

## ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

Barber Basin, (5,500 acres).....	3
Black Mountain, (22,700 acres).....	4
Bunker Basin, (12,800 acres).....	5
Bushy Creek, (11,300 acres).....	6
Chatfield, (11,300 acres).....	7
Chedsey Creek, (1,000 acres) .....	8
Dome, (2,100 acres).....	9
Dome Peak, (35,700 acres) .....	10
Elkhorn, (10,500 acres).....	12
Gold Creek, (3,200 acres) .....	13
Grizzly Helena, (6,100 acres) .....	14
Kettle Lakes, (10,800 acres) .....	15
Little Green Creek, (900 acres).....	16
Long Park, (42,100 acres).....	17
Mad Creek, (24,300 acres).....	19
Morrison Creek, (8,500 acres) .....	20
Never Summer North, (3,700 acres) .....	21
Never Summer South, (7,600 acres) .....	22
Nipple Peak North, (6,300 acres).....	24
Nipple Peak South, (11,900 acres).....	25
Pagoda Peak, (57,700 acres) .....	26
Shield Mountain, (9,400 acres).....	27
South Fork, (4,700 acres).....	28
Sugarloaf North, (15,000 acres).....	29
Sugarloaf South, (23,200 acres).....	31
Troublesome North, (31,700 acres) .....	32
Troublesome South, (47,400 acres) .....	33
Walton Peak, (5,300 acres) .....	34
Whalen Creek, (1,100 acres).....	35

*Routt National Forest Roadless Area Profiles*

## **Barber Basin, (5,500 acres)**

### **1. Description**

Barber Basin Colorado Roadless Area (CRA) is between Kremmling and Steamboat Springs in Grand County, administered by the Yampa Ranger District. It is located east of the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. A portion of the eastern boundary borders public lands (State of Colorado), administered for multiple uses including mineral leasing. There is a private parcel at the center of the CRA. The west boundary parallels NFSR 100 (Buffalo Park Road) and Forest Service lands managed for general forest activities with an emphasis on range, and forest products. Muddy Creek and Franz Creek drain into the Barber Basin, which is on private land. There are no prominent peaks, but there are several small pothole lakes and two waterfalls. Baker Mountain is in the northern portion of the CRA. There are no trails in the area. Public access is mainly by foot and on horseback. This CRA is in the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (Eco-Section M331I). Elevations range from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. It has a good mix of aspen, conifers, and open meadows. Soils are generally fine sandy loam to silt loam derived from sandstone and alluvium, and riparian soil. This CRA has sagebrush shrublands, willow bottoms, and lodgepole pine forests; a large aspen grove is in the northeast and smaller areas of spruce-fir forest in the north. The primary vegetation type is even-aged lodgepole pine forests.

### **2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA is important because it connects adjacent areas for wildlife security and movement. A wide variety of small mammals and birds occupy this tract. Some wildlife uses are as a migration corridor, winter and summer range for mule deer and elk. Calving, fawning, and rearing of young is widespread. Rabbit ears gilia has been found in the CRA. It is suitable habitat for Canada lynx (federally threatened) and wolverine (Forest Service sensitive species), sharp-tailed grouse and greater sage grouse. Important fisheries are above this CRA (Little Green Creek). Adjacent streams may provide opportunities to enhance conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout (Forest Service sensitive species), maintain the genetic diversity, create meta-populations, and expand existing range for their recovery. Recreation opportunities include mountain biking, hunting, and gathering forest products. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Significant cultural resources are associated with the Windy Ridge quarry site. Three hundred acres of the 1,000 acre Windy Ridge Special Interest Area (SIA) is within the CRA. This SIA was designated because of prehistoric values.

### **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There exist 1866, 1891, and ditch bill easements within this CRA. During maintenance of those ditches, easement holders may use historical access routes for motorized vehicles. The east side borders public lands and private in-holdings. There are term grazing permits in the CRA; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is evidence of past logging activity.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
5,500	5,500	No change.

**Black Mountain, (22,700 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Moffat and Routt Counties northeast of Craig, administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The eastern boundary is Forest Service land managed for general forest activities with an emphasis on range and forest products. The remaining boundaries are adjacent to private land intermixed with some BLM parcels. The dominant features are four mountains of volcanic origin: Black Mountain, Mount Welba, Buck Point, and Mount Oliphant are in the northern portion. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 12,000 feet. The terrain, rough with steep slopes, is dissected by several streams. Much of the ground is steeply sloped and rocky, with many rockslides. Soils are generally fine sandy loam to sandy clay loam derived from landslide deposits. The soils are deep and may be unstable when disturbed. A series of pothole lakes is along the northern part of the CRA. The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, with their associated understory vegetation. There are many small meadows with mixed grasses and forbs. Many of the meadows are wet, associated with streams or ponds.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and the following Forest Service Sensitive species: boreal toad, Colorado River cutthroat trout, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. This area provides significant habitat for several species of special concern including nest sites for greater sandhill cranes. Four creeks provide habitat for a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. The CRA also provides habitat for mule deer, elk (Bears Ears herd) and black bear. The CRA is natural appearing landscapes with a high scenic quality. The landscape has a rugged, undeveloped character with pothole lakes in the north. The four peaks are of high scenic quality and offer panoramic views of the surrounding area for long distances. There is evidence of past timber harvest and milling activity. Seismic exploration in the late 1970s left the area bisected by low-level roads. Recreation use is low through the late spring and summer but increases dramatically during the big game hunting seasons. Snowmobile use is substantial through the winter and early spring. The following trails occur in the CRA: NFST 1185, 1185.1A, and 1144.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

The north, west, and south boundaries adjoin mostly private lands, with some BLM land interspersed. There are several term grazing permits with seasonal grazing; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are two special use recreation permits. A permitted special use communication site is near the summit of Black Mountain. There are five water diversion ditches. All have adjudicated 50-foot easements. Motorized or mechanized equipment has been authorized for ditch maintenance and repair. The potential for locatable minerals is low. There is one salable mineral site adjacent to the CRA. The

CRA has high potential for oil and gas. There are oil and gas leases within the CRA and expressions of interest for leasing. An active production well field is on private land adjacent to the west end of the area. There are approximately 19,600 acres tentatively suitable for timber harvest (86% of the total area) and 6,800 acres suitable for timber harvest.

#### **4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
22,800	22,700	Updated mapping.

### **Bunker Basin, (12,800 acres)**

#### **1. Description**

This CRA is in Rio Blanco County southwest of Steamboat Springs, administered by the Yampa Ranger District. The CRA is north of the Flat Tops Wilderness. Its western boundary is County Road 8. The northern boundary is private land intermixed with some BLM parcels. The eastern boundary forms along NFSR 959 road corridor and Forest Service land managed for scenery, and dispersed recreation. National Forest System Trails (NFSTs) 1109, 1119, 1172, and 1200 access the CRA. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 12,000 feet. Steep canyons and flat mesas with open parks characterize this CRA. The rugged terrain has basalt outcrops, barren shale hillsides, and landslides; dissected by many small streams, both perennial and intermittent. Pyramid Peak is on the southern boundary. It slopes primarily northwestward toward the East Fork of the Williams Fork River, dominated by rugged terrain. Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from sandstone, shale, and andesite; these soils have a high erosion hazard when disturbed. Vegetation is primarily spruce/fir with some stands of aspen and lodgepole pine. The CRA has a high proportion of standing dead spruce/fir overstory with an understory of spruce/fir reproduction. Many small wet parks scattered throughout the spruce/fir contain the typical riparian species. The worst infestation in Rio Blanco County of whitetop, a noxious weed, is adjacent to this CRA.

#### **2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CRA is a transition area between the Dunckley Pass Road and the Flat Tops Wilderness providing connectivity from higher elevation summer habitat in the Flattops to lower elevation habitats. It offers excellent summer range for big game and supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as Colorado River cutthroat trout and greater sandhill cranes (species of special concern). Haley Reservoir has a genetically pure population of Colorado River cutthroat trout; Bunker Basin has a population of cutthroat trout. The area also provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion and many other terrestrial species. Generally, the CRA is unmodified by human activity; however, there is some evidence of human activity, primarily due to the occurrence of ditches. Much of the CRA is distinctive landscapes; that are attractive and scenic because of its rugged, undeveloped nature.

This CRA adjoins the Flat Tops Wilderness, a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. Primitive recreation opportunities are high. The CRA offers a sense of remoteness due to several factors: the relatively small number of trails that cross

the CRA, which necessitates cross-country travel, the rugged nature of the terrain itself, and the presence of the adjoining existing wilderness. The CRA is a long, narrow band along the north side of the Flat Tops and is closely bordered by roads on several sides, with the Dunckley Pass Road (Forest Highway 16) receiving heavy traffic. Use on NFST 1119 is heavy during the summer, as is use on NFSR 967 during big game hunting seasons. Winter recreation opportunities include cross-country skiing, ice fishing, sledding, and snowmobiling. The CRA is open to, and used by, snowmobiles; trails are open to, and used by, mountain bikes. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is one recreation special use permit in this CRA and portions of three sheep and goat allotments (which total 6,000 head months of use); permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is at least one known water conveyance system, an easement (Mesa Ditch); motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance and repair. There are at least three water diversion ditches. Haley Reservoir is in the area and motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance and repair. An associated special-use road accesses the dam, but is not open to the public. The northern portion of this CRA has high potential for oil and gas. There is one oil and gas lease partially in the CRA issued prior to January 12, 2001 with a no surface occupancy stipulation for acres within the CRA. There are three other oil and gas leases issued prior to 2001. There is currently no active production on any of these leases.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
12,800	12,800	No change.

**Bushy Creek, (11,300 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is near Lynx Pass in the Gore Range south of Steamboat Springs. It is in Routt County east of Yampa, and administered by the Yampa Ranger District. Public access is partially restricted because of the private ownership along the Morrison Creek Road located on the eastern boundary of the CRA. Access is provided from NFSR 185 (Green Ridge Road) and NFST 1174 (Morrison Divide Trail). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The CRA generally has a northeast aspect with the exception of a bowl draining to the south at the head of Bushy Creek. Most of the CRA has slopes in excess of 20%; the soil is very erosive. The area has rugged, steep topography. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 10,200 feet. Predominant drainages include Beaver Creek, Bushy Creek, Clear Creek, and Muddy Creek. Lodgepole pine, spruce-fir, and aspen stands interspersed with meadows characterize the vegetation. A Thurber fescue-needlegrass plant community dominates the meadow vegetation. The northeast facing slopes are timbered but are too steep for conventional logging. The south and southeast facing slopes contain small aspen stands. Soils are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from granite and shale. They are generally shallow and poorly developed.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: boreal toad, northern goshawk, and northern leopard frog. The CRA provides summer range for mule deer and elk. It is adjacent to Deadman Park, an elk calving area; it also provides essential habitat for a wide variety of species, such as, but not limited to black bear and mountain lion. The CRA contains rugged, steep topography with views of the Morrison Creek drainage and the Eagles Nest Range from the highest points. Muddy Slide is a unique topographic feature that resulted from a very large pre-settlement landslide, which provides a backdrop for a lush meadow. NFST 1174 (Muddy Slide/Morrison Divide Trail) is a motorized route for ATVs and motorcycles and is popular with hikers and mountain bikers. Recreation opportunities in the CRA include hunting, mountain biking, ATV use, and hiking associated mainly with the NFS trail system. Big game hunting, ATV use, and mountain biking along NFST 1174 are the main attractions. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

Private property borders the Morrison Creek Road corridor adjacent to the CRA. There are several cattle and horse allotments and associated range improvements, and two special use recreation permits. The southern and eastern portions of the CRA provide approximately 4,900 acres tentatively suitable for timber harvest. Several cutting units from the Deadman Timber sale occur along the CRA boundary. Approximately 600 acres of this CRA are in management area prescription 7.1, Residential/Forest Interface, and are an identified wildland-urban interface (WUI). Private lands within this CRA continue to be developed and acres of WUI are expected to increase. Approximately 200 acres of this CRA are in the Lower Stagecoach Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Approximately 3,000 acres are in the Middle Stagecoach CWPP and another 8,100 acres are in the Upper Stagecoach CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
11,400	11,300	No change.

**Chatfield, (11,300 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is located in Garfield, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties west of Yampa; and administered through the Yampa Ranger District. The CRA adjoins the Flat Tops Wilderness. The CRA is accessed from NFSR 260 at Sheriff Reservoir and from NFSR 948 along the Bear River corridor. Two trails access the area: NFST 1110 (Heart Lake Trail), a popular motorized trail and NFST 1123 (East Coal Creek Trail). The Bear River Corridor is a popular access route into the Flat Tops Wilderness, summer through fall. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H). Elevations range from 9,844 feet along Mandall Creek to 12,134 feet at Orno Peak. The topography varies from the broad open expanses of the Little Flat Tops to the extremely steep walls dropping from the rim of the Little Flat Tops to the moderately sloping drainages of South Hunt Creek, Watson Creek, and Moody Creek. Soils in

the area are generally loam to clay loam derived from basalt and shale. The CRA supports stands of spruce and subalpine fir with an overstory of beetle-killed spruce and large expanses of aspen. The highest parts have tundra; the area above timberline has sub-alpine willows and grasses.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CRA includes the South Hunt drainage, surrounded on all sides by commercial timber sales and other improvements. During the summers, it is an elk gathering and calving area. The area has excellent deer and elk habitat and supports a large population of big game. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has determined that the Chatfield CRA in the Flat Tops provides essential habitat for wildlife species including black bear, elk, and mule deer. It provides habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: northern goshawk and Colorado cutthroat trout. The area has a low degree of naturalness, due to the number of special uses present and the motorized trail. To the north, there are signs of old timber sale activity around the South Hunt drainage and the Chatfield area, particularly old road networks. This CRA has high recreational use in the summer and fall. Opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate. Recreation opportunities include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA adjoins a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Flat Tops Wilderness).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

Special uses include three reservoirs, one pipeline, one dam, and two water conveyance system easements. For maintenance of the easements, holders may use historical access routes for motorized vehicles. One outfitter has permitted year-round use. There are six grazing allotments (three for sheep and goats, and three for cattle and horses) in the CRA. Permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. This area contains approximately 3,900 acres suitable for timber harvest.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
11,300	11,300	No change.

**Chedsey Creek, (1,000 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Jackson County east of Steamboat Springs and adjacent to the southern end of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness; it is administered by the Parks Ranger District. NFSR 625 and 626 border the south, north, and east sides of the CRA. Old timber haul roads in the northern end extend from NFSR 626.1; they are re-vegetated and closed to motorized vehicles. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,760 to 10,200 feet. The CRA has deep, rolling, forested drainages, which become shallow close to the north end. Streams are both perennial and intermittent. Several rock outcrops are scattered throughout the area. There are opportunities to view vistas overlooking North Park and the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. The CRA contains mostly spruce/fir timber stands. Some



commercial timber harvest has taken place; a small clearcut is located in the area. Regeneration is in excess of 15 feet tall. Soils are generally loamy sands to sandy loam derived from glacial till and have low fertility.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the boreal toad, a Forest Service sensitive species, greater sandhill crane (species of special concern), black bear, elk (summer range), moose, mountain lion, mountain wood frog, mule deer, and white-tailed ptarmigan. The area has a moderate degree of naturalness. Recreation uses include camping, hiking, hunting, and, to a limited extent, horseback riding. Winter recreation opportunities may include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. No trails access the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the southeast border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is one cattle and horse term grazing permit in this CRA; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. Timber harvest occurred on the north end of the CRA in the past 25 years. The Chedsey Creek CRA does not include Forest Service designated Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), but the stakeholder-defined Rainbow Lakes/Westside Area CWPP (2007) defines a 216 square-mile area of mixed private, state, and federal lands that includes approximately 900 acres of the Chedsey Creek CRA. Values at risk include 70+ residences and infrastructure associated with ranching and other business operations in the CWPP area.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
1,000	1,000	No change.

**Dome, (2,100 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is located in Garfield County, southwest of Yampa. This CRA has two contiguous sections. Both the Routt and the White River National Forests administer the CRAs. Only a small portion of the Dome CRA is in the Routt National Forest. The majority of it is in the White River National Forest (Dome Peak CRA – 12,000 acres). The Flat Tops Wilderness bounds the west border of the Dome CRA. Other than access on the north side from NFSR 948 (Bear River Road), no NFSRs access the area. There are no maintained trails. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 12,000 feet. The CRA is at the base of the Flat Top Mountains and has rolling timbered and open sagebrush country. Many perennial and ephemeral streams drain into major lakes and reservoirs. Soils are generally sandy loam to loam derived from basalt. The CRA supports stands of spruce and sub-alpine fir, with an overstory of beetle-killed spruce.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides essential habitat for wildlife species including, but not limited to, black bear, elk, mule deer, and northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species). The CRA offers good views to the west and east. The Flat Top Mountains, Egeria Creek, and Green Ridge are visible from various locations in the CRA. Hunting is the most popular activity. Activities such as fishing, hiking, and horseback riding are possible. There is mountain bike use. Motorized use takes place to the north on NFS lands, to the east on adjacent NFS and private lands, and to the south on NFS lands outside of the portion of the Dome CRA in the White River National Forest. This CRA is in a state defined, source-water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA adjoins a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Flat Tops Wilderness).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is one water conveyance system (Dome Creek Ditch) where the permittee has approved use of motor vehicles to access it for annual inspections, maintenance, and repairs. Range permits include two cattle and horse allotments; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. The Dome CRA and surrounding lands had logging activity before 1997. There are some stands of commercial dead spruce. Approximately 1,300 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
2,100	2,100	No change.

**Dome Peak, (35,700 acres)**

**1. Description**

The CRA is directly adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, in the Park Range north of Steamboat Springs. This CRA is composed of three separate areas is in Routt and Jackson counties from just north of Clark extending toward the Wyoming border. Two small slivers of the CRA totaling 3,356 acres are on the east side of the Continental Divide on the Parks Ranger District. The larger contiguous area of the CRA includes 33,397 acres on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears District. The west border abuts private land along NFSR 129 and Pearl Lake State Park. Roads and trails provide easy access to the CRA. Road access is from NFSR 400 on the south. Western access includes Pearl Lake State Park, NFSR 409, and NFSR 499. Northern access is from NFSR 80. The west side has access from NFSR 431. The south side borders Seedhouse Road, a popular road used to access NFS campgrounds and the Slavonia trailhead. The west border abuts private land along NFSR 129 and Pearl Lake State Park. Roads on the east and west of the CRA have heavy motorized use. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations range from approximately 7,800 feet to 10188 feet at Dome Peak itself, with numerous perennial creeks and several small lakes throughout. The terrain is rolling. The primary attraction is Dome Peak, with its variety of vegetation types from riparian to alpine tundra. Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from granites and gneiss; soils are stable. Vegetation ranges from parks, sagebrush, a mixture of conifer forests, and aspen to above timberline tundra on higher peaks.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

Deer and elk displaced by motorcycle and ATV riders in the surrounding area have moved into the Dome Peak CRA, making it a vital 36,800-acre sanctuary. The CRA has a low degree of naturalness due to impacts from frequent dispersed camping along the transportation corridor. Scenic features are rated high (spectacular views are available, particularly from Farwell Mountain). There is little evidence of vegetation manipulation. The Farwell Mountain Burn in 1910 affected the eastern section of the area extensively. The area from Farwell Mountain to Dome Peak was slow to recover. Several tie hack sites are located in the northern part of the area.

Recreational activities include camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mountain biking. The CRA is popular for four-wheel drives, motorcycles, and ATVs. Winter recreation use is predominantly snowmobiling. Some sections are rugged and remote; others are easily accessed and close to transportation developments. The increasing popularity of motorized recreation and a succession of motorcycle events over the last 20 years have made the areas surrounding this CRA very popular with motorcycle and ATV riders. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the north and northwest border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Portions of the Encampment River, within this CRA, are designated for study as a potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Accordingly, approximately 500 acres in the CRA is within a Forest Plan management area as a potential Wild River designation and approximately 250 acres in a management area as a potential Scenic River designation.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are six special use recreation permits in this area. A permitted special use communication site is near the summit of Farwell Mountain, accessed by motorized vehicles for maintenance and repair. A special use road easement (Drury road) is in this CRA. There are at least two known water conveyance system easements (Trulinger Ditch, Diamond Park Ditch); motorized equipment is authorized for their maintenance and repair. Expansion, maintenance, and repairs are scheduled for the dam at Pearl Lake State Park starting in 2008. The access route to this dam and the dam are in this CRA. There are several term grazing permits within this CRA; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. In 2001, approximately 70 acres were salvaged logged (individual tree marked) as part of the Diamond Salvage Timber Sale. The sale was part of the Routt Divide Blowdown Salvage. Approximately 13,100 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 500 acres are under management area prescription 7.1, Residential/Forest Interface, and are in a WUI in the Hahns Peak area. Private lands in this CRA continue to be developed, so values at risk and WUI acres will likely increase. Approximately 25,600 acres are in the North Routt CWPP and approximately 3,400 acres are in the North End CWPP

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
36,700	35,700	Updated mapping, removed roads.

## **Elkhorn, (10,500 acres)**

### **1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County; administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. County Road 129 borders it on the west and NFSR 550 on the east. It is contiguous with a larger CRA on the Medicine Bow National Forest to the north. The northwest border is adjacent to small BLM parcels. A system trail, NFST 1149, open for motorized trail vehicles fewer than 40 inches in width, runs north south through the eastern part of the area. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 12,000 feet. The terrain is mostly hilly and undulating, with some well-defined ridges and draws. The Middle Fork of the Little Snake River bisects the CRA in a roughly east to west direction. Portions of the Middle Fork of the Little Snake River wind through a rugged, scenic canyon, providing the most outstanding feature of the area. The forest in the CRA is a combination of dense spruce/fir stands, lodgepole pine, and aspen interspersed in mosaics throughout. Non-forested openings are primarily narrow stringer meadows along stream courses. Soils are generally loams to clay loam derived from metamorphic and igneous rocks.

### **2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This CRA provides essential habitat needs for the following Forest Service sensitive species; boreal toad, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, and greater sandhill crane (species of special concern). The area also provides habitat for black bear, elk (portion of the Bears Ears herd), and mule deer. The CRA has a moderate degree of naturalness. The CRA provides a mix of semi-primitive and roaded-natural recreation opportunities. Dispersed recreation includes camping, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, motorized trail use, and snowmobiling. The heaviest use is during hunting season. 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 (Mount Zirkel Wilderness). Approximately 850 acres of the 1,770 acre Little Snake Special Interest Area is within the CRA. The Little Snake was designated for its botanical values. It contains relic stands of ponderosa pine.

### **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

Several parcels of private in-holdings are along the western border. There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is one recreational special use permit. There is at least one known water conveyance system easement (Upper Unknown Creek Ditch); motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance and repair. There are two parcels of patented mining claims in the northeast portion. Temporary roads for timber activities were built on the southern and eastern portions of this CRA prior to the development of the 1997 Forest Plan, therefore, the eastern edge is somewhat fragmented because of past activities. The core of the CRA remains without roads. Approximately 6,000 acres are tentatively suited for timber harvest.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
11,000	10,500	Updated mapping removed roads.

**Gold Creek, (3,200 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is located in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs; administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. Mount Zirkel Wilderness borders the CRA on the east. The remaining boundaries are Forest Service lands managed primarily for backcountry and wild/scenic emphasis. There is easy access provided to the CRA by NFSRs 400 and 443. Three non-motorized trails cross the CRA and lead into the wilderness: NFST 1150 (Gold Creek Trail), NFST 1161 (Gilpin Lake Trail) and NFST 1163 (Three Island Lake Trail). The trailheads off NFSR 400 and 433 along the west border are popular access routes into the wilderness and receive heavy use. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This CRA has hillsides and mountain slopes heading up from Gold Creek and Gilpin Creek into the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Soils are generally sandy loams to loams derived from glacial materials and have a high erosion hazard when disturbed. The vegetation is primarily mature conifer and mature aspen. The CRA provides small buffers to the heavy road traffic on forest roads and trails. These areas are very rugged. The CRA experienced extensive blow downs and fires that will take generations to recover.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA is typical high-elevation lodgepole pine and spruce fir forests that has essential habitat for black bear, boreal toad, elk, lynx, marten, mule deer, moose, mountain lion. The CDOW has confirmed the presence of lynx through radio telemetry data on the CRA. The overall appearance is quite natural. Little evidence remains of past mining activities. The vegetation appears fairly natural and unmanaged. Scenic features of the CRA include the glacially carved valleys of Gold, Gilpin, and Island Creeks and the scenic views available. The three trails in this CRA receive the highest use of any trails in or near the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Recreation activities include camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mountain biking. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the west border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Due to Elk River, approximately 100 acres of the CRA is within Forest Plan management area 3.4 National Rivers System – Scenic Rivers, designated and eligible and the CRA touches on management area 1.5 National Rivers System – Wild Rivers, designated and eligible.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are four recreational special use permits for use from summer through fall. There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for managing the range allotment activities. The CRA is very rugged and there is little opportunity for economic utilization of forest products. Approximately 1,350 acres are in the North Routt CWPP.

#### 4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
3,100	3,200	Updated mapping.

### Grizzly Helena, (6,100 acres)

#### 1. Description

This CRA is in Jackson County between Walden and Steamboat Springs, administered by the Parks Ranger District. The west side of the CRA is the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Several roads on private property provide access to the CRA. Three trails cross the area: NFST 1126 (Grizzly Helena Trail- -motorized), NFST 1130 (Rainbow Lake Trail) and NFST 1131 (Lost Ranger Trail). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,335 to 11,160 feet. Several drainages bisect the CRA in an east-west direction. Many intermittent and perennial streams are present. Little vegetation manipulation is evident. Livingston Park is a scenic area with large meadows and beaver ponds. Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from glacial till and granite; the soils are coarse-textured. Vegetation is mixed conifer and associated understory with some aspen.

#### 2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) as well as essential habitat needs for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, boreal toad, mountain wood frog, and greater sandhill crane (species of special concern). The area is important habitat for ducks and waterfowl and buffleheads. The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat for black bear, moose, mule deer, white-tailed deer, osprey, white-tailed ptarmigan, many passerine birds, small mammals, and raptor species. There is little evidence of vegetation manipulation. Due to heavy vegetation cover throughout most of this area, the opportunity for scenic vistas is minimal. Recreation use includes motorcycle and mountain bike rides along NFST 1126; ATV use has been increasing on this trail. Recreation activities include horseback riding, hiking, hunting, camping, mountain biking, ATV- and motorcycle riding. Winter recreation opportunities include cross-country skiing, ice fishing, sledding, and snowmobiling. A portion of this CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the east border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Approximately 200 acres of the CRA adjacent to the Roaring Fork/Red Canyon Creek are within Forest Plan management area 1.5 National Rivers System – Wild Rivers, designated and eligible.

#### 3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are three special use recreation permits and two term grazing permits. Grazing permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are at least two known water conveyance system easements; motorized equipment is authorized for their maintenance and repair. Approximately 6,300 acres of the CRA are in the Rainbow Lakes/West Side Area CWPP (2007), including 1,518 acres included in the Livingston Park WUI. Fuel treatments are in the early stages of planning near the Rainbow Lakes trailhead and on private land in-holdings near the Pitch Pine trailhead.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
6,400	6,100	Updated mapping.

**Kettle Lakes, (10,800 acres)**

**1. Description**

The majority of this CRA is made up of a long mid-elevation strip through the eastern foothills and mid-slopes of the Park Range, in Jackson County northwest of Walden. The remainder of the CRA is an isolated 249 acre parcel above Big Creek Lakes. Access to the CRA is by NFSTs 1124, 1125, 1125.1A, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1148, 1178, and 1180, including the motorized Grizzly-Helena Trail (1126). The CRA is contiguous with the east boundary of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. One administrative road occurs in the CRA, the Pleasant Valley Ditch headgate access road. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,600 to 10,000 feet. Streams dissect the CRA in an east-west direction characterizing the terrain. The CRA has a unique glacial pothole region and two large natural lakes (Upper and Lower Big Creek Lakes). The area has forested ecosystems in a mid-late seral condition with a few scattered sagebrush/grass openings and aspen communities. The predominant species are lodgepole pine at lower elevations and spruce/fir at higher elevations. Vegetation cover is heavy. Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from glacial till and granite; the soils are coarse-textured.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA provides essential habitat for wildlife species including, but not limited to, bighorn sheep (Forest Service sensitive species), black bear, bufflehead, elk, mule deer, moose, mountain lion, osprey, white-tailed deer, and many passerine bird, small mammal, and raptor species. The presence of trails, ditches, roads, and other human-made features detracts from the sense of naturalness. Human-made features are generally not visible except in the immediate foreground. There is little noticeable vegetation manipulation. Overall, the area does appear quite natural. Approximately 1,850 acres of the 6,400 acre Kettle Lakes Research Natural Area is within the CRA. The RNA encompasses glacial potholes that are geologically and biologically unique and high in scenic value.

The CRA is extensively used for a variety of recreational activities. Many trail-related recreation opportunities in the CRA are access points to the adjacent Mount Zirkel Wilderness. NFST 1126 (Grizzly Helena Trail), which is open to OHVs, runs through portions of the Kettle Lakes and Grizzly Helena CRAs, and borders the wilderness area for several miles. Big Lake Campground is just outside the boundary of the CRA and sits at the edge of Lower Big Lake. Motor boats access Lower Big Creek Lake from the campground. The spring water system for the adjacent Big Creek Lakes Campground is located within the CRA. The campground itself is large (54 units) and receives heavy use. NFST 1126 is open to motorized travel and bisects the area north to south. It is a popular and well-publicized motorized route and is a featured trail on the state OHV map. It has a well-established history of motorized use and receives heavy use through the summer and early fall, especially in conjunction with Big Creek Lakes Campground.

Recently, there has been a considerable investment, on a challenge-cost share basis with various OHV organizations, in the upgrading of this trail. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the east border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness. The South Fork of Big Creek in the CRA is on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is a recreation residence east of Big Creek Lake. There is at least one term grazing permit; the permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is one recreational special use permit. There are at least seven known water conveyance system easements; motorized equipment is authorized for their operation, maintenance, and repair. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS has an easement on NFST 1128.1 to access the Boettcher Snotel (an automated system that collects snow pack and related climatic data) site with motorized vehicles for monitoring, maintenance, and repair. The majority of the CRA has no potential for oil or gas; areas on the eastern edge have low potential. There are no oil or gas leases currently held for lands within the CRA. Approximately 50% of the CRA has a low potential for locatable minerals; 30% has moderate, and 20% has high. There are no salable mineral sites. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 50 acres of mineral interest that underlie Forest Service surface ownership. Approximately 8,600 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 58% of the CRA. There are no designated WUI areas in the CRA, but approximately 6,900 acres of the CRA occur in the North End CWPP and another 4,100 in the Rainbow Lakes/West Side Area CWPP (2007).

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
11,100	10,800	Updated mapping.

**Little Green Creek, (900 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County between Kremmling and Steamboat Springs. The Yampa Ranger District administers the CRA. It is west of NFSR 100 (Buffalo Park road) and adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. Access is limited. It is adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area. A ridge and NFST 1108 (Divide Trail) surround the south, west, and north sides and separate the CRA from the wilderness area. NFST 1108 runs to the west of the CRA. The northern part of the CRA is accessed from NFSR 303 off of U.S Highway 40 west of Rabbit Ears Pass, and by NFST 1108. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. There is a ridge separating the CRA from Sarvis Creek Wilderness and it is in a different watershed. The terrain is steep. Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from granite; soil fertility is low. This CRA has diverse vegetative communities, including willow bottoms, lodgepole, and spruce-fir. The conifer forest is even-aged.



**2. Roadless Characteristics**

According to the CDOW, this CRA provides habitat for an unaltered pure (A-strain) conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. Adjacent streams may provide opportunities to enhance conservation populations, maintain genetic diversity, create meta-populations, and expand existing range for Colorado River cutthroat trout for their recovery. Five hundred indigenous adult Colorado River cutthroat trout (Forest Service sensitive species) were recorded in the two-mile-long Little Green Creek in the Little Green Creek area. The CDOW has determined that this CRA just east of the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area provides habitat needs for black bear, elk, mule deer, northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species), peregrine falcon, and is suitable habitat for lynx (federally threatened) and wolverine (Forest Service sensitive species).

This CRA contains the headwaters of a watershed, steep slopes, and heavy timber. The uppermost reaches of this drainage (Little Green Creek) have had extensive manipulation from timber harvesting and historic road construction. As a result, the degree of naturalness is low. Scenic features rate low due to steep terrain, dense forest cover, and extensive evidence of past logging activity. Recreation use on NFST 1108 includes mountain biking, hiking, and hunting. Opportunities for primitive recreation rate low because of the slope, vegetation, and the lack of a trail system. Opportunities for solitude are low primarily because of the moderate to high use on NFST 1108 between the CRA and wilderness area from summer through fall. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is approximately 800 acres are suitable for timber harvest.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
800	900	Updated mapping.

**Long Park, (42,100 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Grand, Jackson, and Routt counties east of Steamboat Springs, on the Hahns Peak and Parks Ranger Districts. It is located north of Rabbit Ears Pass on U.S Highway 40. It is a large roadless area located between the Mount Zirkel and Sarvis Creek wilderness areas. The U.S. Highway 40 corridor splits this CRA from the Walton Peak CRA. Its southwestern boundary adjoins private land parcels, the remaining boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for scenery, dispersed recreation and general forest activities. It is accessed by NFSRs 296, 299, 305, 305A, 306, and 306A and NFSTs 1101, 1102, and 1134. A system of snowmobile trails runs through the CRA, and motorized routes to Base Camp Trailhead and Fish Creek Reservoir create cherry stems within the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 10,570 feet. The CRA slopes westward to the lower areas of the Yampa River Valley and mid to high elevation parks and lakes dominate the CRA. There is Krummholz forest. The terrain on the east side and in the interior is rolling hills, dissected by several streams. The terrain along the western

edge is more rugged and steeply sloping and includes several steep canyons with scenic waterfalls. Vegetation is primarily scrub oak and aspen at lower elevations and willow-dominated parks and riparian areas, shallow lakes, and spruce/fir forests at higher elevations. There is some tundra.

## **2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides essential habitat needs for wildlife species including, but not limited to, black bear, cutthroat trout, elk, mule deer, northern goshawk, and cutthroat trout. Much of the CRA appears undisturbed, with little evidence of modification. The central portion is relatively unmodified and appears rather natural. Many developments and intrusions on the fringes of the CRA detract from the natural appearance. The rolling terrain and open park areas characteristic of the area prevent effective topographic or vegetative screening of the high-use recreational routes within the CRA.

Snowfall accumulations are among the highest in the state, attracting winter recreationists. The area receives heavy recreational use because of the variety of opportunities offered near the town of Steamboat Springs. The high level of use limits the sense of solitude within the CRA. NFST 1102 (Fish Creek Falls Trail), is designated as a National Recreation Trail. NFST 1101 and 1134 are open to motorized travel and receive substantial use. Much of the CRA is open to snowmobilers and a system of snowmobile trails runs through the area. Use also takes place off designated routes. Snowmobilers more heavily use the eastern portion. All trails in the area are open to bicycle use. NFST 1102 receives heavy bike use. NFST 1032 (Mountain View Trail) connects Long Lake and Mount Werner and is designed specifically for mountain bike users. This CRA is in 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 (Mount Zirkel Wilderness).

## **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. The eight authorized recreation special use permits include a guided snowmobile tour, a snowcat-served guided backcountry ski operation, and a machine-groomed Nordic ski trail. There are two municipal water supply reservoirs (Long Lake and Fish Creek reservoirs) and a recreation reservoir in this CRA. The Fish Creek Reservoir expanded in 2007. The watershed supply for the city of Steamboat Springs is in this CRA.

Motor vehicles are approved for use in the reservoirs for annual inspections, maintenance, and repairs. In 2007, the Mount Werner Water District constructed a water storage tank and access route; and their permit includes the use of motorized equipment to access this site for maintenance and repairs.

Western Area Power Authority and Yampa Valley Electric Association are permitted for power lines that cross the northern end of the CRA, and are approved to use motor vehicles to access them for annual inspections, maintenance, and repairs. Mountain Parks Electric is permitted for power lines that cross the southern end of the area, and are approved to use motor vehicles to access them for annual inspections, maintenance and repairs. Radio relay stations are located near the summit of Mount Werner and near Buffalo Pass. Both permits authorize the use of motor vehicles to access these sites for operation, maintenance, and repairs. An Environmental

Protection Agency air quality monitoring site near Buffalo Pass is accessed weekly with a motorized vehicle.

The majority of the CRA has no potential for oil or gas; the far southeast corner has low potential. Potential for locatable minerals is low. One salable mineral site is just to the north of the CRA. Approximately 300 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 24,200 acres is tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 54% of the CRA. Approximately 160 acres are in management area prescription 7.1, Residential/Forest Interface, and are an identified WUI on the Steamboat side. A fuels reduction project (Steamboat Front Fuels Project) in the early stages of development includes parts of this CRA. Approximately 4,100 acres in Jackson County are in the Rainbow Lakes/West Side Area CWPP (2007).

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
44,000	42,100	Updated mapping for Steamboat Ski area boundary adjustment, removed roads and a utility line.

**Mad Creek, (24,300 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County northwest of Steamboat Springs, administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is near the town of Steamboat Springs and accessed by NFSRs 60.2A, 314, and NFSTs 1100, 1118, 1166, 1171, 1206. The Mad Creek CRA extends into the Elk and Yampa river valleys. It is adjacent and down slope of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, sharing more than twenty miles of boundary with the Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I. Elevations range from 7,200 to 10,000 feet. Rocky Peak is in the center of the CRA. The terrain is roughly broken and dissected by several streams. It contains several isolated rocky peaks and some large open meadows. Vegetation includes extensive hillsides of oakbrush on the southern fringes and lower elevations. Aspen pockets are common. Generally, the CRA is forested with mixed conifer, spruce, and fir at higher elevations. Soils are generally sandy loam to loam derived from glacial materials. Elk Park is a degraded riparian area because of past uses combined with low soil productivity.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

Key elk winter range is on the lower elevation, oak-covered hillsides. Most of the CRA is undisturbed and remote. According to the CDOW, the lower elevations of this CRA have more than 6,000 acres of big game winter range that are essential to the elk herd in Game Management Unit 14. There is a high degree of naturalness. Evidence of past activity is present but generally unobtrusive, unnoticed by the majority of visitors. There are outstanding views of the Yampa valley and the Elk River valley. Large portions of this CRA are undisturbed by humans. Other sections have evidence of past developments and historic motorized use. Most of the area is open to snowmobilers. All trails are open to bicycle travel; at least three routes get heavy use. The proximity of developed and urban areas limits the sense of remoteness and primitive adventure. However, opportunities for solitude are high as the diversity of dissected topography easily

screens people from one another in short distances. Most of the area has dense vegetation, which also screens people from one another. The peaks and ridge-tops offer a sense of solitude. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Part of the Soda Creek headwaters is in this CRA. Mad Creek and Big Creek cross the CRA from their headwaters in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. All of these creeks flow to the Yampa River. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Mount Zirkel Wilderness).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are three recreation special use permits and at least one known water conveyance system easement (motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance and repair). Yampa Valley Electric Association and U.S. West Communications hold utility easements through the area. Motor vehicles are approved to access utility lines for annual inspections, maintenance, and repairs. A land exchange in 2006 and 2007 resulted in acres removed from the CRA, as they became privately owned. Potential for locatable minerals is moderate on approximately 50% of the CRA and low for the remaining 50%. There are no salable mineral sites and no potential for oil or gas. Approximately 13,600 acres are tentatively suitable land for timber harvest. Approximately 8,800 acres of this CRA are in the North Routt CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
25,100	24,300	Updated mapping removed roads.

**Morrison Creek, (8,500 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt and Grand counties, north of Lynx Pass and surrounding the southern end of the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, administered by the Yampa Ranger District. It can be accessed from several places along County Road 16 (Morrison Creek Road), from NFSR 100 (Buffalo Park road), and NFSR 263 from the Lynx Pass area. NFST 1108 (Routt Divide Trail) crosses the northern section, and numerous user-created trails cross the CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The CRA includes parts of the Service Creek, Silver Creek, High Rock Creek, and Morrison Creek drainages. Many of the streams draining this area are intermittent. Elevations range from 8,300 feet to 10,500 feet. The topography is rugged and steep. Views of Morrison Creek, the Flat Tops Wilderness, and the Eagles Nest Range are possible from the highest points. Vegetation is small meadows and aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce-fir. There is some spruce-fir forest in the highest elevation area. Soils are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from granite; soil fertility is low. Soil depths and stability are highly variable.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that wildlife species in this CRA include, but are not limited to, black bear, boreal toad, mountain lion, mule deer, northern goshawk, and peregrine falcon.

The CRA has a high degree of naturalness and provides excellent elk habitat. Recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and the potential for increased use of NFST 1108 for mountain biking. A moderate amount of hunters use the largest portion of this CRA, bounded on the south by the CR 16 and on the north by the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. There is currently little mountain bike use. It is anticipated, however, that NFST 1108 along the eastern border will continue to show increased use, particularly now that NFST 1106 (Silver Creek Trail) is closed to mechanized vehicles. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

The Morrison Creek area has a domestic water supply special use permit. This CRA includes portions of four range allotments; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is one outfitter guide has a recreation special use permit. This CRA has approximately 2,500 acres of land suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 900 acres are in management area prescription, 7.1 Residential/Forest Interface and are in the Upper Stagecoach WUI. Private lands in this CRA continue to be developed and actual WUI acres expect to increase. This area contains one of three highest priority fuel reduction treatments proposed on the Routt National Forest, with about 1,000 acres of treatment anticipated in the CRA in the next three years. Approximately 6,300 acres of this CRA are in Upper Stagecoach CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
8,400	8,500	Updated mapping.

**Never Summer North, (3,700 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Jackson County southeast of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. A small portion in the northeast corner adjoins the Rocky Mountain National Park. The Colorado State Forest borders the CRA on the north. Access is by NFSTs 1138 and 1141. Access in the extreme northeast portion is accessed by developed and maintained trails originating in Colorado State Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,600 feet to 12,940 feet at Mt. Richthofen. This remote area is similar in character to the Never Summer South CRA. Timbered mountainside slopes encompass portions of the foothills on the west side of the Never Summer Range near the southeast corner of North Park. Steep slopes and high ridges with a few rocky points and talus slopes characterize most of the area. The upper portions of most drainages have evident avalanche paths. Soils are generally loam and sandy clay loam derived from glacial till and granites. Vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine stands at lower elevations, giving way to spruce/fir and alpine vegetation communities at higher elevations.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides essential habitat needs for black bear, elk, lynx (federally threatened), mule deer, moose, mountain lion, white-tailed ptarmigan (Forest

Service sensitive species), boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species), Northern river otter and mountain wood frog (Forest Service sensitive species). Elk and moose gather here in the summer; bighorn sheep (Forest Service sensitive species) winter in this CRA.

The area is a gateway to the existing wilderness and offers excellent opportunities for viewing scenery. The CRA has distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area. Opportunities for solitude rate high primarily because of the low level of current use, the rugged terrain, and dense vegetation screening people from one another over short distances. Human activity from past logging and mining is evident and has modified the CRA’s appearance, however, much of the area, has had a chance to recover and appears more natural. The trails in the CRA are open to bicycle use. The CRA is used primarily for dispersed recreation, especially big game hunting. Currently, recreation use is low. Big game hunting attracts much of the current use. The CRA is open to snowmobilers. It is adjacent to two popular trails that are marked and maintained by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA adjoins (Rocky Mountain National Park) and is within a 10-mile radius (Rawah Wilderness) of a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is at least one term grazing permit; the permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles range management activities. The potential for oil and gas is high; however currently there are no leases. Potential for locatable minerals is medium. There are no salable mineral sites. Approximately two acres are suitable for timber harvest and 1,800 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 46% of the CRA. Much of the CRA has slopes over 40% and not currently included in the Forest’s timber base. Approximately 300 acres of this CRA are in the Gould CWPP but are not designated WUI.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
3,700	3,700	No change.

**Never Summer South, (7,600 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Jackson County, southeast of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. The Never Summer Wilderness bounds it on the east. NFS lands with roads border the northern, western, and southern perimeters. NFS Road 758 borders the southwest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through the CRA. NFSTs 1136, 1141, 1143, and 1186 provide access. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,160 at the Illinois River to 12,440 feet. Steep slopes and high ridges characterize the eastern part. Lower elevations have many talus slopes; there are numerous avalanche paths in the upper portions of most drainages. Soils are generally loam and clay loam derived from volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The western areas are lower, more rolling terrain. Included is the low-lying Horse Park area, an old, filled-in lake that supports a unique vegetative

community. Vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine stands at lower elevations giving way to spruce/fir at higher elevations.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). There is documentation of lynx presence in the CRA through radio telemetry data on NFS lands and Colorado State Forest lands immediately north of the CRA. The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides essential habitat needs for black bear, boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species), elk, moose, mountain lion, mule deer, white-tailed ptarmigan (Forest Service sensitive species), and mountain wood frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

Opportunities for solitude rate high due to the low level of current use, the rugged terrain, and dense vegetation that screens people over short distances. Past activities have modified much of the area. The CRA has distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views. Opportunities for primitive recreation rate as moderate, limited by the relatively small size, offset by the presence of the adjacent wilderness. All trails are open to bicycle use. The CRA is adjacent to a popular trail that is marked and maintained by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The CRA offers a high degree of challenge. The CRA is open to snowmobilers and is used primarily for dispersed recreation, especially big game hunting. Currently, recreation use is low. NFST 1186 is open to motorized travel as a designated ATV route, and portions of it bisect this CRA. The Illinois River is on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality due to total recoverable iron. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). 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 (Rawah Wilderness and the Rocky Mountain National Park).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is at least one term grazing permit; the permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are two special use permits for recreation. The potential for oil and gas is high; however, no leases are currently held. The potential for locatable minerals is medium; there are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 900 acres are suitable for timber harvest and 4,700 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 60% of the CRA. Much of the CRA has slopes over 40% and is not currently included in the Forest’s timber base. Some ranches and recreational development are located west of the CRA but no designated WUI has been mapped in this area. Approximately 800 acres are in the stakeholder defined Rand CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
7,600	7,600	No change.

## **Nipple Peak North, (6,300 acres)**

### **1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs, administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H). Elevations range from 7,000 feet to 10,428 feet. The generally remote ridge top topography with limited access characterizes the CRA. Topographic features include Diamond Peak, Lopez Creek, and the park lands to the west in California and Slater Parks. Several tributaries of the Little Snake River have their headwaters in this CRA. The Little Snake River flows to the Yampa River. Vegetation is aspen on the lower slopes with pockets of spruce/fir and stands of mature lodgepole pine at middle elevations. Upper elevations have lodgepole pine, spruce, alpine fir, and open mountain meadows and ponds. Highest elevations give way to subalpine conditions with small openings, rock outcroppings, and patches of fir and spruce.

### **2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat needs for bald eagle, black bear, elk (summer range; migration corridors summer concentration; production area), great blue heron (nesting, overall range), mountain lion, mule deer (migration; overall and summer range), and osprey (nesting, foraging). Opportunities for solitude are moderate because of the ridge-top topography. Extensive logging activity has taken place in the Mill Creek drainage to the south and the Lopez and Willow Creek drainages to the north. Roaded activity has taken place on all four sides of this CRA. Use is moderate during the summer and high during the fall hunting season. This CRA is popular with hunters and hikers. Limited hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and primitive camping are the key activities. Winter recreation is limited to occasional cross-country skiing. There are no Forest Service maintained trails. 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 (Mount Zirkel Wilderness). The California Pak Special Interest Area is partially within the CRA (approximately 575 acres of the 22,970 acre SIA). The SIA is designated due to its geological, zoological, and scenic values.

### **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are two special use permits for recreation. There are also several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. This area has approximately 3,900 acres of land suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 45 acres are in the North Routt WUI. Approximately 4,700 acres are in the North Routt CWPP.

### **4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
6,300	6,300	No change.



## **Nipple Peak South, (11,900 acres)**

### **1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County northwest of Steamboat Springs and administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. No NFSTs access the CRA. Adjacent landowners tightly control access along south and east sides. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 12,000 feet. This CRA has several isolated rocky peaks and large open meadows. The terrain is roughly broken and dissected by several streams. Upper slopes are steep; lower slopes are gentler. The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, along with their associated understory vegetation. Open meadows have mixed grasses and forbs. Some of the meadows are wet, associated with streams and/or ponds. Soils are generally sandy loam to loams derived from sandstones and igneous rocks.

### **2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat needs for bald eagle, black bear, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (Forest Service sensitive species FSS), greater sandhill crane, mountain lion, and mule deer. It has a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout (Forest Service sensitive species). The CRA supports a summer elk population of 1,400; it is also part of an elk migration corridors. Prominent peaks of high scenic quality provide panoramic views of the surrounding area. Evidence of past activity is generally unobtrusive. Opportunities for solitude are high due to the diverse dissected topography and dense vegetation that screens people from one another in short distances. The isolated peaks and ridge-tops give a sense of solitude.

This CRA is managed for non-motorized, semi-primitive recreation. It is open to snowmobilers. A heavily used snowmobile route runs along the northern edge; the CRA is adjacent to a system of snowmobile trails. These trails get moderate to heavy use; there is also use off designated routes. Most use is for dispersed recreation (big game hunting with some snowmobile use through the winter). The lack of public access and the CRAs relatively small size limit the recreation use of the area. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). 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 (Mount Zirkel Wilderness). Approximately 2,450 acres of the 22,970 acre California Park SIA is within the CRA. California Park was designated due to its geological, zoological, and scenic values.

### **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There is one term grazing permit; the permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. A radio relay station is near the summit of Sand Mountain with motor vehicle access for operations, inspections, maintenance, and repairs. There was a Chevron oil well pad and its associated high standard access road; the well facilities have been removed, and the pad and road obliterated and rehabilitated. Potential for oil and gas is medium. There are currently no expressions of interest for leasing. Potential for locatable minerals is low; there are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 70 acres are suitable for timber harvest; 11,130 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 1,150 acres are in management

area prescription 7.1, Residential/Forest Interface and the North Routt WUI. Approximately 10,700 acres are in the North Routt CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
13,800	11,900	Updated GIS mapping and removed roads which split off a section of the roadless area.

**Pagoda Peak, (57,700 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties south of Craig. The Yampa Ranger District administers the Routt portion of the area. The Blanco Ranger District administers the White River portion. NFSR open to motorized travel access the area; on the Routt NFSR 970 and on the White River NFSRs 256 and 299. Routt NFSTs 1112, 1113, 1114, 1114.1A, 1115, 1193, 1195, 1196, 1196.1A, 1209, and 1210 and White River NFSTs 1800, 1801, 1804, 1805, and 1810 access the CRA. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H). Elevations range from approximately 8,000 feet to 11,000 feet. Varied topography characterizes the CRA. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages, and ranges in character from flat, open parks made up of a mixture of grass/forbs and shrubs and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges. Extensive stands of aspen and its associated understory vegetation cover the CRA. Upper reaches of drainages are covered with stands of spruce/fir (much of it beetle-killed), with an under-story of spruce/fir regeneration. The CRA has ponds and developed springs.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as Canada lynx (threatened), Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as Colorado River cutthroat trout, flammulated owl, northern goshawk, boreal toad, greater sage grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, and wolverine. The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat needs for black bear, elk, mountain lion, and mule deer. Three drainages in this CRA contribute over 20% of the overall elk reproduction for the White River Elk Herd (the largest elk herd in the world).The CRA is the primary production area for Game Management Unit 12. Colorado River cutthroat trout are naturally reproducing on a large scale throughout this CRA. The Forest Service, in cooperation with the CDOW and Trout Unlimited, has completed intensive fishery and wildlife habitat improvement work in the Lost Park area.

Generally, the CRA appears natural and unmodified by human activity. The CRA is so large and receives so little use, outside of the hunting seasons, that it offers an exceptional sense of isolation and solitude. Evidence of human activity is scarce and widely dispersed. The CRA retains a wild character and is one of the largest CRAs. Cyclone Park, located in the eastern portion of the CRA, is one of a few large, subalpine meadow areas accessible only by foot or horseback on the west side of the Routt National Forest. There is a unique island fault near Pagoda Creek in the north-central part of the area. The primitive nature of activities may be constrained by the number of adjacent roads and amount of available public access in the

southern portion of the area. Dispersed recreation is the primary use, with that use heavy during big game hunting seasons. In the spring, summer, and fall many hiking and horseback enthusiasts visit the CRA. Rio Blanco County Road 8 provides easy access and viewing for those who remain in their vehicles. NFSTs 1804 and 1810 are open to motorized travel for part of the year. The CRA is open to, and used considerably by, snowmobilers, particularly the Indian Run Snowmobile Trail on the northern end and two loop trails on the southern end. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). 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 (Flat Tops Wilderness).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

A permitted special use communication site lies in the CRA; motorized equipment are authorized for its maintenance and repair. There is at least one known water conveyance system easement (Sullivan Ditch); motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance and repair. There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. Potential for locatable minerals is low; there are no salable mineral sites. Potential for oil and gas in the northern end is high with no potential in the southern end. There is currently one oil and gas lease partially in the CRA issued prior to January 12, 2001. The Scott Mill Oil Field, an active production field, is adjacent to this CRA. Approximately 42,100 acres in the Routt portion are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. Summer homes are being developed on the private lands to the north of the CRA. This is a significant change from the historical agricultural orientation of the East Fork Valley.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
57,800	57,700	Updated mapping.

**Shield Mountain, (9,400 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs, administered by the Hahns Peak–Bears Ears Ranger District. NFST 1147 and the ridge between Nipple Peak and Shield Mountain border it on the north and west by private land, and on the east. Burton Creek and NFST 1192 define the south border, and the drainage divide between Slater Creek and Lopez Creek. Two miles of the west boundary are adjacent to BLM land. The south and east sides are adjacent to other NFS lands administered through the Hahns Peak Ranger District. A small section along the southeast side borders the Nipple Peak North CRA. Access to the CRA is by NFSR 154 on the west. The NFSTs 1147 and 1192, traverse through the CRA. The CRA is within the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Eco-Section (M3331H) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. The CRA generally slopes to the west and drains into the South Fork of the Little Snake River. Elevations vary from 7,400 feet at Bedrock Creek near the northern boundary to 10,324 feet on the north slope of Nipple Peak, which is just southeast of the CRA. Shield Mountain and Nipple Peak are the topographic high points. Aspen is the primary vegetation type, with some lodgepole pine and open parks at lower

elevations. Higher elevations on northern aspects are stocked with over-mature spruce and lodgepole pine. Extreme elevations are generally rocky outcrops.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat for many wildlife species including black bear, boreal toad, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, elk (part of the Bears Ears herd), greater sandhill crane, lynx, and mule deer. The CRA is generally remote and provides a sense of primitiveness. It has a low degree of naturalness because of past management activities (including grazing). Shield Mountain and parts of Nipple Peak are the main scenic features. A unique formation of a mature conifer stand surrounded by aspen is on the top of Shield Mountain.

Recreation use in the summer is low, primarily dispersed camping; use in the fall hunting season is high. Biking, hiking, horseback riding, and primitive camping are the main recreation activities. Bikers and ATVs use NFST 1192 for forest access. Little winter recreation use takes place (lack of winter access). The large elk herd attracts hunting and wildlife viewing. Motorized trails bisect this CRA. It is adjacent to other NFS areas with a network of roads and motorized trails. This CRA is in a state defined, source-water assessment area (municipal water supply). 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 (Mount Zirkel Wilderness). Approximately 250 acres of the 22,970 acre California Park SIA is within the CRA. California Park was designated due to its geological, zoological, and scenic values.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are two range allotments and numerous range improvements; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are two special use permits for recreation. There is at least one known diversion ditch (Jolly Ditch) and motorized equipment is authorized for use for its maintenance and repair. Approximately 100 acres is tentatively suitable for timber harvest.

**4. Alternative Designations**

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
10,200	9,400	Updated GIS mapping and removed roads which split off a section of the roadless area.

**South Fork, (4,700 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County east of Glen Eden and adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. It is bordered on the north by NFSRs 400 and 443 (popular access routes to Forest Service campgrounds) and on the east by the wilderness. The southern border follows a drainage divide. There is a poorly defined western border bisecting a series of small lakes, which drain into the South Fork of the Elk River. There are two non-motorized trails crossing the CRA, NFST 1101.1A (South Fork Trail) and NFST 100 (Swamp Park Trail). Road access adjacent to the CRA includes NFSRs 400 and 443 along the northern border. The CRA is within the Mount

Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Bisecting the CRA is the South Fork of the Elk River, recommended for designation as a wild and scenic river. Gentle topography characterize the CRA with small parks, many beaver ponds and riparian areas. Soils are generally sandy loam to loam derived from granites and gneiss. There are aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce fir forests, some small parks, many open meadows and riparian areas, beaver ponds.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CRA provides buffers to the heavy road traffic on Forest roads and trails. The CDOW has determined that this CRA’s high-elevation lodgepole pine and spruce fir forests have habitat for many wildlife species, including, but not limited to, black bear, boreal toad, elk, lynx, moose, mountain lion, mule deer, and marten. The CDOW has confirmed the presence of lynx through radio telemetry data. The South Fork of the Elk River and the view of the crest line of the Zirkels are very scenic.

There is little evidence of human presence. Logging has taken place to the north, west, and south of the CRA. This CRA has a high level of opportunity for outdoor education and environmental study, especially related to the unique pothole and beaver lakes in the western portion and the riparian area near the South Fork of the Elk River. Recreation opportunities include camping, cross-country skiing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and heavy use by mountain bikers. The South Fork trail is popular for cross-country skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. The South Fork of the Elk River receives moderate fishing pressure in the summer and fall, and kayaking use during the spring. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act (Mount Zirkel Wilderness). Approximately 1,800 acres of the CRA are in Forest Plan management area 1.5 National River System – Wild Rivers, designated and eligible and approximately 200 acres of the CRA are in Forest Plan management area 3.4 National River System – Scenic Rivers, designated and eligible due to the Elk River.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are four recreation special use permits and one term grazing permit. The range permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. Approximately 2,000 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 4,600 acres are in the North Routt CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
4,700	4,700	No change.

**Sugarloaf North, (15,000 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt County, northeast of Craig, administered by the Hahns Peak/ Bears Ears Ranger District. On the borders are NFSRs 110, 116, 118, 150, and 159, and access is provided by NFST 1144. The CRA is approximately 21 miles west of the Mount Zirkel

Wilderness and 40 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness. NFSR 110 separates the CRA from the Black Mountain CRA. The Forest boundary is the north border, California Park is on the east, and on the south and west border is NFSRs 110 and 116. California Park is a very large natural mountain park. This CRA is in the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The Elkhead Mountains border the CRA, with the drainage flowing to the north. The terrain is roughly broken with steep slopes and dissected by several streams. There are many smaller parks and meadows. The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, and their associated understory vegetation. Mixed grass and forbs make up the numerous meadows, including California Park. Many of the meadows are wet, associated with streams or ponds.

## **2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including black bear, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, elk (part of the Bears Ear herd), and mule deer. It includes nesting habitat for greater sandhill crane and waters that provide for conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. A seasonal road closure is in affect on NFSR 150 to protect sandhill cranes during the critical nesting and rearing periods. The overall appearance of the CRA is natural and evidence of past activity is generally unobtrusive. Recreation use is generally low but high during big game hunting seasons. Opportunities for solitude are high; a diversity of highly dissected topography easily screens people from one another for short distances. Most of the CRA has dense vegetation screening people from one another; because of the rugged terrain, people tend to concentrate on existing trails. Visitors can travel only short distances in any direction before they encounter an improved road or other area where human activity has altered the landscape. There are some excellent opportunities for backpacking, big game hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding, but are somewhat confined by the CRA's size, layout, and the number and proximity of access roads. The portion of NFST 1144 that crosses the CRA is open to motorized travel. The trail receives low use during the summer but used extensively by ATVs during the big game hunting seasons. The CRA is open to snowmobilers, is adjacent to portions of a system of snowmobile trails the Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club marks, and maintains. Snowmobile use appears to be increasing in the area. Currently, snowmobile use is low to moderate through the winter and spring, heaviest in the California Park area. NFST 1144 is open to bicycle travel; currently use is low. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

## **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are also two special use permits for recreation. Private land is north of the CRA. The majority of the CRA has high potential for oil and gas; there are two small areas of low potential in the southeast portion. There are no current leases. Potential for locatable minerals is low. There are three salable mineral sites in the CRA. Approximately 10,900 acres are suitable for timber harvest; the tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 82% of the CRA.

**4. Alternative Designations**

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
15,100	15,000	Updated mapping.

**Sugarloaf South, (23,200 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Moffat and Routt Counties northeast of Craig, administered by the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District. The west and north sides are surrounded by NFS lands. NFSR 116 is on the north border, NFSR 110 is on the west. The CRA is adjacent to private property, BLM, and state lands along the southern boundary. The southern border has one public access road, leading to the Forest boundary. The eastern extent is adjacent to state and private lands in California Park. NFSTs 1144, 1145, and 1146 access the CRA. This CRA is in the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section (M331H) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. It is south of the Elkhead Mountains and Bears Ears Peaks and has several topographic features (such as Hole-in-the-Wall Creek, Slide Mountain, Baldy Peak, and Big Canyon). The CRA slopes and drains south from the Elkhead Mountains. Elevations range from 7,000 feet to 10,000 feet. Open parks of sagebrush and rabbit brush interspersed with aspen and small pockets of spruce characterize the CRA. Streams, small lakes, and beaver ponds dot the area.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including black bear, boreal toad, conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, elk (part of the Bears Ear herd), greater sage grouse, greater sandhill crane, and mule deer. Due to the semi-remoteness of the area, large herds of elk use the area for calving and summer range.

The southern edge of the Elkhead Mountains and Bears Ears Peaks as well as Hole-in-the-Wall Creek, Big Canyon, Baldy Peak, and Slide Mountain, define the area. Three abandoned or closed routes are visible, but the interior is remote from human-made features. There has been limited timber harvest activity, but there can be seen the effects of past domestic livestock grazing. Bears Ears Peaks is a twin-peaked mountain of volcanic origin; it rises to 10,000 feet above the surrounding parks and forests. Educational opportunities are rated moderate because of the numerous beaver ponds and lush under-story in the aspen stands. Access is by horseback or hiking. A scramble trail leads to the top of Bears Ears Peaks. Primary uses are hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and remote camping. Seasonal hikers use two hiking trails that traverse the CRA. The heaviest use is by hunters seeking a remote hunting experience. There is no winter access.

First Creek and Elkhead Creek in the Sugarloaf South CRA are on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality due to E. coli. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The Black Mountain SIA is within the CRA. Black Mountain was designated due to its geological, zoological, and scenic values.

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are four special use permits for recreation. There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is an approved mineral materials site on the southwest slope of Bears Ears Peaks; with a special use permit, the public can remove gravel from this site. Approximately 1,400 acres are tentatively suited for timber harvest.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
23,300	23,200	Updated mapping.

**Troublesome North, (31,700 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Grand and Jackson counties south of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. It is approximately 20 miles southeast of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, 15 miles west of the Never Summer Wilderness, and 150 miles west of Denver. NFSRs 103, 700, 715, 730 border the CRA and access provided by NFSRs 104, 700.2E, 705, and 996 and NFST 1135. BLM lands border the CRA on the south the CRA, including an 8,250-acre BLM roadless area. Private lands and BLM lands border the CRA on the north. The east and west sides adjoin other NFS land (administered by Parks Ranger District). The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail bisects the area, and NFSR 104 is one of the proposed routes for the trail.

This CRA is in the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. The CRA is unique as it is one contiguous area, which goes from lower elevation sagebrush land to above timberline, (elevations range from 8,500 to 11,820 feet). It includes much of Arapaho Ridge, an imposing ridge that juts out from the Continental Divide into North Park, and the Rabbit Ears Range. The terrain consists of gentle, rolling foothills in the lower elevations giving way to steep drainages and high, prominent ridges and peaks at higher elevations. Vegetation is diverse, including mixed sagebrush/grass in the foothills areas and low elevation parks; aspen stands, lodgepole pine stands, and spruce/fir forests at higher elevations; and tundra above timberline.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat needs for wildlife species, including black bear, boreal toad, elk, lynx, mountain wood frog, moose, mountain lion, mountain wood frog, mule deer, and white-tailed ptarmigan. The CDOW has confirmed the presence of lynx through radio telemetry data. Much of the CRA is undisturbed, with very little evidence of modification. The CRA has distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area from the high points, such as Arapaho Ridge. Dispersed recreation use is light. The CRA is open to snowmobilers, however, the use is usually light and mainly along the NFSR 104 corridor. NFST 1135 is open to mountain bikes, and this use is low. Opportunities for solitude are high because of the light recreational use, highly dissected terrain, and dense vegetation providing screening. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).



**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is a permitted special use communication site along Rabbit Ears Divide, adjacent to NFSR 104. A second permitted special use communication site, Arapaho Ridge Snotel, (an automated system that collects snow pack and related climatic data) is in the western portion of this CRA. Access to both sites for monitoring, maintenance, and repair is by motorized vehicles. There are three special use permits for recreation. Potential for oil and gas on the CRA is high. There are no expressions of interest for leasing. Potential for locatable minerals is moderate for approximately 90% of the CRA and low for the remaining 10%. There are no salable mineral sites in the CRA itself, but one is just to the west of the area. Approximately 12,100 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 25,500 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The Little Haystack Timber Sale (in 1990) included part of the CRA. Also, completed in the past 15 years, was the Grassy Run Timber Sale. No designated WUI has been mapped in this area but approximately 4,700 acres of the CRA are in the Rand CWPP and another 10,800 acres are in the proposed Wade-Tamlin-Spicer CWPP.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
32,800	31,700	Updated mapping removed roads.

**Troublesome South, (47,400 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Grand and Jackson counties northeast of Kremmling, administered by the Parks Ranger District. It is about 130 miles west of Denver. It is bordered by NFSRs 105, 106, 112, 125, and 730 and NFST 27, and on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest by NFSR 108. Access is by NFSTs 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 91. The CRA is approximately 30 miles southeast of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and 10 miles west of the Never Summer Wilderness. BLM lands, including a BLM roadless area border the CRA on the west. NFS lands border the CRA on the north, east, and south. The eastern border is contiguous with the Troublesome CRA (13,800 acres) on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. This CRA includes a portion of the Rabbit Ears Range and the Troublesome Creek watershed to the south. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,120 to 12,290 feet at Parkview Mountain. The terrain is highly dissected by numerous streams, both perennial and intermittent. The northern end of the area reaches the Continental Divide where it follows the peaks of the Rabbit Ears Range. This large CRA has very diverse and complex vegetation communities, including willow bottoms, grasslands, sagebrush hillsides, aspen, lodgepole, spruce/fir, and alpine.

**2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA is suitable potential habitat for lynx and wolverine. It provides a very important landscape function by connecting adjacent areas for wildlife security and movement. Wildlife uses include a migration corridor for mule deer and elk, deer and elk winter range (2,700 acres) and summer range. Calving, fawning and rearing of young are common here. Large riparian areas dominated by willow and beaver colonies bisect

this CRA. Moose are common year-round residents; this is a core area for the Unit 18 population. All of the creeks and streams have fisheries including populations of brook, rainbow, and German brown trout.

There is some evidence of past activities but it is not highly degraded. Present are distinctive landscapes and spectacular views of the surrounding area. NFST 58 is non-motorized, except for a special use permit allowing motorized vehicle use to access private land. Road 105 creates a cherry stem to access private inholdings along the East Fork of Troublesome Creek but is not open to motorized public use. Dispersed recreation is the primary use of the CRA. Use is heaviest during the big game hunting seasons. There are opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and mountain biking. The CRA is open to snowmobilers; however, use is light. All trails are open to bicycles use; use is low and confined primarily to the eastern half of the CRA. The CRA is generally unmodified and evidence of human activity is minimal; these factors combine to provide a high degree of solitude. A portion of this CRA is in a state defined, source-water assessment area (municipal water supply).

**3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are three special use permits for recreation. There is a permitted special use communication site near the summit of Parkview Mountain; accessed by motorized vehicles for operation, maintenance, and repair. There is a special use trail easement (NFST 58). The private landowner has authorization to access their property with motorized vehicles. Potential for oil and gas is high. Currently, there are no expressions of interest for leasing lands. Potential for locatable minerals is moderate on approximately 50% of the CRA and low on the remaining 50%. There are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 400 acres are suitable for timber harvest; 37,800 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The CRA has areas of concern identified by stakeholders in preliminary CWPPs, and the southwest portion of the CRA is included in the Troublesome WUI. Plans may recommend fuels treatments along the NFS boundary. Pine beetle kill is widespread in the CRA and is a concern in the Bighorn Park subdivision west of the CRA.

**4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
47,000	47,400	Updated mapping.

**Walton Peak, (5,300 acres)**

**1. Description**

This CRA is in Routt and Grand counties west of Rabbit Ears Pass and south of U.S. 40, administered by the Hahn’s Peak Ranger District. U.S. Highway 40 borders the CRA on the west, on the north by U.S. 40 and NFSR 251, on the east by NFSR 303, and on the south by Harrison Creek and the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. The southern border is contiguous with the Sarvis Creek Wilderness area. The CRA is easily accessed from the Meadows and Walton Creek Campgrounds and U.S. 40. Three NFSRs, 302, 251, and 303 provide access. There are no trails in this CRA. This CRA is in the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Eco-Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. Elevations range from

5,575 to 14,410 feet. The Walton Peak area slopes downward into Walton and Harrison Creeks. Meadow, riparian, and willow habitat dominate the creek habitats. Conifer forest covers the peak. Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from andesite and other volcanic deposits. The soils have a low water-holding capacity due to the amount of coarse fragments.

## **2. Roadless Characteristics**

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat needs for wildlife species, including black bear, cutthroat trout (Forest Service sensitive species), elk, mule deer, northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species), and a variety of passerine bird and small mammal species. Views of and noise from Highway 40 and the signs of past logging activities in the extreme eastern section negate the natural appearance. Recreation activities include hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. Limited motorized use occurs in the eastern portion. Opportunities for solitude are very low due to the proximity of U.S. 40, nearby campgrounds, and adjacent forest roads. A moderate amount of dispersed camping and hiking occurs here in the summer months. Fall hunting, winter snowmobile use, and cross-country use is heavy. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

## **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

There are five special use permits for recreation in the CRA. There is a permitted special use communication site on Walton Peak bordering the CRA. There are two term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. Approximately 2,400 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Currently there is no designated WUI; however, development of private lands adjacent to the CRA is increasing. A fuels reduction project (Steamboat Front Fuels Project) that includes parts of this CRA is in the early stages of development.

## **4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
5,300	5,300	No change.

## **Whalen Creek, (1,100 acres)**

### **1. Description**

This CRA is in Jackson County southwest of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. It is contiguous with and down slope from the east side of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. To the north and east are other NFS lands. NFSRs 615, 627, and 630 border the CRA as well as NFST 1126. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. Elevations range from 9,080 to 10,775 feet.

Rolling, vegetated drainages and steep rocky ridges characterize the terrain. Several rock cliff bands are scattered throughout the CRA. Several small streams, both perennial and intermittent, dissect the area, and there are a few small lakes and ponds. Soils are generally loamy sands to sandy loam derived from glacial till; these soils have low fertility. Mixed conifers with associated understory species, and aspen dominate the vegetation.

## **2. Roadless Characteristics**

This CRA provides important habitat for ducks and other waterfowl and is important elk summer range. The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat for wildlife species including black bear, boreal toad, elk, greater sandhill crane, lynx, moose, mountain lion, mountain wood frog, mule deer, osprey, and white-tailed ptarmigan.

The CRA has high scenic qualities with opportunities for vistas overlooking North Park and views of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. The CRA's small size limits opportunities for primitive recreation but this is mitigated by its contiguity with the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the east border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

## **3. Current Conditions and Uses**

Dispersed recreation and seasonal grazing is the primary use of the CRA. Range permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for range allotment management activities. There is no potential for oil and gas. Currently there are no leases. Potential for locatable minerals is medium. There are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 850 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. Unlike most of the Parks Ranger District CRAs, Whalen Creek does not include any identified acres in CWPPs and has no identified WUI values.

## **4. Alternative Designations**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
1,100	1,100	No change.