard. The subdivision on the private land near Floresta is visible from vantage points along Dyke Creek. Opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude are diminished in this area. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness). The CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Ruby sheep allotment is located within this unit. A special use permit for entomological research is located near the roadless area. The 22 acre special use permit, issued to Oberlin College has been allowed to operate here since 1979. There are no acres of tentatively suitable timber land within this unit. Approximately 200 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (Irwin) under the National Fire Plan. This area has a low potential for oil and gas development and is not available for leasing under the current leasing decision (1993).

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Raggeds = 27,000	Tomahawk = 12,900 Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 Horse Ranch Park = 3,900 Poverty Gulch = 5,500 McClure Pass = 300 Total = 26,100	Timber harvest, constructed roads, and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features where possible.

Horsefly Canyon, (6,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately six miles northeast of Norwood in Montrose County. It is managed by the Norwood Ranger District. The canyon sits south of the NFSR 512 (Hanks Valley Road) and north of the Sanborn Park private land settlement. The CRA is within Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,200’ to 8,000’. Existing vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper mixed with mountain shrubs on the west end and

along south facing slopes in the canyon. Douglas-fir mixed with spruce/ fir and aspen occur along the canyon bottoms. Douglas-fir mixed with oak extends up the north facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The San Miguel River potential conservation area identified by Colorado Natural Heritage Program and San Miguel River conservation site (identified by The Nature Conservancy) both extend into this CRA due to the forested riparian habitats. This CRA includes overall ranges for black bear, mountain lion, turkey, mule deer and elk. The area contains habitat for Mexican spotted owl; however, no owls have been detected. Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in Red Canyon and in Clear Creek upstream of this CRA. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area. The area is adjacent to the San Miguel BLM Area of Critical Concern.

NFST 121 (Horsefly Trail) is a non-motorized trail within the unit. The nature of the canyon isolates it from sights and sounds outside the canyon which provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. Fishing and hunting activities occur within the canyon. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Ponderosa, Horsefly Point, Sanborn Park, and Sheep Creek cattle allotments are within this area. An electrical power line crosses above the canyon. There are less than 50 acres of suitable timber lands within this unit. Approximately 300 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Ute, Sanborn) under the National Fire Plan. The area has potential for oil and gas resources and the current leasing decision would apply timing limitation and controlled surface use stipulations. Several dry wells have been drilled in the canyon bottom in the past. There is an existing oil and gas lease in this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Not within IRAs	6,200	This unit was an addition to the 2001 inventory.

Huntsman Ridge, (10,600 acres)

1. Description

This area is approximately six miles northwest of Marble, just north of Highway 133, in the vicinity of McClure Pass, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The hydrologic divide between Muddy Creek and the Crystal River marks the boundary with the White River and Gunnison National Forests, forming the northern and eastern boundary of the area. Access into the area remains difficult. Raggeds Wilderness is within one mile. Dispersed recreation and scenic corridors are the management emphasis for the lands on the adjacent White River National Forest lands. The western boundary consists of the GMUG Forest boundary, which is adjacent to private land. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,600' to 11,300'. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with Engelmann spruce forests. Gambel oak occurs at lower elevations and as understory under aspen as elevation increases. Riparian habitat occurs along Roberts Creek and around scattered ponds.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is within The Nature Conservancy’s McClure Pass conservation site. This area provides calving areas, summer range, and winter range for elk. Summer range for black bear, mountain lion, mule deer, turkey, and over all range for moose also exists here.

Lynx habitat is mapped in this CRA, and the McClure Pass lynx linkage area includes part of this area. Colorado River cutthroat trout can be found in Roberts Creek. Sensitive species dependent on aspen habitats such as the Northern goshawk, flammulated owl, purple martin, and American marten have potential habitat in this area.

The terrain and vegetation retains a high level of naturalness. The area nearest to the McClure Pass Highway is affected by the sights and sounds of traffic, diminishing the feeling of solitude. Access into the area remains difficult. One non-motorized trail is within the unit. The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Three ditches (Beuten, Black Sage, Lost Cabin) and associated access routes occur in the southern portion of this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Huntsman sheep allotment is located within this unit. There are approximately 1,400 acres of land tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. Some prescribed burning is planned near the McClure Pass (Hwy 133) corridor over the next five years. The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. There are existing oil and gas leases in this CRA as well as expressions of interest for leasing. Coal exploration occurred north of the unit during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1980s. Most surface mine facilities are located on private land within the White River National Forest.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Drift Creek = 9,400	10,600	Boundaries were adjusted to include areas where roads have been decommissioned.

Italian Mountain, (9,000 acres)

1. Description

The area is located approximately seven miles northeast of Crested Butte in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The unit lies between NFSR 740 (Cement Creek Road) and NFSR 759 (Italian Creek Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,000’–13,200’. Much of the existing habitat is alpine. Within the lower elevations of the Taylor River drainage in the northeast portion of this CRA, lodgepole pine and spruce/fir forests exist. Spruce forests dominate the northern slopes of Lambertson Peak and in the southwest corner.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The entire CRA lies within the Nature Conservancy’s large Cottonwood Pass conservation site. Two potential conservation areas (Mt. Tilton and Italian Mountain) have been identified in this area for alpine plant species. Black bear summer range covers this area, in addition to a human conflict area and a fall-concentration area identified in Cement Creek. The CRA is within elk summer range, including important elk summer concentration habitat. Migration paths for both elk and mule deer pass through this area. Lynx habitat occurs within this area and several lynx locations have been recorded. The alpine areas provide white-tailed ptarmigan habitat. A Colorado River cutthroat trout population exists in an unnamed tributary to Italian Creek within this CRA. There is evidence of historic mining, generally along the periphery of the unit. This CRA provides a high dominant ridge vista as viewed from the Cottonwood Pass road, containing the prominent peaks of Lambertson, Italian, and Tilton Peaks.

Winter motorized over-snow activities are prevalent in the Cement Creek and Italian Creek Roads. Although the terrain is steep, the unit is surrounded by roads; sounds generated from Taylor Park Road, Cement Creek Road, and Italian Creek jeep road limit the opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park and Cement Creek cattle allotments are within this area. There are approximately 400 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. There are several active unpatented mining claims in this CRA. Past mining activity occurred along both the northwestern and eastern perimeter of this CRA, particularly in the Lambertson Peak area. The area has no potential for oil and gas resources.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100	Deer Creek = 9,500 Double Top = 23,800 Italian Mountain = 9,000 Texas Creek = 2,600 Schofield Pass = 900 Part of Gothic = 5,800 total acres Total = 45,800 and part of 5,800	72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Johnson Basin, (11,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 10 miles north of Nucla in Montrose and Mesa counties. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. Johnson Basin CRA is located just south of the Long Canyon CRA. The two CRA’s are separated by NFSR 411.2A (Willow Creek Road) and NFSR 411 (Campbell Lake Road). The

eastern boundary of the CRA is NFSR 402 (Divide Road) and the western boundary is consistent with the National Forest boundary. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 7,000' to 9,200'. Existing vegetation includes pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations transitioning to Gambel oak and other mountain shrubs with elevation gain. At the highest elevations, ponderosa pine and aspen habitats occur, with limited Douglas-fir and spruce/fir growth occurring in the South Fork Mesa Creek drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Big Atkinson Breaks proposed (in the ongoing forest plan revision process) research natural area has been identified in this CRA as an example of pinyon woodlands. This habitat diversity is used by black bears, mule deer, elk, and Merriam's turkey throughout the summer, fall, and winter. It is particularly important for elk winter and summer concentration areas, as well as calving areas. Bald eagle winter range extends into this CRA from the Dolores River canyon. Sensitive species that rely on pinyon-juniper, Gambel oak mixed with mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and aspen have potential habitat in this area including the spotted bat, fringed myotis, Lewis' woodpecker, and flammulated owl.

There is evidence of old road prisms in the area. Some indication of prescribed burning is evident. Overall, however, the area has a high degree of naturalness. The area is hot and dry in the summer resulting in light summer use and more frequent activity in early spring and late fall. Several recreation trails (mechanized, motorized, non-motorized) are within the unit. Motorized NFST 617 bisects the area; however, it receives relatively low use. The area is sufficiently far from the sights and sounds of the Divide Road; and in general retains a sense of remoteness.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Club/Campbell Point cattle allotment is located within this area. Existing livestock fences, stock ponds, and stock drive paths are maintained using motorized equipment. Management activities have been implemented in the area, for wildlife habitat and vegetative improvement. There are approximately 300 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Portions of the area are available for oil and gas leasing. There are expressions of interest for oil and gas leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Johnson Creek = 10,800	Johnson Basin = 11,900 Windy Point = 12,800 Total = 24,700	Constructed roads were removed from the inventory and boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features, resulting in an increased acreage.

Kannah Creek, (34,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the west end of the Grand Mesa approximately 17 miles southeast of Grand Junction and 10 miles northwest of Delta, in both Mesa and Delta Counties. The area is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The National Forest boundary lies to the west and south. The east boundary roughly parallels the rim of Grand Mesa. The CRA contains the headwaters of Kannah Creek. A small portion, less than 40 acres, of the south boundary is adjacent to the BLM Adobe Badlands Wilderness Study Area. The CRA is within the Northern – Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) and has elevations ranging from 6,000' to 10,300'. The Kannah Creek CRA has a wide variety of plant systems that vary with elevation. At the higher elevations the vegetation consists of Douglas fir, spruce-fir, spruce-fir-aspen, and aspen which transition into oak-serviceberry, with pinyon-juniper at the lowest elevations. Shrubby cinquefoil and snowberry dominate the Indian Point area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Kannah Creek CRA is home to a wide variety of wildlife species including black bear, bobcat, elk, mountain lion, mule deer, and wild turkey. Elk use the Kannah Creek CRA year round. Lower elevations in this CRA provide winter range and severe winter range for elk. It also provides a large elk calving area. In general elk will return to this calving area unless disturbances pressure them to move into less desirable habitats. The area is also winter and summer range for mule deer, and provides for winter deer concentrations. The Colorado Division of Wildlife recognizes the Kannah Creek CRA as overall range for mountain lions and black bear, as well as a fall concentration area for black bears. It also contains overall range, winter concentrations, and production areas for wild turkey. The area is potential habitat for Canada lynx and boreal toad. A small portion of a population of a threatened plant species federally listed under the ESA (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), extends onto the CRA in the southwest corner. Potential nesting habitat for peregrine falcon occurs along the Lands End road. Kit fox range extends into the lowest elevations of the area.

The Flowing Park/Chambers Reservoir area shows signs of resource activity. This CRA contains approximately 5 miles of tributaries to the Gunnison River. Tributaries below the forest boundary are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality due to selenium. The area is marketed as the Grand Mesa Back Country Non-Motorized Recreation Area. Eight non-motorized recreation trails are located in the CRA. Many of the non-motorized trails are popular with mountain bike users. The trail system receives heavy spring and fall use and moderate summer use. The terrain of the Kannah Creek Basin provides for a sense of remoteness, in contrast to the open and flat terrain of the Flowing Park/Chambers Reservoir area. Winter over-snow motorized activities are popular in the Flowing Park area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area and provides a source of municipal water supply for the City of Grand Junction. A long standing relationship between the City of Grand Junction and the Forest Service has ensured that the area be managed to provide high water quality. Because this area has the highest occurrence of lightning strikes on the Grand Mesa, vegetation treatments have occurred and are planned to reduce the potential effects of fire on water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Kannah Creek and Point cattle allotments are located within this area. The Mesa Point Electronic Site is buffered out of the southwest corner of the area. There are also irrigation ditches in this area. There are 200 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production within this CRA. Approximately 7,000 acres of prescribed burning are proposed to treat or retreat areas within this CRA in the next five years. Up to 1000 acres are planned for mechanical treatments (hydroax or rollerchopper) in the next 5 years. The area has a high potential for oil and gas resources. However, the majority of the area has been made unavailable for leasing in the 1993 leasing decision. There are existing oil and gas leases in this CRA as well as expressions of interest in leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Kannah Creek = 34,200	34,500	Lands that were altered by road construction and timber harvest were removed.

Kelso Mesa, (35,500 acres)

1. Description

Kelso Mesa CRA is located on the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 24 miles southwest of Delta, in Mesa County. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The unit is bordered by BLM and private lands to the east. Interior areas of the CRA were previously roaded; however, recent decisions in the 2000 Uncompahgre Travel Plan closed these interior roads to motor vehicle access. These routes are now managed as non-motorized trails. Most of the area’s access is blocked by private lands. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,600’ to 9,200’. Existing vegetation consists of aspen/spruce/fir and aspen stands at the highest elevations in the southwest, transitioning to ponderosa pine and aspen, then to Gambel oak with mixed shrubs, to pinyon-juniper mixed with shrubs at the lower elevations. Riparian habitats occur along the major drainages of North Fork Escalante Creek, Kelso Creek, and Middle Fork Escalante Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is included in The Nature Conservancy’s Escalante River conservation site and the Escalante Creek potential conservation area in recognition of riparian forest and shrubland types. This diversity provides important habitats for black bear (fall concentration area), turkey (summer range and production areas), mule deer (summer, winter and fawning areas), and elk (winter range, summer range and calving areas). Bald eagle winter range extends into the area along the lower reaches of the major drainage. Sensitive species that rely on pinyon-juniper, Gambel oak mixed with mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and aspen have potential habitat in this area including. These species include the spotted bat, fringed myotis, Lewis’ woodpecker, flammulated owl, and the Northern goshawk.

Much of the area appears natural; however, old road prisms remain and are visible. No other area of this size, remoteness and difficulty to access is found on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Four non-motorized trails within this area are utilized by horse drawn wagons during the fall big game hunting season. This area received the heaviest use during the fall big game seasons. Recreational use is limited in the summer primarily due to the difficulty of access. Outside the canyon areas, the terrain is gentle with open vegetation and within close proximity to private land developments, which adversely affects any sense of solitude and remoteness. However, within the canyon, the terrain is steep, rugged, and is popular for hunting and wildlife viewing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The State of Colorado has applied for water rights in the North Fork of Escalante Creek.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private lands border this area. Development of the lands along the western perimeter is beginning and expected to continue. The Musser and Kelso cattle allotments are located within this area. Existing livestock fences and stock ponds are maintained with motorized equipment. There is an existing commercial fall big game hunting operation that is permitted to transport equipment and clients into the area using horse drawn wagons. There are approximately 1,100 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. Prescribed burning along Brushy Ridge in the northern portion of this area are planned to retreat areas previously burned. A very small portion of this area is available for oil and gas leasing. Currently there are no existing leases or expressions of interest in leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Kelso Point = 34,400	35,500	Constructed roads, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. Lands were added that were not within the 2001 inventory.

Last Dollar/Sheep Creek, (6,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately two miles northwest of the town of Telluride in San Miguel County. It is managed by the Norwood Ranger District. This CRA is bordered to the north by the Mount Sneffels Wilderness. The area is surrounded by private lands on three sides. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,900’ to 13,700’. Existing vegetation varies between the two separate segments of this CRA. The Last Dollar area is dominated by forests of mixed Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and aspen, with alpine habitat occurring on Whipple Mountain. The Sheep Creek segment is also mostly forested; however, aspen is more dominant in the mixture, with some Douglas-fir occurring in

the upper Deep Creek drainage. The eastern end of the Sheep Creek segment extends up into alpine habitats.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA extends into The Nature Conservancy’s San Miguel conservation site. This area is mapped as an elk migration corridor and winter range, as well as summer range for both elk and mule deer. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested habitats of this CRA. This area is mapped as bighorn sheep winter, summer, and overall range. Deep Creek and East Fork of Deep Creek is designated as native cutthroat water and contains a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists in the alpine habitats of the area.

One NFSR 638 (Last Dollar Road) is along the western boundary of this area. A cross-country ski hut is located within the unit. NFST 418, the Deep Creek mountain bike trail, forms the southern boundary. Several non-motorized trails are within the unit, each of which connects to trails within the Mt Sneffels Wilderness. The area is within range of the sights and sounds of the Town of Telluride. The proximity to Telluride facilitates the high recreation use along the trail systems, diminishing the sense of solitude and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is adjacent to several private land parcels, many of which were associated with historic mining. Today those lands are being developed as home sites. The Aldasoro, Greyhead, and Sunnyside subdivisions are large developments adjacent to the area. There is potential reclamation work needed in historic mining areas that occur on NFS Lands. The Ruffner sheep allotment is located within this unit. An irrigation ditch network that is maintained with motorized equipment follows a portion of the Deep Creek Trail near Sheep Creek. A cross-country ski/summer bike hut, under special use permit, is located within the unit. Private lands are located along three quarters of the unit. There are no acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 700 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Telluride, Aldosoro/Airport) under the National Fire Plan. The area has no potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Iron Mountain = 7,600	6,400	Roaded lands and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain or natural features.

Little Cimarron, (4,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 16 miles northeast of the town of Ouray in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Ouray Ranger District. This area is bordered on the south by the Uncompahgre Wilderness. This CRA is within the South – Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,200’ to 12,400’. Existing vegetation in this CRA is dominated by spruce/fir forests. Aspen stand growth occurs within the East Fork of the Cimarron drainage. Areas of exposed cliff bands and alpine habitats also occur along ridgelines above both the East Fork and Little Cimarron drainages.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Little Cimarron Potential Conservation Area extends into the northern edge of this CRA, identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for montane riparian habitats types. The area provides summer habitat for black bear, turkey, mule deer, and elk. Moose are also likely to inhabit this area. This area has been identified as potential lynx habitat. It includes the watershed around the East Fork of the Cimarron River which contains Colorado River cutthroat trout. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists within the alpine habitats. This area is mapped as bighorn sheep overall range with some summer and winter range areas. Sensitive species that rely on spruce/fir habitat, such as the American marten, American three-toed woodpecker, wolverine, boreal owl, and the Northern goshawk also have potential habitat within this unit.

The unit sits above the escarpments that parallel the NFSR 858-861 (Owl Creek-Cimarron Road) and NFSR 863 (East Fork Road). NFSR 864 (Little Cimarron Road) borders this area on the east along Fire Box Creek. NFST 225 (Alpine Trail), a single track motorcycle trail, is the northern border of the unit. Snowmobiling is popular in the meadows directly north of this area. The perimeter of the area overlooks both the Big Cimarron and Little Cimarron drainages, both popular recreation destinations. The rugged landscape and dense vegetation within the core of this area offers opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. The area has maintained natural processes. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Blue and Fall Creek cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 400 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Uncompahgre = 26,100	Little Cimarron = 4,200 Turret Ridge = 5,500 Part of Failes/Soldier Creek = 8,900 Total = 9,700 and part of 8,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features.

Long Canyon, (17,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 13 miles northeast of Uravan, in Mesa County. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The unit lies along the western perimeter of the Uncompahgre Plateau, bordered to the west by developed and roaded BLM lands. This unit sits just north of the Johnson Basin CRA and just south of Calamity Basin CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,400' to 9,100'. Existing vegetation includes pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations, mixed with and transitioning to Gambel oak. Aspen and ponderosa pine mixed forests are characteristic of the higher elevations of this unit.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is used by black bear, blue grouse, deer, elk, and Merriam's turkey throughout the summer, fall, and winter. This area includes some winter range for the bald eagle extending from the Dolores River drainage. Within the CRA are remnants of timber harvest from the 1950s and evidence of roads that are currently decommissioned and revegetating. Away from evidence of roads and harvest units, the landscape retains a high degree of naturalness.

The area is bordered by a series of roads. The northern boundary follows the NFSR 404 (Uranium Road). Several recreation trails (mechanized, motorized and non-motorized) are within the unit. The BLM lands below the Forest are heavily roaded due to uranium exploration. The presence of this dense road system lessens the feeling of remoteness within the area. Motorized single-tracks NFST 621 (Long Canyon) approximately 8 miles and NFST 630 (Mailbox) are a significant component of a larger motorized recreation system, providing north-south travel through the area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Club-Campbell Point, Blue Creek, and UC cattle allotments are located within this area. Livestock fences, stock ponds, and stock driveways are maintained with motorized equipment. There are approximately 1,000 acres tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production in this unit. Prescribed burning activities for wildlife habitat improvement occur periodically. This area has low potential for oil and gas resources. There are expressions of interest in the area for oil and gas leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Campbell Point = 11,300	17,200	30 miles of constructed road, non National Forest Lands and lands harvested for timber were removed from the inventory.

Matchless Mountain, (27,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately seven miles northeast of Almont and 15 miles northeast of Gunnison. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The southern and eastern boundary parallels the Taylor River and canyon, into Taylor Park. The southern boundary consists of National Forest and NFSR 744 (Spring Creek Road). The northern boundary is south of Rocky Brook Road (NFSR 748). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,700' to 12,400'. Existing vegetation in this area is dominated by lodgepole pine mixed with aspen, spruce (more mesic sites), and Douglas-fir (more xeric sites). Riparian habitat occurs along drainages and in willow carrs. Alpine habitat exists on Matchless Mountain.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides summer habitat for mule deer. It also provides elk production areas, summer concentration habitat, and winter range. It is a major complex of migration routes for both elk and mule deer. The southern boundary of the CRA is a fall concentration area for black bear. Lynx habitat has been identified within this CRA. The unit is also bald eagle winter range. White-tail ptarmigan habitat occurs in the alpine areas. For bighorn sheep, the CRA offers summer range and two of three production areas for the Taylor Canyon Herd. Lamb recruitment into this population is historically low. The protection of production areas may be critical for herd survival.

The area has a high degree of naturalness. There are three single-track motorized trails within the area. One of these trails being the Gunnison Spur of the Colorado Trail which is considered a premier mountain bike route. Although the unit has rugged terrain and dense vegetation, it is just above developments, roads, and traffic along Taylor Canyon Road. Sights and sounds from Taylor Park are evident from within the area. Motorized trails run throughout the area and motorized recreation occurs on the reservoir. The area provides a low opportunity for remoteness and solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Creek Cattle allotment is located within the unit. There are approximately 3,700 acres of suitable timber lands in this CRA. Approximately 4,800 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for 12 at-risk communities (Creekwood Subdivision, Crystal Creek Subdivision, Eubank's Acres Subdivision, Eubank's Spring Creek Tracts Subdivision, River Road Subdivision, Spring Creek Estates Subdivision, Spring Creek Resort Subdivision, Taylor River Acres Subdivision, Taylor River Estates Subdivision, Taylor River Tracts Subdivision, Thornworth Estates Subdivision, White Water Estates Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. There are approximately 100 acres of the Spring Creek Development CWPP that overlays this CRA. The majority of this CRA is proposed to have prescribed burning treatments for fuels reduction and wildlife habitat improvement. Past mining activity occurred along the north and western perimeter of this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Matchless = 34,100	27,000	Adjusted boundaries to remove timber harvest lands, constructed roads, and follow natural features.

Matterhorn, (3,600 acres)

1. Description

The area lies approximately 10 miles west of Lake City and approximately eight miles east of Ouray in Hinsdale County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area is bounded by Wilderness on three sides, and by the North Fork Henson Creek Road (NFSR 870) on the south. The North Henson CRA is south of the Matterhorn CRA on the forest boundary. The CRA is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 10,300’ to 13,200’. This CRA is dominated by alpine habitats, with spruce/fir and spruce/fir/aspen forests occurring at the lower elevations. Riparian habitats exist along the streams and in scattered alpine wetlands

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area lies within The Nature Conservancy’s Uncompahgre/Red Cloud conservation site. The area provides summer habitat for black bear, mountain lion, mule deer, and elk. The eastern portion falls within moose summer range. The forested habitats located in portions of the area at lower elevations have been mapped as lynx habitat. Some potential habitat for the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly exists in the northern portion of this CRA. Bighorn sheep range extends into the eastern portion of this IRA. This area also provides a migration corridor from the Henson Creek area into the Cimarron Watershed.

Numerous historic mining roads are evident off of Mary Alice Creek. Other evidence of historic mining exists on the landscape. Away from the road, the area has recovered a high degree of naturalness. The south boundary of the area is NFSR 870 (the North Fork of Henson Creek). There is approximately 1 mile of road, NFSR 870.2A, (Matterhorn Creek) cherry-stemmed within the area. Because these routes provide access to wilderness areas, recreation use on these roads is very popular. The boundaries of the CRA have been adjusted to remove these routes from the roadless area. A private access road permit to land in the southeast corner of this unit has been granted. Three non-motorized trails are within the area: NFST 140 (Saddle) , NFST 226 (Mary Alice Creek), and NFST 233 (Ridge Stock Driveway). The area provides access to the 14,000’ Uncompahgre Peak. This CRA offers opportunities for solitude and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Uncompahgre Peak-North Henson Creek sheep allotments are located within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands in this CRA. Approximately 300 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Capital City, White Cross) under the National Fire Plan. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development. The

southern portion of this unit is within the Henson Creek Mineralized Area as defined by the USGS.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
El Paso Creek = 1,700	North Henson = 600 Matterhorn = 3,600 Total = 4,200	Roaded lands and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Lands not evaluated in the 2001 inventory were added. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

McClure Pass, (300 acres)

1. Description

The McClure Pass CRA area is approximately 22 miles northeast of Paonia, just south of Highway 133, in the vicinity of McClure Pass. This area is in Gunnison County and is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The hydrologic divide between Muddy Creek and the Crystal River marks the boundary with the White River and Gunnison National Forests, forming the eastern boundary of the area. The Ragged Mountain Road (NFSR 898) forms the north, west and south boundaries. The Tomahawk CRA is separated from this CRA by the Ragged Mountain Road. The Raggeds Wilderness is within three miles to the south. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 9,000’ to 9,700’. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with Engelmann spruce forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is within The Nature Conservancy’s McClure Pass conservation site. This area provides summer range for elk and mule deer; summer concentration area for black bear, overall range for mountain lion and for moose. Lynx habitat is mapped in this CRA, and the McClure Pass lynx linkage area includes this area.. Sensitive species dependent on aspen habitats such as the Northern goshawk, flammulated owl, purple martin, and American marten have potential habitat in this area.

The area is less than a mile wide, surrounded on three sides by a road. The area nearest to the McClure Pass Highway is affected by the sights and sounds of traffic, diminishing the feeling of solitude. The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness) and lies within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Chair Creek allotment is located within this unit. There are approximately 250 acres of suitable timber lands in this CRA. Approximately 200 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (Chair Mountain Ranch Subdivision)

under the National Fire Plan. The area has high potential for oil and gas development. The area has controlled surface use stipulations.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Raggeds = 27,000	Tomahawk = 12,900 Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 Horse Ranch Park = 3,900 Poverty Gulch = 5,500 McClure Pass = 300 Total = 26,100	Constructed roads, non-National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Mendicant (19,100 acres)

1. Description

This area is 10 miles southeast of Crawford in Gunnison County and east of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The landscape follows the topography of Medicant Ridge and Bellmire Ridge, both adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,760’ to 12,000’. Existing vegetation includes aspen mixed with spruce/fir at lower elevations, shifting to just spruce/fir at higher elevations. Scattered small areas of shrub and grass/forb are scattered throughout. Exposed cliff areas also occur.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is within The Nature Conservancy’s Crested Butte conservation site. A portion of the Upper Smith Fork Drainage Potential Conservation Area identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program extends into this area in the north. Black bear use the area for summer range with fall concentration occurring in Virginia Creek. Turkey, mule deer, and elk use the area for summer range. The upper part of North Dyer Creek is an elk calf nursery, which indicates that the area is also an elk calving ground in the lower aspen grooves. Lynx habitat is mapped in this area. Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in South Smith Fork within this CRA. Doug Creek located in the watershed below the Mendicant CRA is designated native cutthroat water as it contains a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness and within a 10-mile radius of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, both Mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. This area is heavily used during the fall hunting season. There is a lot of ATV traffic along the southern tip of Bellmire Ridge on the lower end of this unit. There have been many user-created ATV trails which have diminished the pristine quality of the area. However current access to the CRA is limited, the remoteness creating a fishing experience with great solitude. Winter snowmobile activities are heavy in the Bald Mountain area. Despite heavy ATV use in some areas, opportunities for a sense of solitude and remoteness are vast. A water transmission line runs parallel and north of North Dyer Creek. Away from the water transmission line, the area is in a pristine, unaltered natural state. This CRA is within several state defined source water assessment areas (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Elk cattle allotment and the Dyer sheep allotment are within this unit. A radio repeater tower is located on Bald Mountain. There are approximately 4,100 acres within this CRA that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Prescribed burning for fuels and habitat treatments may occur in this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development. Five water transmission lines (Bald Mountain Reservoir Ditch, Castle Peak ditch, Hawks Nest Pipeline, Pine Creek Ditch, Virginia Ditch) and associated access routes are along the western and southern boundaries of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mt. Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Mineral Mountain, (2,400 acres)

1. Description

The Mineral Mountain CRA is approximately 16 miles east of Lake City, in both Hinsdale and Saguache Counties. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA is surrounded by the La Garita Wilderness on the west, south and east, bisected by Bonholder Road (NFSR 788), and follows a decommissioned jeep road on the north. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,600’ to 12,200’. Vegetation is aspen and spruce fir on mountain flanks, side slopes, ridges, and peaks. Alpine tundra and willow carr occurs at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area provides overall summer range for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, black bear and mountain lion. Lynx habitat is mapped in the area. The road and private land bisecting this area detract from the roadless character. Once away from the road corridor the area is more similar to the surrounding wilderness, providing a sense of solitude.

The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (LaGarita Wilderness). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is not within an allotment. There are no acres of tentatively suitable timber lands within the inventoried portion of this unit. This CRA lies within the Western Saguache

County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) area but no related projects have currently been identified in this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Mineral Mountain = 6,400	2,400	Areas affected by past roading and timber harvest have been excluded. The remaining area is adjacent to existing wilderness.

Mirror Lake, (6,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located along the Continental Divide, approximately nine miles northeast of the town of Pitkin in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The Tincup Pass Road forms the northern boundary separating this CRA from the Sanford Basin CRA to the north. The eastern boundary of the Mirror Lake CRA is adjacent to the Romley CRA managed by the Pike/San Isabel National Forest. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,200’ to 13,000’. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, side slopes, ridges, and peaks. Alpine tundra and willow carr occurs at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Mountain goat summer range occurs in the alpine areas, as does elk summer concentration areas. Summer habitat for black bear and mule deer also exists in this area. Forested habitats have been mapped as lynx habitat. Suitable habitat for Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs in and adjacent to this area on the Pike/San Isabel NF. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists in the alpine areas. The land generally appears natural although there is some evidence of historic mining activities. The Alpine Tunnel Historic District is directly south of this unit. One motorized trail, NFST 567 (Tincup Interceptor), runs east and west through the area bisecting the unit in half, north and south. It receives moderate use. In general, the unit is narrow and in close proximity to roads. The rugged terrain is mostly above timberline. Once away from Mirror Lake and associated roads, the land provides a sense of solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA touches on the Alpine Tunnel Special Interest Area. This area was designated for cultural reasons.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Pitkin cattle allotment is located within this unit. There are approximately 20 acres of tentatively suitable timber lands within the inventoried portion of this unit. Approximately 200 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Tincup, Wolf Canyon Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. There are approximately 20 acres of the Town of Tincup CWPP that overlays this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Romley = 8,300	6,000	Lands harvested along Quartz Creek and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain or other natural features where possible.

Mount Lamborn, (22,600 acres)

1. Description

This area is located approximately 10 miles east of Hotchkiss and adjoins the West Elk Wilderness. This CRA is in both Delta and Gunnison Counties. The area follows topography along the base of Mount Lamborn. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,760’ to 12,000’. Existing vegetation transitions with elevation from Gambel oak, serviceberry, and mountain mahogany, to mixed aspen and spruce/fir forest, with large areas of snowberry at higher elevations. There are also many areas of bare rock along the slopes of Landsend Peak and Mount Lamborn.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The southern portion of this CRA is within The Nature Conservancy’s Little Coal Creek conservation site. Two Colorado Natural Heritage Program areas are present. The Upper Smith Fork Drainage is in the south, and the South Fork of Beaver Reservoir Potential Conservation Area is in the north. This area is a major wintering area for elk and deer in mild to normal winters. It also serves as a major migration route from and to the West Elk Wilderness. Little Coal Creek provides a bear concentration area. Bear from all over the West Elk Wilderness move into Cow Creek in the fall to feed on the oak mast. This area is also used by turkey for summer range. Lynx habitat is mapped in the forested cover at higher elevations. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Gunnison River drainage. The South Fork of Minnesota Creek has Colorado River native cutthroat trout occurrence.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The area is very rugged, has a high degree of naturalness, and provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. It is heavily used in hunting season. A non-motorized route runs through the area and connects to a larger system. Water transmission lines are within the northern perimeter of the unit and the southeastern portion, including Crawford. There are 0.17 miles (270 meters) of tributaries to North Fork Gunnison River within the CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Elk cattle allotment is located within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands for wood production within this unit. The area has a low potential for oil and gas development. A network of ditches (Big Spring, Evans, and Spruce Spring) occurs in the southwestern portion of this CRA, along with access routes. Wildlife habitat improvement/fuels reduction projects are planned for the lower elevations of this area using prescribed burning or mechanical treatments on oak and mechanical treatments on juniper (approximately 50 acres).

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mount Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Munsey Creek/Erickson Springs, (3,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Paonia, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. This area is divided into two small segments: Munsey Creek and Erickson Springs. The Munsey segment has the Creek as its north and west border and the Raggeds Wilderness as its south and east border. The Erickson Springs segment has County Road 12 as its north and south borders with the Raggeds Wilderness as its east border, and the National Forest boundary forming the western border. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH). Elevations range from 6,800’ to 13,000’. Existing habitat in this area is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with spruce/fir. Riparian habitat occurs along Anthracite Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program has identified the Dark Canyon potential conservation area for its montane riparian forest. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this CRA. Bald eagle winter range occurs along Anthracite Creek. Colorado River cutthroat trout appear in tributaries upstream from this area. The area provides winter range for elk and summer range for elk and mule deer. Turkey habitat is also provided within this CRA.

The Munsey segment retains a high degree of naturalness. It is buffered by National Forest lands and adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness. This segment provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. The core of the Erickson Springs segment which adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness retains a high degree of naturalness and is less influenced by activities adjacent to the CRA. The perimeter of the area, however, is influenced by developments such as the Erickson Springs campground, private lands, and County Road 12 (Kebler Pass Road, a part of the West Elk

Scenic Byway). In general, the CRA provides a valuable backcountry hunting experience on public lands prior to elk movement onto private lands at lower elevations. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness and West Elk Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Munsey Creek and Snowshoe cattle allotment are located within this unit. There are no acres tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,600 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Erikson Springs Subdivision, Marcellina Estates Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. Currently there are no existing leases or expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing. A portion of the Erik Brook ditch occurs within this CRA. This unit is being considered as an addition to the existing Raggeds Wilderness for the purpose of boundary management improvement.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Raggeds = 27,000	Tomahawk = 12,900 Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 Horse Ranch Park = 3,900 Poverty Gulch = 5,500 McClure Pass = 300 Total = 26,100	Constructed roads and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Naturita Canyon, (4,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately five miles southwest of Norwood, within the Naturita Division of the Uncompahgre National Forest in San Miguel County. It is managed by the Norwood Ranger District. The Naturita Division is an isolated tract of the National Forest situated between Colorado State Highways 141 and 145. The division is just north of Miramonte Reservoir State Wildlife Area. This CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,800’ to 8,200’. Existing vegetation in this canyon is dominated by a mixture of pinyon juniper, Gambel oak, and ponderosa pine, with Douglas-fir and cottonwood along the canyon bottom, and Douglas-fir extending into the species mix on north-facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A portion of The Nature Conservancy’s Naturita Creek conservation site extends into this area. This area provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion, turkey, mule deer and elk. The area contains habitat for Mexican Spotted Owl, roundtail chub, bluehead sucker, and flannelmouth sucker. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area. The area is adjacent to the San Miguel BLM Area of Critical Concern. The canyon provides suitable big game winter habitat and also serves as a travel corridor. The nature of the canyon terrain isolates the area from

sights and sounds outside of the canyon, providing a sense of remoteness and solitude. Fishing and hunting activities occur within the canyon, including one commercial hunting outfitter-guide. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Naturita, East Naturita, and Portis cattle allotments are located within this area. There are no managed trails within the area. Fishing and hunting activities occur within the canyon, including one commercial hunting outfitter-guide. There are approximately 500 acres of suitable timber lands within this unit. Approximately 200 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (Miramonte) under the National Fire Plan. The area is considered to have high oil and gas potential. It is available for oil and gas leasing. There have been expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Not in IRAs	4,600	This unit is an addition to the 2001 inventory.

North Henson, (600 acres)

1. Description

The North Henson CRA lies approximately 10 miles west of Lake City and approximately eight miles east of Ouray in Hinsdale County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area is bounded by the North Fork Henson Creek Road (NFSR 870) on the north and the forest boundary on the south. The Matterhorn CRA is north of the North Henson CRA across the North Fork Henson Creek Road. The American Flats BLM Wilderness Study Area lies south of the forest boundary. The CRA is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 10,300' to 12,000'. This CRA is dominated by spruce/fir forests occurring at the lower elevations and alpine habitats at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area lies within The Nature Conservancy's Uncompahgre/Red Cloud conservation site. The area provides summer habitat for black bear, mountain lion, mule deer, and elk. The eastern portion falls within moose summer range. The forested habitats located in portions of the area at lower elevations have been mapped as lynx habitat.

The north boundary of the area is NFSR 870 (the North Fork of Henson Creek). Away from the road, the area has a high degree of naturalness. Private land on the eastern edge of the CRA is accessed by a private road. The boundaries of the CRA have been adjusted to remove these routes from the roadless area. This CRA offers opportunities for solitude and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Uncompahgre Peak-North Henson Creek sheep allotment is located within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands in this CRA. Approximately 600 acres of this CRA is within

the community protection zone for two at-risk communities (Capital City, White Cross) under the National Fire Plan. Past mining activity occurred in the northern and eastern portions of this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development. The southern portion of this unit is within the Henson Creek Mineralized Area as defined by the USGS.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
El Paso Creek = 1,700	Matterhorn = 3,600 North Henson = 600 Total = 4,200	Roaded lands and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Lands not evaluated in the 2001 inventory were added. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Pilot Knob, (17,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately two miles north of Somerset, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. Springhouse Park is in the geographic center of the area. The western boundary is formed by the National Forest boundary and NFST 704.4D (Springhouse Park Trail). The southern boundary is National Forest which is adjacent to BLM land. Private land inholdings and various roads are adjacent to the northern boundary. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,700’ to 9,800’. Aspen forests dominate this CRA. Gambel oak occurs at the lower elevations and snowberry occurs in the species mix at higher elevations. Spruce is mixed with aspen on the north-facing higher elevation slopes. Riparian habitats occur in Springhouse Park and around scattered ponds and lakes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, and elk. It also provides calving areas and winter range for elk. Moose overall habitat also exists in this area. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the North Fork of the Gunnison River drainage. Aspen dependent sensitive species such as the Northern goshawk, purple martin, flammulated owl, and the American marten have suitable habitat within this CRA.

Roads surround the area. NFSR 783 (Coal Gulch) and NFSR 849 (Aspen) are along the eastern boundary. NFSR 704.4A and 704.4D intrude into the area. There are one motorized trail and one mechanized trail that bisect the landscape. The southern portion of the area has road scars from coal exploration and methane drainage gas wells. The area north of the NFST 804 (Buck Mesa Trail) retains a higher degree of naturalness and provides a greater opportunity for a sense of solitude and remoteness than the southern portion. The mixed conifer vegetation provides an effective buffer from sights and sounds of the roads and trails. The area to the south of Buck Mesa Trail is an oak brush community offering a minimal shield from sights and sounds of existing travel ways. The proximity to roads and motorized trails reduces opportunities for

solitude and a sense of remoteness. In general, the area provides a valuable backcountry hunting experience on public lands prior to elk moving onto private lands at lower elevations. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (West Elk Wilderness) and lies within several source water assessment areas (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Condemit Park and Hotchkiss sheep allotments are located within this unit. A solar powered Forest Service radio site is located approximately one mile west of Springhouse Park. There are approximately 6,700 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Some prescribed burning is proposed for the southeastern corner of this CRA. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. The entire area is currently leased. A proposal to construct over 6 miles of new road to 16 new well locations within the CRA is currently being analyzed. If these wells are productive, pipelines to gather and transport gas out of this CRA will likely be constructed. The area south of NFST 804 contains recoverable coal reserves. The southern portion of the CRA is within the North Fork Valley Coal area. There is a permitting action currently before the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety for seven methane drainage wells on an existing coal lease within an active coal permit involving approximately 2,700 feet of new temporary road construction and three acres of timber cutting. There are four ditches in the CRA (Buzzard, Coyote, Snooks, Wade), associated access routes and diversion points.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Springhouse Creek = 17,600	17,200	Constructed roads were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and identifiable features.

Poverty Gulch, (5,500 acres)

1. Description

This area is approximately seven miles northwest of Crested Butte, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. This CRA joins the eastern boundary of the Raggeds Wilderness along the Ruby Range north of Oh-Be-Joyful Peak. NFSR 734 (Slate River Road) creates the eastern boundary. This area has two segments, divided by NFSR 7752 (Poverty Gulch Road) and NFSR 7552.2A (Baxter Basin Road). The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 9,000’–13,300’. Lower elevations of this CRA have mixed aspen and spruce forests, transitioning to open alpine habitats at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Slate River Potential Conservation Area identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program extends into this area along the Slate River and Poverty Gulch drainages. Mountain goat summer range extends into the CRA around Purple Mountain. Summer range is available

for most other big game species, with a summer concentration for elk occurring as well. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested areas of this CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat is found in the alpine areas.

North Fork of Slate River/Yule Canyon is currently identified as eligible in the GMUG Wild and Scenic River inventory. NFST 576 (Yule Pass Trail) is a non-motorized trail located in the northern segment of the unit. The road system within Poverty Gulch in the vicinity of Cascade Mountain is utilized by ORVs. Snowmobile activities occurs in this unit during the winter and spring months. This area has extensive evidence of historic mineral activity. Visitors would encounter evidence of historic mining and old roads. The private lands, once mined for hard rock minerals, are currently undeveloped. The use of the road system by ORVs in the Poverty Gulch /Cascade Mountain vicinity would affect visitor solitude. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness and West Elk Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Slate River cattle allotment is located in this unit. One spring development and approximately 800 feet of waterline is permitted to the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab. Patented mining claims are located along both Poverty Gulch Road and Baxter Basin. Potential for oil and gas resources is low. The area is located within the Ruby Mining District. This CRA is highly mineralized and has a history of mining precious metals and ores. Reclamation of past mining activity sites are anticipated in Baxter Basin and may also occur at sites within the CRA in the future.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Raggeds = 27,000	Tomahawk = 12,900 Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 Horse Ranch Park = 3,900 Poverty Gulch = 5,500 McClure Pass = 300 Total = 26,100	Constructed roads, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Salt Creek, (9,000 acres)

1. Description

The area is located on the Grand Mesa, just south of Vega Reservoir State Recreation Area, approximately seven miles southeast of Collbran in Mesa County. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The unit is bounded on the north and west by BLM and private lands. The southern boundary generally follows the NFSR 279 (Sheep Flats Road). NFSR 262 (Park Creek Road) separates this CRA from the Flattops/Elk Park CRA. The CRA is within the Northern–Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 8,000’ to 10,300’. Salt Creek CRA can be characterized as having spruce-fir forests with large open meadows. On the north side, the landscape drops dramatically changing first to aspen

then to mountain shrub communities. A very large portion of this CRA is dotted with wet seeps, springs, creeks, and wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Throughout the CRA black bear, elk, and mule deer are abundant from late spring to late fall. Mule deer follow the receding snow in the spring to the entire area, fawning and raising their young before migrating to lower elevations in the fall. Elk follow the same pattern and remain throughout the winter at elevations up to 9,000' if not driven further down by snow or human disturbance. Black bear spend the entire year in portions of this CRA that are located at 7,000' to 10,000' in elevation, concentrating in the mountain shrub zone during the fall. Lynx habitat is mapped in this CRA. Healthy populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout live in Grove Creek and Leon Creek, as well as some of the smaller tributaries within the CRA. Suitable boreal toad habitat is abundant throughout this CRA.

The CRA is bounded on the south by NFSR 279 and 260, which are also heavily used at times. Two motorized trails, NFST 514 (Salt Creek) and NFST 513 (West Salt Creek), bisect the CRA. These trails provide motorized access to the area and receive very high use, particularly during the fall big game hunting season. NFSR 262 (Park Creek Road) was improved by Exxon for access to a well near Monument Creek. That portion of the roadless area, closest to this road, has lost its remoteness. The north face and the slope of Leon Creek appear natural and that area remains difficult to travel in. However, the open and gentle topography of the remainder of the CRA limits the remoteness. Most of the area can be easily accessed by two wheel drive vehicles when dry, consequently numerous non-system routes from vehicle trespass has occurred. These travel ways have disrupted the natural integrity of the landscape. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Leon and Big Creek cattle allotments are located within this area. The Anderson ditch, located in the southern area of this unit, extends from the Anderson Brothers reservoir and is paralleled by a maintenance road. Some maintenance of existing fences is accomplished using motorized vehicles. There are approximately 3,000 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. There are existing oil and gas leases in this CRA. There are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in this CRA. Prescribed burning along the northern flank of the Grand Mesa to improve wildlife habitat are proposed over the next 10 years.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Salt Creek = 11,100	9,000	Non-Forest system lands, 187 acre vegetation harvest and 3 miles of roads were removed.

Sanford Basin, (12,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Pitkin in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. It consists of high mountain peaks along the crest of the Continental Divide, separated from the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness by the Cottonwood Pass Road. The area adjoins a narrow strip of land paralleling the Continental Divide on the San Isabel National Forest that retains its roadless character. This CRA shares a boundary with the Kreuzer- Princeton CRA on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests. NFSR 267 (Mirror Lake Road) separates this unit from Mirror Lake CRA to the south. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations that range from 9,800' to 13,500'. Existing vegetation is lodgepole pine and spruce fir on mountain flanks, side slopes, and ridges. Alpine habitats occur at the highest elevations. Riparian habitats follow the major drainages and occur around wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Most of this CRA lies within the large Cottonwood Pass conservation site identified by The Nature Conservancy. The Pass Creek Potential Conservation Area, identified for subalpine shrub riparian habitat, is located on the northern edge of this area. Mountain goat summer range occurs within this area, with summer concentration and production areas on the adjacent Pike/San Isabel NF. The CRA also provides summer range for mule deer and elk, and elk migration routes. Suitable lynx habitat has been mapped in this CRA, and the northern half lies within the Cottonwood/Tincup lynx linkage area. Suitable habitat for the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs in this area and on the adjacent Pike/San Isabel NF. The sensitive plant species *Braya glabella* can be found here. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat also occurs in alpine areas. Bighorn sheep may use this area during summer.

The area sits along the crest of the Continental Divide, mostly above the timberline. There is some evidence of historic mining. The area provides spectacular scenery. Currently, winter motorized use is heavy within portions of this unit. One motorized trail, NFST 414 (Timberline Trail), runs north and south through the unit, paralleling the Continental Divide and bisecting the area into two segments. The Timberline trail, also a piece of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, is a connector to motorized trail systems in the Taylor Park area. The Cottonwood Pass Road is groomed for snowmobiling. This winter route connects the Arkansas Valley to Taylor Park and provides snowmobile access to northern portions of the CRA. A snowmobile route is also groomed along the Tincup road to Mirror Lake. A proposed non-motorized route for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is located within this CRA. The area consists of high elevation rugged terrain. Since the area is above timberline, it is difficult to get away from the sights and sounds of roads and activities. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park and Pitkin cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 3,700 acres of tentatively suitable timber land within this area. Approximately 1,200 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for five at-risk communities (Rainbow Placer's Subdivision, Red Cross Millsite Subdivision, Sawatch View Subdivision,

Tincup, Wolf Canyon Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. Historic mining activity occurred along the western and southern perimeter of this CRA in Barden Basin, and north of Tincup. Some future mine reclamation work may occur within the CRA. An active unpatented mining claim occurs along the western edge of this CRA near Red Buck Road (NFSR 765.1B). The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Kreutzer-Princeton = 15,400	12,900	16 miles of constructed road, and lands harvested for timber along Willow Pass Creek were removed from the inventory.

Sawtooth, (22,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 15 miles south of the city of Gunnison in Saguache County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area is located within a parcel of the National Forest approximately seven miles wide. The lands adjacent to the National Forest are a mixture of BLM and private lands. Sawtooth Mountain (12,147') and Agency Peak (11,719') are the prominent features in the Sawtooth CRA. This CRA is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,200' to 12,100'. The area ranges from lower montane sagebrush, through aspen dominated stands, to spruce/fir dominated stands on the northwest facing slopes of Sawtooth Mountain. On the southeast facing slopes, aspen mixes with and transitions to lodgepole pine and spruce/fir. Grass/forb dominated meadows are scattered throughout the area. Riparian habitats occur along the major drainages. Pockets of blue spruce and montane subalpine bristlecone pine can be found within this unit

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area provides summer range for bear, mule deer, elk and moose, and is a calving area for elk. Lynx habitat is mapped in this CRA. East Fork South Beaver Creek is designated as native cutthroat trout water and contains a confirmed population of Greenback cutthroat trout (threatened). Winter range for bald eagle extends into the eastern edges of this CRA. Motorized and mechanized travel opportunities have been limited by road decommissioning within the area which has been largely successful and previously roaded lands are reverting to a natural appearing landscape. Rugged terrain, dense vegetation, distance away from sights and sounds of development, and lack of trails within the unit provide opportunities for remoteness and solitude. Recreation activities are generally non-motorized, hunting and horseback riding. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The East Beaver, South Beaver, Los Pinos, Sawtooth, and Beak Creek cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 100 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. Approximately 20 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (South Beaver Cow Camp Properties)

under the National Fire Plan. This CRA lies within the Western Saguache County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) area but no related projects have currently been identified in this CRA. Prescribed burning and potentially mechanical treatments to improve wildlife habitat and reduce hazardous fuels are planned for this area. There are several active unpatented mining claims in the western portion of this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Sawtooth Mountain = 44,500	22,800	37 miles of constructed road, and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Schofield Pass, (900 acres)

1. Description

The Schofield Pass CRA is located three miles north of the Gothic Town site in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA lies between NFSR 317 (Schofield Pass Road) to the west and the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. This small area is a CRA because it is contiguous to an existing wilderness. The lands north of the CRA are within the White River National Forest and managed for dispersed recreation allowing motorized uses. The CRA is separated from the Gothic CRA by Schofield Pass Road (NFSR 317). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,800’ to 11,600’. The Gothic Mountain and the northern end are primarily alpine habitat. Spruce forests dominate the land between Gothic Mountain and the alpine habitat. Riparian habitats occur in the East River drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The entire area is within The Nature Conservancy’s Crested Butte conservation site. This area provides summer range for big game species. Lynx habitat is present within this CRA. Boreal toad and pygmy shrew are both known to inhabit the East River drainage. White-tailed ptarmigan use the alpine habitats along the northern edge of this unit.

The area along the East River is a popular and heavily used recreation corridor. Presently, the Gothic corridor is closed to public winter motorized use. The CRA has one mountain bike trail; NFST 401 (Trail Riders).

Although the area offers steep terrain and pockets of dense vegetation, the sense of remoteness is diminished by the following factors: the Schofield Pass road corridor and the corresponding high volume of recreation traffic. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness and West Elk Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Gothic cattle allotment is located within this area. There are no acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The CRA is adjacent to the Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness. Historic mining activity occurred along the East River drainage and near Schofield Pass. Reclamation work at mining sites may occur in the CRA in the future. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100	Deer Creek = 9,500 Double Top = 23,800 Italian Mountain = 9,000 Texas Creek = 2,600 Schofield Pass = 900 Part of Gothic = 5,800 total acres Total = 45,800 and part of 5,800	72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Soap Creek, (8,100 acres)

1. Description

The Soap Creek area is approximately three miles north of Curecanti National Recreation Area and 25 miles west of the city of Gunnison, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area adjoins the West Elk Wilderness to the east and is bordered to the west by NFSR 721 (Soap Creek Road). The area wraps around the southern tip of the West Elk Wilderness boundary. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,100' to 12,200'. This CRA contains a diversity of cover types, ranging from Gambel oak, serviceberry, and sagebrush at lower elevations; to mixed aspen, Douglas-fir, with spruce increasing in the mix at higher elevations and sites with more moisture. The southern boundary of the CRA provides a very scenic backdrop to the Blue Mesa Reservoir, characterized by cliff outcrops of eroded West Elk Breccia.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Portions of two potential conservation areas (PCA's) identified by Colorado Natural Heritage Program occur in this CRA. Cow Creek at Soap Creek PCA, located at the southern end, contains the sensitive plant species, *Astragalus anisus*. Soap Creek PCA at the north end includes riparian vegetation types. The area provides summer range for mountain lion and black bear, as well as high quality critical habitat for elk and deer. Most of this CRA is classified as elk and deer winter range and severe winter range with some areas identified as winter concentration areas. The CRA contains high quality critical habitat for bighorn sheep and is suitable for lynx habitat. Potential Gunnison sage grouse habitat extends into the Soap Creek drainage from the south. Peregrine falcon nesting areas extend into the southeast section. Much of the area is within bald eagle winter range, with several roost site locations occurring along Soap Creek.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. NFSR 721 (Soap Creek Road) is a high clearance four-wheel drive road that receives light traffic. Recreational dispersed camping occurs along this road. There are no Forest Service System Trails within the area. Private land activities may affect a sense of solitude in the vicinity of Big Soap Park. Because of its proximity to Soap Creek road, this segment provides only a limited sense of remoteness. However, it adjoins West Elk Wilderness which offers steep and rugged terrain, a sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. The area supports high levels of hunting. However OHV incursion into secure habitats has impacted hunter success levels. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Soap Creek cattle allotment is within the area. There are approximately 100 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Extensive prescribed burning for fuels and habitat treatments are proposed in this CRA. There are no known potential for oil and gas resources in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mt. Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Steuben (3,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately eight miles west of Gunnison, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. This small unit is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness along the north boundary. The CRA is comprised of a distinct canyon of Steuben Creek, between NFSR 859.2A (Upper SU/Reed Road) to the east and NFSR 609.2A (Bear Springs Road) to the west. The National Forest boundary forms the southern boundary of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations that range from 8,200' to 11,600'. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen mixed with spruce fir, with an area of ponderosa pine in the southeast, and spruce in the northeast. Riparian habitats occur along Steuben Creek and its tributaries.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area lies within two very large Nature Conservancy conservation sites. The lower, southern portion of this CRA is identified as elk and mule deer winter range. Several elk migration corridors cross this area. Much of this area has been mapped as lynx habitat. Bald

eagle winter foraging habitat occurs along the lower end of Steuben Creek, Gunnison sage grouse winter range also occurs in the southern area of this CRA.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The unit is long and narrow. Quality opportunities for solitude and sense of remoteness exist below the canyon rim. Above the canyon rims the unit is bounded by roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Rainbow/Red Creek cattle allotment is located within the Steuben Creek portion of the area. There is a private in-holding between the existing wilderness boundary and this unit. There are approximately 300 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. This CRA is currently being evaluated for future prescribed burning projects to improve wildlife habitat. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Beaver-Castle = 35,700	Castle = 9,400 Steuben = 3,500 East Elk = 6,000 Beaver = 3,700 Willow Creek = 300 Total = 22,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features.

Sunnyside, (10,700 acres)

1. Description

The Sunnyside area is located adjacent to Plateau Creek Valley, three miles northwest of Collbran in Mesa County, and is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The area is long and narrow, ranging from one to three miles wide. Sunnyside is bordered to the north by the White River National Forest, where the lands are managed as a Research Natural Area, and elk and bighorn sheep habitat. Portions of this CRA border the Housatop Mountain CRA on the White River National Forest. The boundaries of the area are adjacent to both private land and BLM lands. The CRA is within the Northern–Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,000’ to 9,200’. The lower elevations are dominated by pinyon-juniper with Douglas-fir increasing in the species mix as elevation increases. Gambel oak, serviceberry, and snowberry shrub species are intermixed in the understories at the upper elevations. The area is very steep, often with barren slopes and cliffs, and the climate is semi-arid. From Plateau Valley, this area offers a visually striking backdrop.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The western half of this area is within The Nature Conservancy’s Debeque South conservation site. Portions of four potential conservation areas extend into this CRA. Dry Fork Kimball Creek is in the northeast corner, identified for the presence of rare endemic plant species. The Debeque South potential conservation area contains locations of *Phacelia*

submutica, a candidate plant species. The western half of this CRA is proposed as a research natural area. Mule deer and elk are known to concentrate in the winter at the lower elevations and summer at the higher elevations of this CRA. Mule deer in large numbers and some elk from the entire Battlement Mesa migrate along this mountain range to winter habitats south of the Sunnyside CRA. The Sunnyside area has some of the highest densities of wintering deer in Colorado. Black bear fall concentration areas occur in the oak habitat found in the eastern half of this CRA. A unique quality of this CRA is that the Battlement Mesa Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep herd resides here. This herd is small, small in stature, and lives at relatively low elevations which make it unique from other bighorn sheep herds. There are many problems facing this herd including inbreeding and habitat degradation due to lack of fire and water. There are limited trails and access into the area. This isolation along with the ruggedness of the landscape and distance from the sights and sounds of developments provides an opportunity for solitude and a sense of remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no active cattle allotments within this unit. However, cattle trespass into this area from the south. There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has a high potential for oil and gas resources. There are existing oil and gas leases in this CRA and expressions of interest.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Battlement Mesa = 36,500	Sunnyside = 10,700 Battlements = 24,400 Total = 35,100	Lands removed from the inventory include: Non-National forest Lands, 73 acres previously harvested, 4 miles of roads, water transmission lines and irrigation ditches.

Sunset, (5,800 acres)

1. Description

The Sunset CRA is located approximately nine miles east of Paonia, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The area is north and contiguous to the West Elk Wilderness and is bounded by private land in-holdings to the west and roads to the north. It is separated from the Flatirons CRA by NFSR 711 (Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek Road). This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,300’ to 12,000’. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen mixed with spruce/fir. Gambel oak occurs in the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for elk, mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this CRA. This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The lands

directly adjacent to the Wilderness boundary offer a high degree of naturalness. The Deep Creek Slide area exhibits a striking geologic feature. Opportunities for remoteness and solitude are present in the vicinity of the wilderness boundary. The terrain is rugged. However, the proximity to trails and roads diminishes opportunities of self-reliance and adventure. The area is heavily used during hunting season. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Dry Fork cattle allotment is located within this unit and is currently vacant. There are no acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. All of the CRA is within the North Fork Valley Coal area. There are currently one application for a coal exploration license and two coal lease modifications proposed in this area. The Deer Creek Shaft and E Seam Methane Drainage Wells Project EIS decision authorized construction of methane drainage wells and access roads in this CRA. The area is identified as having high potential for oil and gas. There are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in this area.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
West Elk = 94,600	Beckwiths = 18,400 Soap Creek = 8,100 Curecanti = 12,400 Mendicant = 19,100 Mt. Lamborn = 22,600 Sunset = 5,800 Flatirons = 11,500 Total = 97,800	51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Texas Creek, (2,600 acres)

1. Description

The area is located approximately 25 miles east of Crested Butte and 17 miles north of the town of Pitkin. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area adjoins the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. The area is small; it is bounded by the Timberline Trail to the north and the NFSR 755 (Texas Creek) to the south. The Timberline Trail separates the unit from the Collegiate Peak Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Range Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,900' to 11,600'. Existing vegetation is dominated by lodgepole pine mixed with Engelmann spruce. Riparian habitat occurs along drainages.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for mule deer, black bear, and elk. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. Bighorn sheep use the higher elevations, adjacent to the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. Sensitive species that use high elevation conifer, like the Northern goshawk, American marten, and the American three-toed woodpecker, have potential habitat in this area. NFST 414 (Timberline Trail) is a motorized single track which is part of the Colorado Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The non-motorized Gunnison Spur of the Colorado

Trail follows Illinois Creek through the area. The area has a high degree of naturalness, particularly closer to the boundary of the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. However, because the unit is small, and in close proximity to the sights and sounds of motorized routes, developments on private in-holdings, and adjacent harvest activities, the sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude are diminished. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Taylor Park cattle allotment are within this area. There are approximately 900 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100	Deer Creek = 9,500 Double Top = 23,800 Italian Mountain = 9,000 Texas Creek = 2,600 Schofield Pass = 900 Part of Gothic = 5,800 total acres Total = 45,800 and part of 5,800	72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Tomahawk, (12,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 16 miles northeast of Paonia in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. This area is adjacent to the Raggeds Wilderness, private land and the White River National Forest to the east and mostly private to the west. McClure Pass (State Highway 133) composes the northern boundary. Portions of this area border the McClure Pass CRA on the White River National Forest. This CRA is adjacent to West Elk Scenic Byway. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,800’ to 13,000’. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce forests. At the lower elevations Gambel oak and sagebrush growth occurs on south-facing slopes and in the understory of aspen. Riparian habitats occur along Lee Creek, Chair Creek, and Deep Creek, as well as around scattered lakes and ponds.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is mostly within The Nature Conservancy’s McClure Pass conservation site. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program McClure Pass potential conservation area occurs mostly within this CRA, identified for several species of rare endemic plants. This area provides critical winter range, calving areas and summer range for elk. Summer range is provided for mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. It is likely moose move through this area. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. The McClure Pass lynx linkage area also occurs here. This linkage area is also used by other animals requiring large home ranges, such as wolverine, which have

historically been seen in this CRA. Deep Creek is designated a native cutthroat water in this CRA. Greenback cutthroat trout (threatened species) populations have been confirmed. This stream contains a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. This species is also identified in Chair Creek on the north end of this CRA.

Portions of the area retain a high degree of naturalness; however, the segment south of NFST 820 (Raggeds Trail) has a high proportion of water transmission lines that affect the naturalness of the area. Summer and fall motorized use occurs on the Raggeds Trail. The area is influenced by Highway 133 (McClure Pass) and the private lands within and adjacent to the unit. The juxtaposition of this unit to private lands, both along the National Forest boundary and that of large in-holdings, limit a sense of remoteness and solitude. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness and West Elk Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Creek, Buck Creek, Williams Creek and Chair Creek cattle allotment are within this unit. There are approximately 1,200 acres of timber land that are tentatively suitable for timber and wood fiber production within the unit. Approximately 3,700 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for four at-risk communities (Chair Mountain Ranch Subdivision, Erikson Springs Subdivision, Ragged Mountain Estates Subdivision, Ragged Reserve Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. There are oil and gas leases in the CRA as well as expressions of interest. Portions of four ditches occur in this CRA (Filmore A, Grouse Creek, Lee Creek and Williams Outlet).

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Raggeds = 27,000	Tomahawk = 12,900 Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 Horse Ranch Park = 3,900 Poverty Gulch = 5,500 McClure Pass = 300 Total = 26,100	Constructed roads, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Turner Creek, (12,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately 20 miles north of Paonia in Delta, Mesa and Gunnison Counties. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Clear Fork CRA; following the Bull Mountain gas pipeline on the east. The northern boundary is The Burn Road (NFSR277) and topographical breaks avoiding past harvest activities. The western boundary follows a WAPA power line; the southern boundary follows the 2001/1979 roadless inventory boundary. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,600' to 11,800'. The southern half of this CRA is currently dominated by aspen with aspen/spruce/fir mixed forests. The northern half is dominated by spruce/fir forests

2. Roadless Characteristics

Moose inhabit that area throughout the year. This area provides summer range for mule, deer, black bear, turkey, with summer concentration and calving areas for elk. Lynx habitat is mapped throughout this CRA. Sensitive species dependant on both aspen and high elevation conifer habitats have suitable habitat in this CRA. NFSR 277 (Burn) is located along the northern boundary of the unit. Travel within the CRA is restricted to ATV, foot, horse, and bicycle. A designated motorized trail system (Burn Trail NFST 522) is located along the western half of Turner Creek. The steep terrain and dense vegetation, along with limited trails within the unit, provide opportunities for solitude. Away from the gas pipeline, the area appears natural and has a sense of remoteness. The unit is a desirable fall big game hunting unit. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Buzzard, Muddy, Jones Creek and Oil Well Mountain allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 1,600 acres of land that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. Two producing gas wells are located along the southern boundary of the area. Several gas pipelines form the eastern boundary. Ten drilled wells and one compressor station are within the unit. There are oil and gas leases within the Turner Creek CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Clear Creek = 42,900	Turner Creek = 12,800 Clear Fork = 24,300 Total = 37,400	Constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features.

Turret Ridge, (5,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 11 miles northeast of the town of Ouray in Gunnison and Hinsdale counties. It is managed by the Ouray Ranger District. The CRA is approximately five miles long by two miles wide bordered by NFSR 858 (Owl Creek-Cimarron Road) on the north and west, and NFSR 861 (Middle Fork Road) on the east. The area joins the Uncompahgre Wilderness to the south. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,100’ to 10,400’. Existing vegetation is dominated by spruce/fir forests, with aspen in the species mix at lower elevations. A cliff band exists along the ridgeline. Scattered open meadows also occur. The area is characterized by unique scenic and geological pinnacle tufts.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for black bear, mountain lion, turkey, mule deer and elk. Moose may also use this area, particularly in aspen habitats. Lynx habitat is mapped within

this CRA. This area includes the watershed around West Fork and Middle Fork of Cimarron River which contain Colorado River cutthroat trout. This area is mapped as bighorn sheep overall range with some summer and winter range areas. Sensitive species dependent on spruce/fir also inhabit this area (e.g. boreal owl, northern goshawk, American three-toed woodpecker). There is a potential for wolverines to find habitat in this area as well.

The area along the perimeter of the unit was harvested for timber during the late 1960s. There is evidence of past spruce clear-cuts along the Middle Fork and West Fork roads, however, these areas are recovering. The remainder of the area retains a high level of naturalness. There are no developed trails within this unit. Two classified roads are along the boundary of the unit. Once a way from the roads, opportunity to find remoteness and solitude is high. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Cimarron and Green Mountain cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 1,000 acres of lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. No known potential for oil and gas. The area is highly mineralized. There is an outstanding Plan of Operation for hard rock mineral activities within the southern leg of this unit.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Uncompahgre = 26,100	Part of Failes Ck/Soldier Ck = 8,900 Little Cimarron = 4,200 Turret Ridge = 5,500 Total: 9,700 and part of 8,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features.

UnawEEP, (12,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the extreme northwest edge of Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately eight miles northeast of Gateway and 30 miles southwest of Grand Junction, in Mesa County. The area is located south of the UnawEEP Canyon and borders Highway 141. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The adjacent BLM land is unroaded and the combined BLM-National Forest area was submitted as part of the DeGette Wilderness proposal. The boundaries follow established trails and the topographic features of Ute Creek to the south. This CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,500' to 9,100'. Existing vegetation for this CRA consists of pinyon-juniper mixed with sagebrush, Gambel oak and other mountain shrubs on the steep side slopes transitioning to mixed aspen and ponderosa pine forests at the higher elevations, with Douglas-fir on the north facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The UnawEEP Seep potential conservation area identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for the Nokomis fritillary butterfly overlaps this CRA. This area is within The Nature Conservancy's UnawEEP conservation site for the same reason. Bald eagle winter range

extends into this CRA from the Unaweep Canyon. This area is used by black bear (fall concentration area), mule deer (summer range and migration paths), elk (severe winter range, summer range, summer concentration area and calving areas), and Merriam’s turkey (winter, summer and production areas). Motorized trails and roads comprise much of the boundary of this unit. Two motorized trails NFST 660 (Little Bear Lake Trail) and NFST 603 (Basin Trail), are open to full size vehicles, and comprise the eastern boundary of the unit. Two non-motorized trails NFST 601 (Unaweep Trail) and NFST 602 (Gill Creek) are within the unit. Winter snowmobiling occurs over much of the area. The area has evidence of previous roading. Remnants of timber harvest from the 1950s are evident along the Basin and Little Bear Lake Trails. NFSR 416 is cherry stemmed into the area. The landscape offers rugged terrain as it drops off the edge of the Plateau. The area offers spectacular scenery. Away from roads and trails, the area retains a high degree of naturalness. There are three irrigation ditches with associated access routes in the area transporting water to private lands along the northern boundary of the unit. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Mudholes/Lakes and Blue Creek cattle allotments are within this area. Existing livestock fences, stock ponds, and stock driveways are maintained with motorized equipment. Several irrigation ditches are within the unit. There are no acres of tentatively suited timber lands within this unit. Approximately 300 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (Unaweep Canyon) under the National Fire Plan. The area is considered low potential for oil and gas and has not been analyzed for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Ute Creek = 29,800	Calamity Basin = 12,500 Unaweep = 12,200 Total = 24,700	14 miles of road, vegetation treatment areas and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to conform to terrain and natural features.

Union, (1,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately 20 miles northeast of the city of Gunnison in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The unit lies north and immediately adjacent to the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. It is bounded to the north by NFSR 752.2A (Lottis Road) and NFSR 752 (Union Park) and to the east by NFSR 752.3A (Cross Mountain Road). The south and west boundaries are contiguous with the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. This unit is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,200’ to 11,700’. Vegetation generally consists of spruce -fir on mountain flanks, sideslopes, ridges, and peaks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

NFSR 752 (Union Park Road), a four-wheel drive jeep road, runs along the bottom of the canyon and receives a moderate level of use. The portions of the area in close proximity to roads and trails have a diminished sense of remoteness and solitude. Once away from the road corridor, these opportunities increase. The CRA has rugged terrain with dense vegetation and has a high degree of naturalness. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park cattle allotment is located within this unit. There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Crystal Creek = 28,700	Crystal Creek = 500 Union = 1,600 Total = 2,100	The 2001 original acreage included the lands (44,000) that were Congressionally designated as the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (Public Law 103-77). These have been eliminated from the 2001 IRA acreage. Of the remaining lands, non- National Forest lands and roaded lands were removed from the inventory.

Whetstone, (15,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately two miles south and west of the town of Crested Butte, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. It is comprised for the most part of three mountain peaks: Whetstone Mountain (12,576’), Mt. Axtell (12,055’), and Carbon Peak (12,079’), located between NFSR 730 (Ohio Creek Road) and Gunnison County Road 12 (Kebler Pass Road) on the western and northwestern edge. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to the Forest boundary and private land. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,900’ to 12,000’. Existing vegetation consists of spruce/fir forests on north facing slopes; aspen dominated forests on south slopes, interspersed grass/forb meadows, and alpine habitats on the three mountain peaks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The entire CRA is within the very large Crested Butte conservation site identified by The Nature Conservancy. This CRA contains elk production (calving area) and summer

concentration area which is contiguous with summer concentration areas to the west and south in the West Elk Wilderness. A major migration corridor also crosses this area which currently allows migration to winter ranges south and west. The CRA provides important summer habitat for mule deer. This CRA contains lynx habitat and is adjacent to home ranges for several lynx. Other sensitive species dependent on high elevation conifer habitats could potentially occur in this area.

NFST 436 (Carbon Trail) is within the area and used by both motorized and mountain bikes. NFST 565 (Baxter Gulch Trail) has moderate to high use and is favored by hikers and mountain bike riders. Winter recreational snowmobiling occurs and has been encouraged in the Wildcat drainage and along the flanks of Mt. Axtell. The area is surrounded on three sides by private land. The Trappers Crossing area to the north has high valued homes. The sense of remoteness and solitude is limited along the perimeter of the unit as a result of the private land influences. The City of Gunnison, Highway 135, the Town of Crested Butte, and private land developments are visible from the highest summits. This CRA is within a 10-mile radius of two mandatory Class I airsheds that are designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness and West Elk Wilderness) and lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Baxter Gulch and Carbon cattle allotments are within this unit. There are approximately 1,800 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 1,800 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for 11 at-risk communities (Avion Subdivision, East River Ranches Subdivision, Hidden River Ranch Subdivision, Red Mtn. Ranches Subdivision, River Bend Subdivision, River Green Subdivision, Riverland Ind. Park Subdivision, Slate River Estates Subdivision, Trapper’s Crossing at C.B. Subdivision, Trapper’s Crossing at Wildcat, Wilderness Streams Subdivision) under the National Fire Plan. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development but was included in the 1993 oil and gas leasing decision as unavailable for leasing because of previously existing leases..

US Energy Corp has submitted a Plan of Operations for a mill site to process molybdenum on unpatented mining claims that extend throughout the middle of this CRA running south from Coal Creek along Splains Gulch, to the north flank of Carbon Peak and continuing east along the Carbon Creek drainage.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Whetstone Mountain = 17,500	15,400	12 miles of road, non National Forest lands and vegetation harvest units within the Splains Gulch areas. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible.

Whitehouse Mountain, (14,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 2 miles west of the town of Ouray in Ouray County. It is managed by the Ouray Ranger District. This CRA joins the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness at the summit of the peak. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,000' to 14,100'. The lower elevations (8,000-11,000') are dominated by spruce/fir forests. Aspen is in the species mix only at the lowest areas. Areas above 11,000 feet are alpine habitats, mostly without vegetation.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The lower elevations of this area are mapped as black bear concentration area, elk summer range and concentration area, mule deer summer range, and overall range for Merriam turkey. Potential habitat for Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs in the southern portion of this CRA. Lynx habitat is mapped in the forested habitat in the northern lower portions of this area. Bighorn sheep use this area especially in the south and east sections; the area is mapped as overall bighorn sheep range, summer range, production area, and a migration area. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists in the alpine areas of the unit.

There are isolated patent mining claims within the area and remnants of historic mining operations, particularly in the Blain Basin area. There is evidence in the Wilson Creek drainage of past timber harvest. A cross-country ski hut is located within the unit. The core of the area is comprised of Whitehouse Mountain, Cirque Mountain, Mt. Sneffels, and their flanks. The lands within the core have retained a high degree of naturalness. The unit roughly parallels NFSR 853 (Camp Bird Road) and NFSR 853.1B (Yankee Boy Basin Road) to the south and east. The eastern boundary is in the vicinity of NFST 207 (Oak Creek Trail) just outside of the town of Ouray. NFSR 853 receives high volumes of vehicular traffic and NFST 207, being close to town, also has a high use pattern. Winter motorized recreation occurs in the Miller Mesa area, which is adjacent to the northeast section of the unit. Within the core of the area a sense of remoteness and solitude can be obtained. The remainder of the area is influenced by sights and sounds from trails and developments on private lands. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions the Coal Creek, Corbett Creek and Cocan Flats cattle allotments fall within the area; however, the majority of this unit does not have any livestock allotments within it. Private in-holdings are located within the unit. A winter ski hut is located within the CRA along NFST 200 (Dallas Trail), which allows mountain bike use. There are five non-motorized trails within the unit. There are no acres of tentatively suitable timber lands. Approximately 1,900 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for four at-risk communities (Camp Bird, Ouray, Sneffels, Thistledown) under the National Fire Plan. Mine reclamation work in the Blain Basin area will likely occur in the future. There are several active unpatented mining claims in the south central edge of this CRA. This CRA has a low potential for oil and gas development. A portion of the Truitt ditch is in the northeastern corner of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Beaver Creek = 1,900	14,400	Additional acreage added that meet roadless characteristics.

Willow Creek, (300 acres)

1. Description

The Willow Creek CRA is approximately eight miles west of Gunnison, in Gunnison County and managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. This small unit is contiguous with the southeastern boundary of the West Elk Wilderness. The western boundary is Willow Creek. The unit is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 10,000’ to 10,800’. The existing vegetation is predominantly forested with aspen, Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA has important wildlife values for elk and deer. Most of this area is identified as severe winter range for elk and deer. Several elk and deer migration corridors also occur within the area. The higher elevations provide mule deer summer range. East Elk CRA is a fall concentration area for black bear, and the entire area is black bear summer range. The CRA has suitable lynx habitat and several lynx have been located here in the recent past.

The CRA is within a 10-mile radius of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (West Elk Wilderness). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Rainbow/Red Creek cattle allotment is in the CRA. Approximately 70 acres in this CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Beaver-Castle = 35,700	Beaver = 3,700 Castle = 9,400 Steuben = 3,500 East Elk = 6,000 Willow Creek = 300 Total = 22,900	Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features.

Wilson, (2,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately eight miles southwest of Telluride, in San Miguel County. It is managed by the Norwood Ranger District. The unit is comprised of four individual segments, all of which adjoin the Lizard Head Wilderness.

1. Segment 1, the eastern most segment, borders NFST 499 (Galloping Goose Trail).
2. Segment 2 the middle segment is adjacent to private lands and NFSR 623 (Sunshine Mesa Road).
3. Segment 3 the northern most segment is bordered by private land along the National Forest boundary.
4. Segment 4 the western most segment is bordered by NFSR 622 (Silver Pick Road) and private lands.

The CRA is within the South – Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,900’–13,700’. Segment 1 is dominated by aspen stands mixed with Engelmann spruce/Subalpine fir and Douglas-fir growth. Segment 2 is also dominated with a mix of aspen and spruce/fir stands, with willow occurring along Bilk Creek. Segment 3 has aspen/spruce/fir. Segment 4 includes aspen and spruce/fir on the northern third and alpine habitat for the remaining area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

All segments provide elk summer range, with a summer concentration area in segments 2 and 4, and a calving area in segment 3. Overall range is provided for mule deer, mountain lion, and black bear. Segment 4 has a portion of the Silver Pick Basin potential conservation area identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program because of the presence of several *Draba* species of grass. The Bilk Basin potential conservation area (PCA) extends into segment 2 on the southern edge. This PCA was identified for willow carr and cliff swallow locations. Segments 2 and 4 are also included in The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Lizard Head conservation site. Segment 1 abuts the San Miguel River PCA and TNC San Miguel River conservation site. Lynx habitat occurs in all forested areas of all segments. Alpine habitat in segment 4 is used by white-tailed ptarmigan. Wolverines have been recorded in this area in the past.

The naturalness of segments 1 and 2 is heavily influenced by private lands and evidence of past mining activities. Segment 2, in particular, does not appear natural. Segment 3 is

relatively flat terrain with open parks, surrounded by Wilson Mesa Homeowners and several large parcels of private land that have recently been subdivided. Segment 4 has some evidence of historic mining yet the sites are located within areas difficult to access. NFST 421 (Wilson Mesa Trail), a single track motorized trail, separates the north and middle segment from the wilderness. NFST 499 (Galloping Goose Trail) is open to mountain bikes and is located along the eastern boundary of the unit. NFSR 623 (Sunshine Mesa Road) is managed as a mountain bike trail at its western terminus. This road/trail separates segment one from segment two. Much of the area is adjacent to home developments and is influenced by State Highway 145 and a motorized trail along segments 2 and 3. Opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude are limited. The proximity to private land developments and trail systems adjacent to segments 1, 2, and 3 limits any sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. However, Segment 4, having steep terrain and dense vegetation, is not as influenced by private land developments and trails and offers more of these attributes. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Pick and Bilk cattle allotments are within this area. There are approximately 30 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Approximately 700 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for four at-risk communities (Ames, Ophir Loop, Sunshine Mesa, and Wilson Mesa) under the National Fire Plan. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 195 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Wilson CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development. The Schmid-Carriere Extension ditch flows through Segment 3.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Sunshine Mesa = 700 Wilson Mesa = 1,200 Total = 1,900	2,600	Boundaries were adjusted along private lands and acreage was added to the inventory that was not a part of the original Sunshine Mesa or Wilson Mesa units.

Windy Point, (12,800 acres)

1. Description

Windy Point CRA is located on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 10 miles north of Nucla and 10 miles east of Uravan in Montrose County. The unit is managed by the Grand Valley and Norwood Ranger Districts. It is just north of the Tabeguache congressionally designated special Area, separated only by the NFSR 600 (47 Road). NFSR 600 also forms a portion of the eastern boundary as does NFSR 402 (Divide Road). To the north, the unit is bounded by NFSR 668 (West Campbell Road) which separates Windy Point from Johnson Basin CRA. The Forest boundary to the west is bordered by developed and roaded BLM land as well as a private land development known as The Meadows. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,500' to 9,000'. Existing

vegetation is dominated by Gambel oak, with pinyon-juniper at lower elevations, and aspen stands mixed with Douglas-fir at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The vegetation provides diversity in habitats used by black bear, turkey, mule deer and elk. Black bear fall concentration areas occur due to Gambel oak. Elk habitats in the area include a winter concentration area, summer concentration area, and calving areas. Bald eagle winter range extends into this CRA from the Dolores River canyon. Sensitive species that rely on pinyon-juniper, Gambel oak mixed with mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and aspen have potential habitat in this area, including the spotted bat, fringed myotis, Lewis’ woodpecker, and the flammulated owl. The area has evidence of previous roading. The roads are currently decommissioned and are revegetating, except for a short administrative route. Away from evidence of roads, the landscape retains a high degree of naturalness. NFSR 402 (Divide Road) is a major road corridor and influences solitude and sense of remoteness. Away from the Divide Road, the area provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The BLM lands below the Forest are heavily roaded due to uranium exploration. The presence of this dense road system lessens the feeling of remoteness.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Club/Campbell and Forty-Seven cattle allotments are within this area. There are three active irrigation ditches with associated access routes (open to full-sized vehicles that service the Meadows Ranch. Mechanical vegetation treatments (roller chopping) for wildlife habitat improvement are planned in this area. Spruce Mountain timber sale sits just outside of the unit. There are less than 100 acres of lands tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. Approximately 800 acres of this CRA is within the community protection zone for one at-risk community (The Meadows) under the National Fire Plan. The area is considered to have a moderate mineral potential and there are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
Johnson Creek = 10,800	Windy Point = 12,800 Johnson Basin = 11,900 Total = 24,700	Constructed roads were removed from the inventory and boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features, resulting in an increased acreage.