

WILDERNESS AVAILABILITY

“The determination of availability of the area for wilderness is conditioned by the value of and need for the wilderness resource compared to the value of and need for other resources” (FSH1909.12, 70.2).

To evaluate AVAILABILITY of capable lands for wilderness, the following questions were considered:

Value = Recreation Opportunities: Motorized, Mechanized and/or Winter Motorized

Where authorized motorized/mechanized trails currently exist within roadless areas consider the following analysis for summer travel routes. Evaluate winter motorized use against an area (versus a route), where use is not restricted to designated routes.

- Is the route(s) or area currently experiencing high levels of use?
- Is the route(s) or area important to a larger recreational travel system?
- Is it unfeasible to relocate the route in such a manner as to mimic the current recreation experience?
- Does the route(s) or area draw visitors on a regional or national scale?
- Is the route or area of such great value to its users that it would be difficult for the agency to close that route to motorized/mechanized use?

Value = Fuels management

Where roadless areas are adjacent to non-federal lands consider the following questions:

- Does the current condition class indicate a need for fuels management?
- Are there high valued developments adjacent to the area and could the pattern of fire threaten those developments?

Value = Water

- Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?

Value = Wildlife

- Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?

Value = Minerals

- Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?

Value = Public Access

- Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with Wilderness designation?

Value = Timber, Minerals, Winter Sports

- Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals or developed recreation sites including winter sports?

Value = Pre-existing rights

- Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with Wilderness designation?

WILDERNESS NEED

Lands identified as Available in the potential wilderness evaluation (Roadless Inventory) were further evaluated against need criteria outlined in FSH Interim Directives 1909.12, 72.32

Need Factors Described:

Factor 1. Location and size – the unit is evaluated on proximity to existing wilderness areas. Additions to existing wilderness, or lands beyond a two hour drive of an existing wilderness will score a 1, other lands score 0.

Factor 2. Visitor pressure – based on the amount of visitor use existing wilderness lands are experiencing and the influence of the available lands to relieve visitor pressures. High visitor use scores a 1, areas adjacent to wilderness lands experiencing low visitor use, scores 0.

Factor 3. Non wilderness lands – based on the potential of the area to provide a meaningful non-wilderness recreation opportunity. Areas that provide opportunities for unconfined non-wilderness recreation score 0, lands that do not, by themselves, provide for unconfined non-wilderness recreation score 1.

Factor 4. Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. All units scored 0 for this factor.

Factor 5. Provide for the preservation of identifiable landform and ecosystems – evaluation is based on adding diversity to wilderness lands within ecological regions. Lands that offer elevations and ecosystems not highly represented score 1, lands providing more of the same score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – based on the level of public controversy. Areas with conflicting support or no support score 0, areas with positive support and no meaningful opposition score 1.

UNIT EVALUATIONS

Unit 7 – Elk Park:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is within 25 miles of two wilderness areas, West Elk and Raggeds. The unit is adjacent to a semi primitive motorized area, the Flattops. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area in combination with the adjacent Flattops area provides for non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species: Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, they are not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystem within the current wilderness area. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this unit to become wilderness. The environmental community supports this unit in combination with the adjacent Flattop unit for wilderness, however, the Flattop unit did not meet criteria as being Available due to existing motorized recreation opportunities. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Not recommended for wilderness*

Unit 14 – Munsey-Erickson:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Raggeds wilderness. Although small the addition will improve boundary management. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area, by itself, would not offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, it is too small. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystem within the current wilderness area. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public support – There is moderate support for this unit to be designated as wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for Wilderness*

Unit 18 – Beaver Creek:

Factor 1: Location and size – this small unit is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area, by itself, would not offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, it is too small. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 19 – Soap Creek:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is small and adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area, by itself, would not offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, it is too small. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 20 – Curecanti:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area could offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 21 – Mendicant:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities for such things as winter snowmobiling. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent.. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this unit to become wilderness, and some opposition. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Not recommended for wilderness*

Unit 25 – Poverty Gulch:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Raggeds Wilderness. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area, by itself, would not offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, it is too small. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 29 – Whetstone:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is less than one mile from the West Elk Wilderness, within 5 miles of the Raggeds Wilderness, within 10 miles of the Maroon Bells Wilderness and within 15 miles of the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area by offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, and provides trail use for mountain bikes. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area would contribute to wilderness lands within the 9000'-12,000' elevation range within Ecoregion M331H. Currently the majority of wilderness lands within M331H on the GMUG are above 12,000' (79%). Score 1.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and minor opposition. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 31 – Italian Mountain:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within 5 miles of the Maroon Bells and Collegiate Peaks Wilderness areas. It is within 15 miles of Fossil Ridge, Mount Massive and Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the Maroon Bells Wilderness is experiencing high visitor volume, however, many of the other surrounding wilderness lands are not. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, there is a lightly used motorized trail within the unit. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area is within the M331I ecoregion. The majority of the wilderness lands on the GMUG and within the State of Colorado fall within this eco-region. Much of this unit is above 12,000' and would be a duplication of the ecosystems and landforms currently represented within Eco-region M331I. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this unit to become wilderness and some opposition. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Not recommended for wilderness*

Unit 33 – Granite Basin:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within ten miles of the Maroon Bells, Collegiate Peaks and West Elk Wilderness areas. It is within 15 miles of Fossil Ridge, and Raggeds Wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, portions of the Maroon Bells Wilderness experiences high visitor volume, however, many of the other surrounding wilderness lands do not. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, mountain bike trails are within the unit. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area would contribute to wilderness lands within the 9000'-12,000' elevation range within Eco-region M331H. Currently the majority of wilderness lands within M331H on the GMUG are above 12,000' (79%). Score 1.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and some opposition. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 38 – Union Park:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Fossil Ridge Wilderness and would improve boundary management. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area, by itself, would not offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, it is too small. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 39 – Canyon Creek:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within ten miles of the Fossil Ridge Wilderness and within 20 miles of the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness area. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – the surrounding wilderness lands are currently not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – the area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, motorized trails are within the unit and winter motorized recreation encroach on the unit. Score 0

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area would contribute to wilderness lands within the 9000'-12,000' elevation range within Ecoregion M331H. Currently

the majority of wilderness lands within M331H on the GMUG are above 12,000' (79%). Score 1.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Not recommended for wilderness*

Unit 42 – Sawtooth:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within ten miles of the Powderhorn Wilderness and within 15 miles of the La Garita Wilderness area. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – the surrounding wilderness lands are currently not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 0

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species: Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, they are not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area would contribute to wilderness lands within the 9000'-12,000' elevation range within Ecoregion M331G. Currently the majority of wilderness lands (99%) within M331G on the GMUG are above 12,000' elevation. Score 1.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is strong support for this unit to become wilderness and some opposition from motorized users. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 43 – Cochetopa Creek:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the LaGarita Wilderness. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area by itself would not offer non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, it is too small. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this unit to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 45 – Carson:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within ten miles of four wilderness areas, Uncompahgre, Powderhorn, La Garita and Weminuche. Score 0.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, some snowmobiling originating from the Rio Grande National Forest occurs in this area. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species: Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, they are not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems currently represented within wilderness in Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is no support from Hinsdale County Commissioners for additional wilderness within Hinsdale County. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Not recommended for wilderness*

Unit 46 – Cataract

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within ten miles of four wilderness areas, Uncompahgre, Powderhorn, La Garita and Weminuche. This area is adjacent to the Handies Peak BLM WSA and adjacent to a roadless unit on the Rio Grande National Forest. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – currently, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities, some snowmobiling, originating from the Rio Grande National Forest, occurs in this area. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented by existing wilderness areas within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is no support from Hinsdale County Commissioners for additional wilderness within Hinsdale County, however this area was nominated for wilderness as a part of the DeGette Wilderness proposal in 2003. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 48 – Matterhorn:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness area. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –with the exception of the trails accessing the fourteen-thousand foot peaks, the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area alone is too small to offer substantial non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystem represented by wilderness areas within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is no support from Hinsdale County Commissioners for additional wilderness within Hinsdale County. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 49 – Failes Creek/Soldier Creek:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness area. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area alone is too small to offer substantial non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystem represented in wilderness areas within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is no limited support for this area to become wilderness and strong opposition from the motorized community. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 50 – Little Cimarron:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness area. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –the surrounding wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area alone is too small to offer substantial non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystem within the wilderness areas currently within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this area to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 51 – Turret Ridge:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness area. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –the surrounding wilderness lands are not currently experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented in wilderness areas within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is limited support for this area to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 54 – Whitehouse Mountain:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit adjoins the Mt Sneffels Wilderness area at Mt. Sneffels Peak. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –the adjacent Mt Sneffels Peak receives heavy visitor use, the remaining wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 0.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – the area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented in wilderness areas within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is no strong local support for this area to become wilderness and no noted opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 55 – Last Dollar/Sheep Creek:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit adjoins the Mt Sneffels Wilderness area along the south perimeters. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –the Mt Sneffels Peak receives heavy visitor use, the remaining wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – the area alone is too small to offer substantial non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species: Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, they are not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area duplicates existing landform and ecosystem within the wilderness areas currently within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is moderate support for this area to become wilderness and no notable opposition. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 57 – Wilson:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit adjoins the Lizard Head Wilderness area along the northwest perimeter. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure –Wilson Peak receives heavy visitor use, the remaining wilderness lands are not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area is too small to offer substantial non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation. Score 1.

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species – Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, their survival is not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – the area duplicates existing landform and ecosystems represented in wilderness areas within Ecoregion M331G. Score 0.

Factor 6. Public Support – there is no noted opposition to this area becoming wilderness. Score 1.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness*

Unit 64 – Unaweep:

Factor 1: Location and size – this unit is located within 30 miles of the Black Ridge Canyon Wilderness and the Tabeguache Area. Score 1.

Factor 2: Visitor pressure – the surrounding wilderness lands within Ecoegion 341B are currently not experiencing high visitor use. Score 0.

Factor 3: Non wilderness lands – this area offers non-wilderness opportunities for unconfined recreation opportunities. Score 0

Factor 4: Provide a sanctuary for biotic species: Sensitive and threatened species within the GMUG can be supported within a variety of landscapes, they are not wilderness dependent. Score 0.

Factor 5. Landform and ecosystems – this area would contribute to wilderness lands within the 6000'-9,000' elevation range within Ecoregion 341B. The majority of wilderness lands (69%) represented within Ecoregion 341B on the GMUG is above 9000' elevation. Score 1.

Factor 6. Public Support – the area has mixed support. In 2001 the Mesa County Board of Commissioners did not support wilderness designation when the area was submitted as part of the DeGette Wilderness proposal, however, the area has high level of support from local environmental organizations. Score 0.

Evaluation: *Recommended for wilderness.*