

PROFILES OF ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS AREAS

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ARAPAHO-ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST

Bard Creek (23,000 acres)

1. Description

The Bard Creek Colorado Roadless Area (CRA) is located in Clear Creek County about 45 miles west of the Denver metropolitan area. It is located within the Clear Creek Ranger District. The eastern boundary of the area is approximately three miles southwest of Empire. It is bounded by Interstate 70 to the south, U.S. 40 to the north, and extends west to the Continental Divide. Bard Creek runs within a wide and deep valley through the center of the eastern portion of the CRA. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,800 feet to 13,600 feet above sea level. A majority of the area is alpine tundra (above approximately 11,600 feet). Ancient bristlecone pine forests are scattered over upper timbered extremes of Mount Parnassus, Bard Peak, and Silver Plume Mountain. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests dominate at the lower elevations, and rocky, steep and talus slopes occur in the higher elevations. The remainder of the area is forested with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen stands. Alpine peaks, glacial cirques, and alpine lakes highlight the area. Potential old growth forest consists primarily of acres of spruce and fir, along with some lodgepole pine. There are ten 13,000-foot peaks within the area. Yearly precipitation varies from 15 to 40 inches. The area embodies many active avalanche paths, mostly consisting of thick stands of young aspen. The area has active mountain pine beetles.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The broad elevation range supports montane as well as tundra species. Dense stands of lodgepole pine and spruce fir are the primary vegetation types. It provides important habitat to over 100 passerine bird species, over 30 small mammals and numerous raptors. Local deer and elk populations maintain a year-round residence in the higher elevations, weather permitting. A mountain goat movement corridor occurs from Mt. Evans to Byers Peak. Goats may be found along the Continental Divide within the west end of the CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) include bighorn sheep, deer, elk, Golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, boreal toad, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. This CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as the Canada lynx (threatened) and the greenback cutthroat trout (threatened). It also includes Forest Service Sensitive species such as bighorn sheep, pine marten, pygmy shrew, wolverine, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, white-tailed ptarmigan, boreal toad, Northern leopard frog, and wood frog. Denning and foraging habitat for Canada lynx can be found in the Clear Creek and Williams Fork Lynx Analysis Units (LAU). Dense stands of lodgepole pine and spruce/fir provide habitat for snowshoe hare, the primary prey of the lynx. Year-round habitat and critical movement corridors/linkage for lynx occur in the Berthoud Pass area and on the north side of the Eisenhower Tunnel land bridge, northeast through Herman Gulch. A portion of the Berthoud Pass Lynx Linkage Area falls within this CRA. Although boreal toads have not been found in Bard Creek itself, the roadless area contains several breeding populations along the West Fork of Clear Creek and also along Clear Creek on the I-70 corridor. It is possible that additional populations exist. A chytrid fungus that attacks amphibians occurs in some of the breeding sites.

Over a 10 year period, Bard Creek had been stocked with greenback cutthroat trout. However, efforts did not result in a self-sustaining population likely due to low stream temperature and reduced habitat. Other area lakes and streams within the CRA have naturally reproducing populations of brook trout. According to the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), one of Colorado's larger bighorn sheep herds (the Georgetown herd) inhabits the alpine and timberline area, with seasonal migrations to lower elevations. It is not uncommon for bighorn sheep to migrate from the tundra around Republican and Democrat mountains, down toward Bakerville and Silver Plume within a few days. Bard Creek is entirely within the overall range for bighorn sheep and contains a substantial amount of winter range and winter concentration areas. The CRA provides contiguous and undisturbed habitat important to bighorn use and survival. This CRA is part of CDOW bighorn research study along the Clear Creek corridor. The Georgetown herd is a source for sheep transplants. Bighorn sheep hunting in the area is popular, as the herd is managed for both archery and rifle opportunity.

The Bard Creek CRA lies within the upper portions of three 6th-level watersheds: Clear Creek, West Fork of Clear Creek, and Bard Creek. Impacts in these areas are limited. The lower portions of these drainages have been impacted by historic and present mining activity. Over half of this CRA is rated high for the hazard of erosion and mass wasting. The Bard Creek CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. Air quality in the southern end of the CRA may be compromised due to its close proximity to Interstate 70.

Generally, this roadless area remains in pristine condition. Approximately 23,000 acres are intact and appear natural. This area includes expansive, unmodified alpine and subalpine settings. Key attractions of the CRA include many 13,000 foot peaks, alpine lakes, and opportunities to view the Continental Divide. A small portion of the area is visible from I-70 and U.S. 40, and scenic views of the area are a major attraction.

In general, motorized access within the CRA is limited and the area is generally managed for backcountry hunting for big game species. The CRA includes three non-motorized trails totaling 20 miles, including the Continental Divide National Scenic trail. Several Forest Service System roads generally skirt the area and some provide access to trailheads. Multiple trails meander across the CRA. The following access points are located in the southern portion of the CRA along Interstate 70: NFSR 534.1 provides access to NFST 61.1 (Silver Plum Mountain Trail); NFSR 184.1 (Herman Gulch PA) provides access to NFST 98.1 (Herman Gulch Trail) and NFST 95.1 (Watrous Gulch Trail); NFSR 193.1 (Dry Gulch) provides access to NFST 63.1 (Dry Gulch Trail). Access to the eastern portion, along US Highway 40 and west of Empire Colorado includes: NFSR 778.1 (Democrat MT) and NFSR 778.1A (Queen City Spur) terminating at the CRA boundary; NFSR 777.1 (Bard Creek) provides access to NFST 83.1 (Bard Creek Trail); NFSR 777.2A, 777.3A, and 777.3A (Lincoln Mountain West) terminate at the CRA boundary; and NFSR 182.1, 182.1B, 182.1C (Empire SH) provide access to private land (Empire Summer Homes) and extends along the CRA boundary. Access to the northern portion of the area along US Highway 40 and heading towards Berthoud Pass include: NFSR 704.1 (Lock Lomond); NFSR 182.1; 182.1A (Clear Creek PG) provides access to Clear Creek Picnic Grounds, extending along the CRA boundary; NFSR 180.1 (Hoop Creek) provides access to private land (Hoop Creek Summer Homes) and extends along the CRA boundary; NFSR 146.1 (Woods Creek) and NFSR 144.2A (Butler Gulch EA) provide access to NFST 84.1 (Hassel Lake Trail); NFSR 141.1 (Jones Pass) and NFST 144.2B (Butcher Gulch Trail) also provide access to the northern portion of this area.

The vast majority of the roadless area receives very little human use. Winter recreation use is very low due to limited access, steep terrain, and risk of avalanches. The Continental Divide National Scenic trail and NFST 98 (Herman Gulch Trail) receive moderate to high use during the summer and moderate use in the winter from snowshoers and backcountry skiers. Other non-motorized trails that receive either winter or summer use include NFST 83 (Bard Creek), 95 (Watrous Gulch), 216 (Dry Gulch), and 092 (Butler Gulch Trail). Most of the Butler Gulch trail is on private land; however, approximately 1 mile of trail is on Forest. Snowmobiles access a portion of the area west of Butler Gulch from County Road 202 (Jones Pass Road). Other recreational uses include hunting, fishing, and mountain biking. The Denver Water Departments Gumlick tunnel runs underneath the northwest portion of the CRA. This tunnel transports Williams Fork water to the Moffat Collection system and can release water into West Fork of Clear Creek. There are currently no water developments in this CRA. However, there are four potential areas for water storage reservoirs. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

The majority of cultural resource sites within this CRA are affiliated with American Indian open camp sites, scatters of lithic tools and artifacts. The largest of these known sites consists of an open camp site that was revisited and repopulated by different cultures from roughly 10,000 years ago until approximately 500 years ago (Paleo Indian periods). No consultation has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest. It is not known if the site is still visited by Native Americans.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Non-federal land ownership and land rights include small patented claims, totaling 73 acres, in the central portion of the CRA. A 1,000-acre parcel owned by Amax, Inc. borders a portion of the northern boundary of the CRA and includes the reclaimed operation of Urad Mine and current operations of Henderson Mine. The eastern boundary of the CRA is bordered in part by patented mining claims. The northern portions of Loveland Ski area's permit area are adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the CRA, and expanded operations are possible within this permitted area. Some outfitter guide permits have been authorized for backpacking trips and hikes near the Continental Divide on developed trails and hunting for elk, sheep and goats. There is a special use application waiting approval for winter snowcat use, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and ski mountaineering operations south of the Jones Pass road, which includes a portion of the CRA. The area lies with the Lincoln sheep and goat allotment. Permitted historical stocking rates were for 1,000 head from July 11 to September 30 of each year. However, the allotment has been vacant since 1975. There are no current or anticipated future livestock operations. This CRA contains about 6,800 acres (27%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production.

This area borders the outer edge of the Colorado Mineral Belt and is assessed as having high to medium potential for locatable minerals. Prospecting and limited mining occurred approximately 100 years ago in the basins of Butler Gulch, Ruby Creek, and Woods Creek. Remains of these operations include prospect pits and waste piles. Some exploratory work was conducted in Woods Creek between 1980 and 1985. The CRA has patented mining claims totaling 57 acres. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 270 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service ownership within this CRA. This roadless area contains wildland-urban interface (WUI) for the following communities, subdivisions and/or infrastructure: Berthoud Falls, Henderson Mine, Eisenhower Tunnel, Bakerville, Silver Plume, Big Bend Picnic ground, Mizpah Campground, Clear Creek Picnic ground, Loveland Ski Area, I-70 Corridor, Herman Gulch Recreation Residence Group, Georgetown, Empire, Berthoud Pass Trailhead, and Herman Gulch Trailhead.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
25,400	23,000	Acres removed for Loveland ski area, within permitted and allocated to ski area management within Forest Plan.

Byers Peak (10,200 acres)

1. Description

Byers Peak CRA is located in Grand County, southeast of Kremmling, about 50 air miles west of Denver. This CRA is adjacent to the Fraser Experimental Forest. On the north, south, and west sides are other National Forest System land administered by the Sulphur Ranger District. This roadless area is adjacent to both the Byers Peak Wilderness (8,095 acres) and Vasquez Peak Wilderness (12,300 acres). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000 feet to 11,000 feet above sea level. The terrain of this area is characterized by broad, steep slopes, with high ridges and peaks. It is dissected by several perennial streams. The area is dominated by spruce/fir forests, with some tundra occurring above timberline. Lodgepole pine, spruce–fir, aspen, and montane willow are the primary vegetation types. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 18 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA forms part of a large unfragmented and undisturbed area important for maintaining the ecological health of the habitat used by many terrestrial, aquatic and avian species. The elevation range supports subalpine as well as alpine species. Moose are common in the drainages throughout this area as are black bear, mountain goat, and mountain lion. This CRA includes important summer habitat for black bear, elk, and mule deer. The CRA provides year-round habitat, winter habitat, and movement corridors for mountain goats moving from Mt Evans to Byers Peak. Management Indicator Species (MIS) include deer, elk, Golden-crowned kinglet, Wilson's warbler, hairy woodpecker, boreal toad, warbling vireo, brook trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout are present in the area. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed species, Canada lynx (T). Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as the pine marten, pygmy shrew, wolverine, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, white-tailed ptarmigan, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, and the Colorado River cutthroat trout. Denning and foraging habitat for Canada lynx can be found in the Clear Creek, Fraser, and Williams Fork Lynx Analysis units (LAU). Dense stands of lodgepole pine and spruce/fir provide habitat for snowshoe hare, the primary prey of the lynx. Kinney Creek provides habitat for native cutthroat trout and brook trout. McQueary Creek, and its headwaters McQueary Lake, in the Upper Williams Fork, provides habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. McQueary Lake also has historically provided habitat for boreal toads. Therefore, the CRA has the potential to include boreal toad habitat in the upper Williams Fork Valley and adjacent to the Henderson Mill. Other streams in the CRA have self-sustaining populations of brook trout. This CRA includes important summer habitat for pine marten and provides connectivity from higher elevation to lower elevation habitats. The Colorado Natural Heritage Database (CNHP) documents historical sightings of wolverine and current sightings of Sandhill cranes in the area.

The Byers Peak CRA falls within five 6th level watersheds: NF Williams Fork, Darling Creek, Williams Fork (South Fork to Ute Creek) composite, Kinney Creek, and Keyser Creek. All have been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The results of this epidemic may affect the streams and watersheds with the potential for increased levels of flow and sediment. The watersheds in the upper end of the CRA, adjacent to the Byers Peak wilderness, are more pristine than the lower ends, which have been heavily managed for timber harvest and have high road densities. Most of this CRA has high erosion hazard rating. There is potential for mass wasting on slopes over 70%. The Byers Peak CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I (functional) Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas (at-risk). The area appears undisturbed and possesses a high degree of naturalness. The scenic features of the area are outstanding, notably the alpine areas with high peaks, valleys, lakes, and remarkable views of surrounding areas.

The area offers a variety of primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities in largely unspoiled settings, much of it above timberline. Recreation use is generally low to moderate. Opportunities for solitude are high. The CRA is bordered by NFSRs 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 144, 144.1A, and 144.1B and NFST 14 on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. It is accessed by NFSTs 15, 17, 18, 22, and 23. A small amount of motorcycle and ATV use occurs along Keyser Ridge and Kinney Creek and near the trailheads to Lake Evelyn. All motorized trails are located outside the CRA. Much of the area is currently open to snowmobiles, however, use is low. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). One cultural site may potentially be a sacred site. No consultation has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are some water diversion facilities by Denver Water that are visible from the southern 1/3 of the area. In addition, at least one of the Denver Water's expansion proposals includes additional diversion structures in Darling Creek and a road between Kinney Creek and Darling Creek. It is thought that Denver Water owns most of the rights for the Darling Creek and Williams Fork drainages. A portion of the Henderson Georgetown 15 kilovolt Transmission line is within the CRA. There are no range allotments in this roadless area.

The CRA has no potential for oil and gas development and there are no current leases. Approximately 95% of the area has low potential for locatable minerals, and the remaining 5% has medium potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production, however, there are approximately 6,600 acres classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. This roadless area contains no WUI with communities and subdivisions, but does contain WUI for the following major values at risk: Henderson to Georgetown Transmission Line (Public Service Co of Colorado), Henderson Mill, Henderson Conveyor Belt, West portal for the Henderson Conveyor Belt tunnel, and the Denver Water Williams Fork Collection System.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
10,100	10,200	Difference in acreage is a result of more accurate mapping.

Cache la Poudre Adjacent Area (3,200 acres)

1. Description

The Cache la Poudre Adjacent Area CRA includes seven small units ranging from about 100 acres to 450 acres. All areas are contiguous to the Cache la Poudre Wilderness. The CRA is located in Larimer County approximately twenty miles west of Fort Collins, Colorado. The Cache la Poudre Adjacent Area CRA provides access to the Cache la Poudre River (a designated Wild and Scenic River) in the southwest parcel. It is administered by the Estes-Poudre Ranger District. The Cache la Poudre CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 6,200 feet to 8,300 feet above sea level. The area is steep and rocky. Approximately three-fourths of the area is forested, but there are a few large, open meadows located along the drainage bottoms and on some ridges. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine dominate with some lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Other vegetation types include pinyon-juniper, shrublands, and open parks. Narrowleaf cottonwood is present but not abundant.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for federally listed species such as the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, the Mexican spotted owl and greenback cutthroat trout. Critical Habitat for the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, as designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), may be found on 307 acres of this CRA. Habitat is also present for the following Forest Service Sensitive species: Northern goshawk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, fringed myotis, Lewis’ woodpecker, bighorn sheep, olive -sided flycatcher, boreal toad, Northern leopard frog, and wood frog. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with presence in the area include: deer, elk, bighorn sheep, flammulated owl, pygmy nuthatch, mountain bluebird, Wilson’s warbler, boreal toad, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. The CRA provides mule deer and elk winter concentration areas, production areas, and a migration corridor. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear, moose, mountain lion, and wild turkey. The South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River is designated as priority habitat for moose by CDOW.

The CRA lies within five 6th-level watersheds: South Fork Poudre Composite, Young’s Gulch, Bennett Creek, Upper Poudre Comp, and Lower Poudre Comp. The first two watersheds are rated as Class I– functional. The three latter watersheds were rated Class II– at-risk primarily due to high density of roads within the watersheds and heavy recreational use. There were no major soils concerns noted in the watershed assessments. Most of this CRA has moderate or high erosion hazard rating. Mass wasting potential is moderate or low. The Cache la Poudre Adjacent Area CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four Class II (at risk) Wilderness Areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests (Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks). A small portion of the Class I (functional) Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The natural appearance and integrity of the CRA is generally intact. There are old homestead sites, quarries, mining sites, and associated access roads which have generally naturally revegetated. The majority of units in this CRA are located south of the wilderness area. Access to the area is difficult so opportunities for solitude are high. Dispersed recreation, such as, hiking and hunting occur primarily along access roads. No trails occur naturally, with the exception of the popular Mt. McConnell National Recreation Trail (801) that originates at the Mountain Park campground. The parcel around Mt McConnell is part of the recreation river corridor. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Small portions of five different cultural resource inventories have been completed within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are three private holdings adjacent to the roadless area, but no inholdings. The Clark Place and the Lewis Place were inholdings until 1993 when both were acquired by land exchange. There are no water developments in the area except for small springs

and one small pond. There are no permitted land uses within this area, with the exception of one permitted outfitter. There are portions of two active allotments in the area, Poverty and Stove Prairie. The mineral potential of the area is unknown; there has been no recent activity. This CRA contains about 2,500 acres (79%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for one area, the Monument Gulch Subdivision. There are two old homesteads and a few mining operations in the area. Buildings and some equipment remain. Mineral potential is unknown, and there has been no recent activity.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
3,200	3,200	No change.

Cherokee Park (7,600 acres)

1. Description

The Cherokee Park is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Fort Collins and adjacent to undeveloped private lands. It is administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The Cherokee Park is independent of an existing wilderness. Access can be obtained via County Road 80C, Forest Development Road 186, NFSR 183, and NFSR 169. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I), with elevations ranging from 8,300 feet to 9,300 feet above sea level. The terrain consists of rolling hills. The main geologic feature is an unnamed ridge running southwest to northeast between Beaver and Sheep Creeks. The main drainage features are Beaver Creek on the east, Cow Creek on the west and Sheep Creek on the north. With the exception of wet areas in the valley bottoms and previously harvested areas, most of this CRA is vegetated with conifers. It is dominated by dense stands of young lodgepole pine, with aspen growth occurring in the wetter areas and Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at the higher elevations. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are present in the northwest portion of the area. Old growth forests are present.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx and greenback cutthroat trout. Limited denning and foraging habitat for Canada lynx can be found in the portions of the Red Feather Lynx Analysis units (LAU) that falls within this CRA. The dense stands of lodgepole pine and spruce/fir at higher elevations provide habitat for snowshoe hare, the primary prey of the lynx. Habitat is also present for Forest Service Sensitive species such as pine marten, pygmy shrew, fringed myotis, wolverine, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, boreal toad, Northern leopard frog, and wood frog. This CRA provides habitat for boreal toads, a Forest Service Sensitive Species, which have been found downstream and within the CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) include deer, elk, boreal toad, flammulated owl, pygmy nuthatch, mountain bluebird, Wilson’s warbler, warbling vireo, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. The area provides both summer and transition range for elk and deer. Elk productivity areas are present. Habitat for species such as black bear, moose, mountain lion, and Abert’s squirrel is present. The fish species present are predominantly brook trout with the occasional brown or rainbow trout.

The Cherokee Park CRA is almost entirely within the Sheep Creek watershed. A small portion of the western end of the CRA is within the Upper Sand Creek watershed. The Sheep Creek watershed was rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan due to a high percentage of the watershed having vegetation change in the last 40 years. There are many ponds/wetlands in the Upper Sheep Creek area. There are grazing impacts in the watershed. The section of Sheep Creek within the CRA has undergone incision due to augmented flows coming from upstream ditches, which deliver water to the Eaton Reservoir. The Beaver Creek drainage on the south end of the CRA is a popular area for four-wheel-drive activities. Sensitive soils/high erosion hazards were mapped in the steep sections and along the riparian areas of this CRA. Approximately 75% of the CRA is rated moderate or low for erosion hazard. Most of the area has low potential for mass wasting, but there is moderate potential on steep hill-slopes. Soils are fairly stable, with the exception of the northwest corner of the unit near Eaton Reservoir. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Eaton Reservoir is adjacent to this roadless area and is fed by several major streams that originate within this roadless area. The section of Sheep Creek within the CRA has undergone incision due to augmented flows coming from upstream ditches, which deliver water to the Eaton Reservoir.

The Cherokee Park CRA is within the Medicine Bow Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests (Rawah, Neota, the northern half of Never Summer, and the western portion of Comanche Peaks). With the exception of the Class I (functional) Rawah Wilderness Area, all are Class II (at-risk) areas. Natural ecological processes and a natural appearance dominate this CRA. Topography and access limits public use. No maintained trails exist. The area offers good opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Hunting is the primary recreation use. Big game hunting and motorized use occurs on the four roads that access the CRA. Portions of three different cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been identified. Consultation has not been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is void of non-federal lands within its borders. Land use authorizations are limited to the special use permit for Eaton Reservoir and some minor outfitter/guide activity. Eaton Reservoir exists adjacent to the unit, and it is fed by several major streams which all originate in this CRA. There are three active cattle and horse allotments totaling 7,393 acres. Union Pacific Railroad has reserved mineral rights on approximately 4,405 acres of the CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 610 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Cherokee Park CRA. There is a medium potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals. The area has medium potential for diamonds. This CRA contains about 4,100 acres (54%) of land classified as tentatively suitable, but unavailable for timber production. There are about 2,200 acres (29%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Sand Creek Park, Sheep Creek Ranch, Moose Haven, and Panhandle Communication Site.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
7,800	7,600	177 acres were removed from the inventory in the process of correcting an error in the location of an existing road through the CRA.

Comanche Peak Adjacent Areas A - H (45,200 acres)

1. Description

Comanche Peak CRA is composed of seven Units (A-H), totaling approximately 45,200 acres. This CRA is located west of Fort Collins, in Larimer County and administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. All units are adjacent to the Comanche Peak Wilderness and in proximity to the Cache la Poudre River. The following describes the location of each Unit and respective sub-units:

Unit A is located approximately 65 miles west of Fort Collins. The unit is bordered on the south by Rocky Mountain National Park, on the north by the Cache la Poudre River, on the east by the South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River, and on the west by NFSR 156 (Long Draw) and 159 (Peterson Lake). The unit is adjacent to the wilderness and several reservoirs (Barnes Meadow, Long Draw and Peterson). The three sub-units vary in size from 64 to 2,492 acres.

Unit B is located approximately 45 miles west of Fort Collins between the Comanche Peak Wilderness and the Cache la Poudre River. It is bordered on the west by the Big South Fork of the Cache la Poudre and on the east by Sheep Creek.

Unit C is approximately 45 miles west of Fort Collins. The unit abuts the Comanche Peak Wilderness along a ridge west of Sheep Creek. The unit's northern border is the Cache la Poudre River and private land, including the town of Rustic, Colorado. On the south side it is bordered by the wilderness and on the east by the Dadd Gulch power line. A strip along the river is part of the recreational section of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River corridor. Two non-motorized trails access the area from the Poudre Canyon.

Unit D is located approximately 36 miles west of Fort Collins. It is adjacent to the Comanche Peak Wilderness. Access to the area is from Colorado State Highway 14 via NFSR 234 (Pingree Park) and 139 (Crown Point). This area is surrounded on three sides by wilderness.

Unit E is located approximately 36 miles west of Fort Collins. The south side is bordered by the Comanche Peak Wilderness and the north side is bordered by NFSR 139. Access to the area is from Colorado State Highway 14 via NFSR 234 and 139. The area is also accessible by the Dadd Gulch Stock Trail and NFST 152 (Flowers Trail).

Unit F is located approximately 45 miles west of Fort Collins. The unit is bordered on the south by the Comanche Peak Wilderness, on the west and north side by private land and roaded areas. The area can be accessed from Colorado State Highway 14 via NFSR 234 and 145 (Comanche Reservoir). There are two hiking trails that allow access to this area.

Unit G is located adjacent to the northeast corner of Rocky Mountain National Park, about 10 miles northeast of Estes Park, Colorado. Access into unit G is restricted in many places due to private lands. The most popular access point is the NFSR 51.B (Dunraven Glade Road) and NFST 929 Trailhead. Access is also provided by NFST 934 and 926 (Donner Pass, Lookout Mountain, and Signal Mountain Trails). NFSR 153 (Storm Mountain), 132 (Crystal Mountain), and 248 (Cedar Park) also adjoin the area.

All units are within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,000-11,200 feet above sea level. The western units of this CRA are mostly sub-alpine. The eastern units are sub-alpine and montane. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine are the principle vegetation types in the lower elevations, transitioning into lodgepole and ponderosa pine at mid elevations.

Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine dominate in the higher elevations with some areas containing old growth stands. All units have steep canyons that lead to the primary drainage of the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson Rivers. Several units have spring habitat (Unit C and G) and other units (A and G) have wetland/riparian habitats important for wildlife species.

Units D and F are at higher elevations, from 9,200 to 11,000 feet, with more of a diversity of landscapes: steep canyons, rolling mountain slopes, high mountain peaks, thick timbers, bogs, wet areas, and rock outcrops. The primary environment of these two units is subalpine and contains large stands of spruce-fir and lodgepole pine. These units have stands with old growth characteristics and stands that will be old growth. Patches of mountain meadows and/or bogs are scattered throughout. Unit F drains into Beaver Creek and the South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River. Unit E ranges in elevation from 7,800-9,800 feet. There are small stands of lodgepole pine old growth and spruce-fir old growth throughout the area, along with aspen stands. The main drainage for the area is Bennett Creek Unit G ranges in elevations from 8,200 to 11,200 feet. This unit is primarily subalpine. Some old growth lodgepole pine and spruce-fir are present. Both Fish Creek and Stringtown Gulch are small drainages within this unit and provide important riparian habitat for wildlife. This unit is unique in that it has a lot of spring activity and wetland habitats. There are also large, unfragmented aspen stands. Unit H is adjacent to the wilderness and some private land. The topography is characterized by very steep slopes and numerous rock outcrops with high, generally tree-covered ridges. Elevation ranges from 7,400 to 8,400 feet. There are no main streams within this small acreage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The units with the CRA provide a broad elevation range that support montane as well as tundra species. The habitats are diverse and include old growth spruce-fir, unfragmented stands of aspen, patches of mountain meadows, springs, riparian and wetland habitats. All contribute components that support a diversity of wildlife. Forest Service Sensitive Species that have presence, habitat, or potential habitat within the Adjacent Areas A-H include: boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, three-toed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift, river otter, fringed myotis, pine marten, and pygmy shrew. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with presence, habitat, or potential habitat in this area include: deer, elk, boreal toad, pygmy nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, Wilson's warbler, warbling vireo, mountain bluebird, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Species reliant on the contiguous undisturbed habitat provide by roadless areas include: mountain lion, black bear, Abert's squirrel, and wild turkey. Red squirrel and snowshoe hare, the primary prey items for Canada lynx, are also present. All eight units have deer and elk summer range, summer concentration areas, productivity areas, migration corridors, and are considered overall range. In particular, important winter range and winter concentration areas for elk and deer exist in Units D, E, G, and H. All units are also considered overall range, summer range, and concentration areas for moose. Priority habitat for moose can be found along South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River (Unit F). The high densities of moose in this CRA provide the public with outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities.

The large concentrations of big game and the abundance of small mammals in Unit G, provide important habitat for mountain lions. The riparian areas in this unit provide forage plants such as mountain mahogany favored by black bear. All units have habitat and/or the presence of Canada lynx, a federally listed endangered species. All units except H occur within the Poudre Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU). Even though Unit H is located just below the elevation cut off (9,000 feet) for lynx habitat, it is likely lynx use the unit. CDOW has recent documentation of lynx currently using habitats within Units A, B, D, and E. Critical habitat (designated by the FWS) for Preble's meadow jumping mouse exists in Unit C. The Forest Service has also identified six acres of habitat for this species in Unit G and H, although more may exist. The Mexican spotted owl is a federally listed species that has potential habitat in all CRA units due to the elevation, presence of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, as well as the abundance of steep canyons. The greenback cutthroat trout is a federally listed species that is present and/or has habitat in the CRA. Specifically Unit D (East and West Fork of Sheep Creek), Unit F (Pennock Creek and South Fork), Unit G (Miller Fork) and Unit H (West Creek) have conservation populations, self-sustaining populations, habitat, or potential habitat. In addition to what is listed above, the following provides specific species information by unit:

Unit A: There is confirmed breeding of the boreal owl (MIS, FS Sensitive species) in this unit. There is recent CDOW documentation of lynx currently utilizing this and adjacent habitats. In addition, there is confirmed breeding and recruitment of wood frogs (FS Sensitive species) in this unit.

Unit B: There has been confirmed breeding, recruitment, and presence of boreal owls (MIS, FS Sensitive species) in this unit since 1980. Brook and brown trout populations (both MIS) can be found in this unit. There has been recent CDOW documentation of lynx currently utilizing this unit and adjacent habitats. This unit contains overall range for river otter, a species not common along the Front Range. This unit also contains self-sustaining populations of brown and brook trout in the main-stem of the Cache la Poudre River.

Unit C: This unit contains critical habitat (141 acres) for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, as designated by the FWS. The streams within this unit provide wetland and riparian habitat. There are also important spring habitats utilized by both wildlife and livestock in this unit.

Unit D: This unit is considered by CDOW as important winter range and winter concentration areas for deer and elk (both MIS). Conservation populations of greenback cutthroat trout inhabit the area. Recent CDOW documentation demonstrates lynx currently utilizing this and adjacent habitats. Conservation population and habitat for threatened greenback cutthroat trout exist in both the East and West Forks of Sheep Creek.

Unit E: This unit is considered by CDOW as important winter range and winter concentration areas for deer and elk (both MIS). The area provides pockets of old growth spruce and lodgepole pine. There is a presence of brown and brook trout in Little Beaver Creek. Recent CDOW documentation demonstrates lynx currently utilizing this unit and adjacent habitats.

Unit F: The South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River is considered by CDOW as a designated priority habitat for moose. This unit provides pockets of old growth spruce and lodgepole pine. Habitat for boreal toads, including reproduction habitat, can be found within this unit. Boreal toad breeding and recruitment have been documented at Twin Lakes (adjacent to this unit) and other individual toads have been captured and are known to inhabit the area. Self-sustaining populations of both greenback cutthroat trout and brook trout occupy Pennock Creek. Cutthroat, brook, and brown trout populations exist in the South Fork of Pennock Creek.

Unit G: This unit is considered by CDOW to be important winter range for deer and elk (both MIS). It is also important habitat for mountain lions because of the concentrations of big game animals and abundant small mammals. This unit contains important habitat for black bear due to the availability of mountain mahogany and other forage plants within the riparian corridors. Pockets of old growth spruce and lodgepole pine are found within this area. Six acres of Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat has been identified by the FS, more may exist. There is the occurrence of wolverine (CNHP Database) within the area. There is important riparian habitat for wildlife in Fish Creek and Stringtown Gulch. Unique spring activity, wetland habitats, and large unfragmented aspen stands exist within the area. There is a potential site for greenback restoration in Miller Fork which currently supports brook and rainbow trout populations.

Unit H: This unit is considered by CDOW to be important winter range for deer and elk (both MIS). Brook trout (MIS) are present in the area. The federally listed, Lynx, is likely to use the area. Six acres of Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat has been identified by the FS, more may exist. West Creek is a potential recovery site for greenback cutthroat trout. It currently supports a self-sustaining brook trout fishery.

The eight units of the Comanche CRA are spread out among 20 6th-level watersheds. Unit A is within Joe Wright Creek, La Poudre Pass Creek, and the Upper Poudre Composite watersheds. La Poudre Pass Creek watershed was rated Class III—non-functional in the 1997 Forest Plan due to being dewatered below Long Draw Reservoir in the winter. Joe Wright Creek watershed is rated Class II—at-risk due to low flows below Chambers Lake (downstream of the parcel). The Upper Poudre composite was rated Class I—functional. Unit B is within the Upper Poudre Composite, Sheep Creek, and Mid Poudre Composite watersheds. Sheep Creek was rated as Class I—functional, but with degraded riparian areas. Mid Poudre Composite was rated Class I—functional, with greenback cutthroat trout present. The CRA in this parcel is just above the Poudre River, on the steep slopes above Highway 14. The Big South Trail cuts through this parcel and there is heavy recreational use of that trail and the Poudre River along it. Air quality in this parcel might be reduced due to heavy road traffic at times. Unit C is within the Mid Poudre Composite and Lower Poudre COMP (composite) watersheds. Lower Poudre COMP was rated Class II—at-risk, with heavy road activity and rural and recreational development. There is a high percentage of sensitive/high erosion hazard soil in this parcel. Unit D is within the Lower Poudre COMP watershed. Unit E is within the Bennett Creek watershed; it was rated Class II—at-risk. Unit F is in the Pennock Creek watershed; it was rated Class I—functional. Unit G is within the Bear Gulch, Stringtown Creek, Cedar Creek, NF Big Thompson Creek, Fish Creek, Sheep Creek, Miller Fork Creek, and Buckhorn Creek watersheds. Cedar Creek, NF Big Thompson and Buckhorn were all rated Class II—at-risk, the remaining watersheds were all rated Class I—functional. On the USGS quad map, there is a road within this parcel, on the north side of Storm Peak. Unit H is within the West Creek watershed; it was rated Class I—functional.

Most of the CRA is rated moderate or low for erosion hazard. Most of the area has low potential for mass wasting but there is moderate potential on steep hill-slopes. Sensitive soils/high erosion hazards were mapped in the steep sections and along the riparian areas. There are also grazing impacts in the watershed. The eastern units of the Comanche Peaks Adjacent CRA are within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed. The western units of the Comanche Peaks Adjacent CRA are within the Medicine Bow Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Rawah, Neota, the northern half of Never Summer, and the western portion of Comanche Peaks. With the exception of the Class I Rawah Wilderness Area, all are Class II areas.

Though a large portion of the area is within sight and sound of a road, a major portion remains largely unaffected by human activity. The riparian areas (Unit A) have not been affected by grazing or recreational activities. With the exception of a 51 acre harvest unit (cut in the early 1960s in Unit A), there is little to no impact to the natural appearance within this roadless area and natural processes dominate. Panoramic views and scenery are present. A section of the Cache la Poudre Wild River is in the northern parcel. Hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, and snowmobiling occur in this CRA. Road noise limits opportunities for solitude in some areas. Adjacent roads increase the likelihood of motorized encroachment. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Portions of ten different cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Unit A: There are no inholdings within this unit. Two reservoirs, Barnes Meadow and Peterson Lake adjoin the unit. The Long Draw Road and the Peterson Lake Road are adjacent to some parts of this CRA. Unit C: The area adjoins subdivided private land on the north. Unit D: No non-federal lands exist within this unit. Unit E: There are two adjacent units of private land, one owned by the cities of Greeley and Fort Collins, the other one is in private ownership. Unit F: Private lands are adjacent but not within this area. Unit G: There are numerous private holdings adjacent to this area and there is a 200 acre holding within its boundaries.

Unit A: Two special-use permits are issued to the City of Greeley for the operation of Barnes Meadow Reservoir and Peterson Lake Reservoir. Public access to the reservoirs is allowed and both areas are fairly popular fishing destinations. Units D, E, F, and G: Authorized land uses in this area consist of outfitter-guide operations for horseback and on foot hunting. The only current demand for outfitting is during hunting season.

There are no water developments within the unit. Unit A: A portion of the Wild and Scenic designated Cache la Poudre passes through the northern most segment of this unit.

Units C, E, F, and H: There is no known potential for water development in these units.

Unit D: There are currently no developments in this area. There is potential for some development along some of the streams. Unit G: There are no water developments in the area. Steep, narrow terrain, precludes future water impoundment.

Units A, D, and H: There are no open grazing allotments in these units; grazing potential is low here. Unit C: Bennett Creek allotment is in this portion of the CRA. Some cattle use occurs along Dadd Gulch (3,873 open grazing acres). There is a cattle loading facility near the point where Dadd Gulch enters the Cache la Poudre River. Unit E: Part of the Bennett Creek allotment is in this CRA. This is an active allotment consisting of 2809 acres. Unit F: Parts of the Elk Park, Lambert, and White Pine-Twin Cabin allotments are within this unit, all are active. Unit G: This area includes portions of the Dunraven grazing allotment.

Units A, C, D (recommended/not recommended for Wilderness descriptions), E, F, G, and H: There are no known mineral claims, oil and gas leases, or permits within this area. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 420 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Comanche Peak Adjacent Areas.

This CRA contains about 24,900 acres (55%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 9,800 acres (22%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Monument Gulch, Spencer Heights, Bliss, Kinikinik, CDOW Fish Hatchery, Poudre City, Rustic, Glen Echo, Indian Meadows, Poudre Springs, Pingree Park Campus, Crystal Park, Crystal Mountain, The Retreat, Glen Haven, Cedar Park, Cedar Springs, Husted Heights, Eagle Rock Ranches, Sleeping Elephant Campground, Chambers Lake Campground, Long Draw Campground, and Copper Mountain.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
46,100	45,200	Improved boundary delineation of an existing timber harvest area (removed 105 acres); removal of a road through the CRA and subsequent removal of isolated (837) acreage; mapping errors(+18 acres)

Copper Mountain (13,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Grand County south-southeast of Kremmling, east of Green Mountain Reservoir. It is bordered by a high voltage transmission line, NFSR 200 on the west side, and private lands along the north and east sides. The CRA borders White River NF at ridgetop – also a relatively roadless area of open slopes, aspen stands, and shrublands. It is administered by the Sulphur Ranger District. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Its elevation rises to Copper Mountain at 10,127 feet. The area is 11 miles long by 1-1/2 miles wide on average. It is steeply sloping and levels out onto the private land to the east. Dense stands of even-aged lodgepole pine and spruce fir are the primary vegetation types. No known unique plant communities exist. Higher habitat diversity occurs on northeast facing slopes with deeply dissected topography, numerous perennial creeks, multiple aspen stringers and benches sloping into shrub lands, and agricultural lands. Several streams drain into the Williams Fork River. There are no prominent peaks. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 57 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides a large, undisturbed area important for preserving the ecological health and integrity of habitats use by many species. As this is a north-south finger of National Forest and a roadless area, this intact habitat serves as an important peninsula that could easily be severed at various points due to road construction or other developments. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for Canada lynx can be found in the Williams Fork Lynx Analysis units (LAU). Dense stands of lodgepole pine and spruce/fir provide habitat for snowshoe hare, the primary prey of the lynx. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as pine marten, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, and olive-sided flycatcher, and Colorado cutthroat trout are present in this CRA. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database documents occurrences of boreal owl in this CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) present in the area include: deer, elk, Golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, and brook trout, brown trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. This CRA serves as important summer range as well as a migration corridor from summer to winter habitat for mule deer and elk. It is a summer, transition, and calving habitat for elk and a multiple east-west movement corridor for ungulates between the Williams Fork and Blue River Valleys. Habitats for black bear and mountain lions are present. The CNHP database documents occurrences of wolverine in this CRA. The streams within this CRA support both rainbow and brook trout populations.

The Copper CRA falls within five 6th level watersheds: Lost Creek, Williams Fork Reservoir Composite, Battle Creek, Ute Creek (very small portion), and Lower Blue River Composite (very small portion). All have been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. This epidemic may affect streams and watersheds with increasing levels of flow and sediment. Generally, the soil and water resources in the CRA are in good condition. There may be grazing impacts to the slopes on the north end. Over 50% of the CRA is rated high for erosion hazard. Most of the area has deep soils, loamy to sandy textures, and high soil rock content. Sensitive soils/high erosion hazards were mapped in the steep sections and along the riparian areas. The Copper Mountain CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas (at-risk). There are excellent views of the Eagle's Nest and Indian Peak Wildernesses from various locations within the area, however, scenic features are rated low.

The CRA is accessible from several Forest Service roads (NFSR) off of State Highway 9 on the White River National Forest near Green Mountain Reservoir. The southern portion of the CRA, along the summit of the Williams Fork Mountains, can be accessed by the following routes: NFSR 200.2A (WAPA#2), a level 2 road (high clearance, four-wheel drive) that leads to the CRA and partially extends into the CRA boundary; NFSR 200 (Williams Divide) which meanders between the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF and the White River NF and provides access to NFST 25.1 (Williams Fork Trailhead). This trail (NFST 25.1) is the only trail within the CRA and meanders northeast across the CRA ending at NFSR 138. Although there is only one maintained trail, problems exist with old access and mining routes being used by ATVs. The area does receive some hunting use, but this is limited by private land blocking access and the steep terrain from the top of Williams Mountain. This area receives little recreation use due to the steep terrain, lack of trails, and very limited public access from private lands along the east border. A timber sale is planned in the northern part of the area. Adjacent to but outside the CRA, private structures and county road traffic are evident from most locations in the area. Opportunities for solitude in this area are moderate. The area possesses a very low degree of naturalness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been identified. No consultation regarding traditional uses or sacred sites has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Four outfitter/guides operate within this area. About 3 miles of a 230 Kilovolt transmission line under permit to Western Area Power Administration crosses through the northwest corner of the CRA. A few mining claims exist. The CRA is adjacent to subdivisions and year-round homes. One grazing allotment and several fences are located within this unit. This CRA contains about 3,500 acres (26%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains no WUI with communities and subdivisions, but does contain WUI for the Blue river/Gore Pass Transmission Line (Western Area Power Administration) and the Blue Ridge Communication Site.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
13,500	13,500	No change.

Crosier Mountain (7,200 acres)

1. Description

Crosier Mountain is located about seven miles northeast of Estes Park in Larimer County, Colorado. It is administered by the Estes-Poudre Ranger district. The area is bounded on the south by U.S. 34, on the east and north by Larimer County Road 43 (a paved, two-lane highway), and on the west by private property within the Estes Valley. The area is not contiguous with any existing wilderness area. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 7,000-9,200 feet above sea level. The area is characterized by very steep slopes and numerous rock outcrops with high, generally tree covered ridges. At the lower elevations, ponderosa pine dominates on the south slopes. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine occur on the north slopes. There is a subalpine zone occurring at higher elevations where dense lodgepole pine dominates.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Elevation changes and a variety of habitats such as coniferous forests, montane grasslands, large meadows, and riparian shrublands along with low human use provide a diverse area valuable to wildlife. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM). The Forest Service has identified four acres of PMJM habitat in this CRA, although more may exist. Habitat is present for Forest Service Sensitive species such as the boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, pine marten, boreal owl, peregrine falcon, bighorn sheep, flammulated owls, and Northern goshawk. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include boreal toad, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, boreal owl, pygmy nuthatch, warbling vireo, Wilson's warbler, mountain bluebird, and brook trout. Several steep and rocky canyons provide bighorn sheep habitat, including a lambing area. Bighorn sheep that use this CRA provide plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities from the roads that surround it. The CDOW and the USFS completed three cooperative prescribed burns totaling about 2,000 acres to improve elk winter range. This CRA is critical elk winter range and a very important late season elk harvest area for elk which migrate out of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) during the winter. Deer and elk use the area for winter and transitional range. Black bear, mountain lion, Abert's squirrel, and wild turkey use the area extensively. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database documents occurrence of the modest sphinx moth in this CRA.

This CRA is primarily within the North Fork Big Thompson Comp (composite) watershed and the Big Thompson Composite watershed. In the 1997 Forest Plan, the North Fork Thompson Composite and the Big Thompson Composite were rated Class II—at-risk. There is a very small portion of the CRA within the West Creek watershed, rated Class I—functional. The streams within the CRA are relatively undisturbed, with no mapped roads. A large percentage of sensitive/erosive soils exist along the north end of the CRA. Air quality on the south side may be affected by traffic in the Big Thompson Canyon. Most of this CRA is rated high for erosion hazard and moderate for mass movement hazard. The Crosier Mountain CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed. Air quality on the south side may be affected by traffic in the Big Thompson Canyon.

It exemplifies a ponderosa pine ecosystem generally in its natural state. Because there is little evidence of human activity, except for fire suppression, the CRA is ecologically intact and natural processes dominate. The area is visible from, and offers views of, Rocky Mountain National Park and the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area. The Crosier Mountain trail runs through the area. The area is visible from U.S. Highway 34 and County Road 43. This roadless area is unique because it is located at a low elevation and accessible year round. Opportunities to view wildlife are abundant. Hiking, hunting, and mountain biking are popular on the trail system. Vegetation and topography help to afford solitude. The area's small size is the only limit on the opportunity for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Portions of four different cultural resource

inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is one inholding of private property (160 acres) within this unit. Private properties border the CRA. There are no water developments in the area except for small springs and one small pond. There are no permitted land uses within this area except for one outfitter offering horseback tours. The area once contained the Crosier Mountain and Eagle Rock allotments, but both have been vacant for more than 25 years. These allotments are very unlikely to be reactivated. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 520 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Crosier Mountain CRA. This CRA contains about 5,200 acres (72%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. There has been little timber harvest in this area due to the high cost of access. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Glen Haven, The Retreat, Cedar Park, Cedar Springs, Drake, Glen Comfort, Waltonia, Happy Hollow, Berthoud Dale, and Olympus Heights.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
7,200	7,200	No change.

Gold Run (6,600 acres)

1. Description

Gold Run area is located north of the Arapaho National Forest Boundary approximately eight miles northwest of Granby, Colorado via U.S. 40 and Colorado Highway 125. It is administered by the Sulphur Ranger District. Little Gravel Mountain is just north of the area and Willow Creek borders it to the west. The area is adjacent to National Forest, Bureau of Land Management land, private lands, and Colorado Highway 125. Generally, access to the area is through private land or from Stillwater Pass. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,500-10,500 feet above sea level. The CRA has moderately steep slopes, narrow canyons, large meadows, and rocky outcrops. The principal drainage areas are Hall Creek and Gold Run. The primary vegetation is a mix of lodgepole and spruce-fir, with some aspen. The steeper south-facing slopes are covered by sagebrush and aspen; the northern slopes are generally more rolling and forested. Willow and large meadows can be found in the area as well. Stream bottoms have extensive and well-developed riparian habitat. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 63 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Gold Run CRA currently provides some refuge of undisturbed habitat for wildlife from an adjacent area scattered with subdivisions, private land, and highly impacted by motorized recreation. The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for the lynx may be found within the Upper Colorado Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU). Trail Creek, which borders the CRA, provides habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout (threatened). This area contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: pine marten, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, Northern leopard frog, wood frog, boreal toad, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database documents occurrence of boreal owls in this CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include the boreal toad, deer, elk, boreal owl, warbling vireo, Wilson’s warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. This CRA contains elk and deer winter and summer range. The area also encompasses important migration corridors for elk and deer in Stillwater area and Rocky Mountain National Park to and from winter range in the Granby area. Streams within this CRA support self-sustaining populations of brook trout. Black bear, mountain lion, and moose use the area.

According to the CDOW, the Gold Run CRA is adjacent to an area that is heavily impacted by year round motorized recreation, including off-highway vehicles (OHV) and snow machines (with some snowmobiling in the Gold Run area also). Subdivisions are also adjacent to this roadless area to the south. Private agricultural lands may be impacted adversely if increased motorized use displaces elk from the CRA.

The Gold Run CRA is within four 6th level watersheds: Trail Creek, Gold Run, Willow Creek COMP (composite), and Willow Creek Upper COMP. All were rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan. The primary concern was heavy road densities. The CRA is in the central portion of these watersheds. The Stillwater Pass Road is upstream of the CRA. BLM and private lands are downstream of the CRA. The area has also been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The potential effects of this epidemic may result in increased levels of flow and sediment in streams and watersheds. Most of the CRA is rated high and moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is low and moderate for most of the area. The Gold Run CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This

air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas. The area has a natural appearance. However, the scenic quality has been affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Recreation use in this area is generally light due to limited access, with the exception of snowmobiling and hunting. Some unauthorized motorized use occurs. There is no developed trail system and no roads exist except for an old stock driveway. Solitude and primitive recreation opportunities can be found in the center of the area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located. An examination of the Plates from the Hayden Atlas of Colorado of 1881 indicates that an "Indian Trail" from the North Platte in North Park (Jackson County) runs through the west edge of the Gold Run CRA along Willow Creek. Trails and other linear features are often considered to be sacred sites, especially when they connect major sites. No consultation regarding traditional uses or sacred sites has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a block of private in-holdings along Gold Run in the south-center part of the CRA, and private (and BLM) land border the southern edges of the CRA. There are no water developments in the area. There are no known land use authorizations, improvements, or special use permits in the area. There are no open grazing allotments in the CRA. Mineral resources of the area are thought to be limited, but there has been a moderate amount of gold prospecting in the Gold Run drainage. There are no known patented claims. There are numerous oil and gas leases in the area but no active drilling. None is anticipated in the future. Oil and gas potential for all of Gold Run is high. Some gold prospecting has taken place in the area, but potential is low. This CRA contains about 5,500 acres (83%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 400 acres (6%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Trail Creek Forest, Trail Mountain Ranches, Trail Mountain Ranchettes, and Trail Creek Estates.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,600	6,600	No change.

Green Ridge East (26,700 acres)

1. Description

The Green Ridge East area is accessible via NFST 952 (Roaring Creek Trail), NFSR 319 (Green Ridge Road), NFSR 225 (Sevenmile Road) and NFST 871 (Swamp Creek Cutoff). The east end of the unit is 48 miles west of Fort Collins, near Rustic. The west end is 61 miles west of Fort Collins. It is bordered on the south by the Cache la Poudre River, on the north by Nunn Creek Basin, on the west by County Road 103 (the Laramie River Road), and on the east by the Bald Mountains. It is administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The CRA is a high timbered plateau within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000 to 11,000 feet. Several streams intersect the area and feed the Cache la Poudre and Laramie Rivers. Swampy areas and small lakes have formed in depression throughout the unit. It is primarily subalpine. Foothills with shrub-grass vegetation mixed with aspen and narrowleaf cottonwood occur along the Poudre River corridor. Ascending the slopes is a gradation of a juniper-ponderosa on the lower south slopes, Douglas-fir-lodgepole pine on the north slopes. In the higher elevations lodgepole pine is the dominant species, with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir in the riparian areas.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Habitats include coniferous forests, grasslands, shrublands and riparian forest. Some areas of cottonwood and aspen are also present making this a very diverse area in terms of habitat.

The Green Ridge East CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx denning and foraging habitat can be found in the Poudre and Red Feather Lynx Analysis Units. Recent CDOW documentation indicates lynx currently utilizing adjacent habitats. This CRA includes two drainages that have known populations of greenback cutthroat trout (threatened). These include Roaring Creek and Williams Gulch which are a conservation historic population and a conservation recovery population, respectively. Currently roads in the headwaters of Roaring Creek are impacting the cutthroat population due to vehicle and ATV traffic. Sedimentation created by road construction is known to be detrimental to trout streams. Although the elevation appears too high for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM), the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database does have an occurrence documented and the Forest Service has identified 7 acres of Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat in this CRA, more may exist. This area contains

habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, pine marten, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, boreal toad, pygmy shrew, Townsend’s big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, peregrine falcon, and wood frog. The CNHP Database has occurrence records for boreal owl, boreal toad, pygmy shrew, and Townsend’s big-eared bat in this area. This CRA includes critical habitat for boreal toads and reproduction. Wood frog has breeding with recruitment into populations within this CRA. There has been documentation of peregrine falcons actively nesting in this CRA.

Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include boreal toad, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, boreal owl, warbling vireo, golden-crowned kinglet, mountain bluebird, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Elk and deer winter and summer range exist as well as elk productivity areas. This CRA includes habitat that serves as bighorn sheep overall, summer, winter, winter concentration, and production area. Several streams within the CRA, including the Sevenmile Creek, support populations of brown trout and brook trout. The headwaters of Sevenmile Creek within the CRA are spring-fed. Rare orchids have been found in the headwater area. The springs, associated wetlands, and riparian area are important for wildlife. Black bear, moose, mountain lion, and Abert’s squirrel all use the area regularly.

The Green Ridge East CRA falls in seven 6th-level watersheds: Joe Right Creek, Roaring Creek, Williams Gulch, Elkhorn Creek, Sevenmile Creek, Mid. Poudre Composite, and a very small portion of South Lone Pine Creek watershed. In the 1997 Forest Plan, all were rated Class II-at-risk except for Mid. Poudre Composite, which was rated Class I-functional. Highway 14 runs along the south boundary, and there is heavy OHV use of upper Roaring Creek and the Middle Bald Mountain area. Most of the CRA is rated high and moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is low for most of the area. The Green Ridge East CRA is within the Medicine Bow Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Rawah, Neota, the northern half of Never Summer, and the western portion of Comanche Peaks. With the exception of the Class I Rawah Wilderness Area, all are Class II areas. The area is generally free from human disturbance, generally appearing natural, with minor exceptions. Scenic views of Roaring Creek and the Poudre Canyon are popular. However, development is visible in the canyon below.

Hunting and fishing are special attractions. Recreation includes hunting, OHV use of roads, and hiking NFST 952. Opportunities for solitude exist throughout the area except near roads on the north edge near Colorado Highway 14. The Laramie-Poudre Tunnel lies within this roadless area. Two potential reservoir sites exist within this roadless area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Portions of four different cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is void of non-federal land ownership, leases, and easements. There is one outfitter-guide permit for hunting and horseback riding within this unit. South Bald Mountain has a communications site located within this unit. The Laramie-Poudre Tunnel lies within this unit. There is also believed to be a diversion structure in the northwest section of the unit. Two potential reservoir sites exist. Potential also exists for augmenting water supplies by constructing snow fences in areas with favorable wind and topographic characteristics. Three allotments are grazed by livestock: the Elkhorn, the Nunn Creek, and the Upper Laramie. Medium potential for locatable minerals occurs in the eastern portion of the unit, and some past mining activity is evident. The Sevenmile area, which borders on the northeast boundary, will always have potential for gold exploration and mining. There are no mining claims in this area though some of the mineral claims from the Sevenmile area may spill over onto this CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has mineral interest next to the Green Ridge East CRA. This mineral interest underlies Forest Service surface ownership consisting of less than one acre within the Green Ridge East CRA. This CRA contains approximately 18,400 acres (69%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 3,100 acres (12%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Rustic, CDOW Fish Hatchery, Bliss, Spencer Heights, Sleeping Elephant Campground, Chambers Lake Campground, and Tunnel Campground.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
26,700	26,700	No change.

Green Ridge West (13,600 acres)

1. Description

The Green Ridge West unit is located approximately 60 miles northwest of Fort Collins. It is administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The unit is bordered on the south by the Cache la Poudre River, on the north by the NFSR 187 (Sand Creek) and County Road 162 (Deadman Road), on the west by County Road 103 (the Laramie River Road), and on the east by the NFSR 177 (Green Ridge Road) and its accompanying road network. Access to this unit can be obtained via CR 103, NFSR 260 (the Experimental Road), CR 162, and NFSR 177. NFST 969 (Old Nunn Creek Trail) runs through this unit, but it has not been maintained for many years and is difficult

to follow. The area is characterized by a high, timbered plateau ranging in elevations from 9,000 to 11,000 feet above sea level. Several streams intersect the area and feed the Cache la Poudre and Laramie Rivers. Swampy areas and small lakes have formed in depressions throughout the unit. The principal life zone is subalpine. The area is dominated by lodgepole pine at lower elevations and spruce-fir at higher elevations. Aspen stands exist in many of the riparian areas, particularly in the northwest section of the area. Other habitats include sagebrush shrublands, and willow.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Green Ridge West CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx denning and foraging habitat can be found in the Red Feather Lynx Analysis Unit. The CRA also provides habitat for the threatened greenback cutthroat trout. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as the boreal toad, Northern leopard frog, wood frog, pine marten, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, wolverine, and the olive-sided flycatcher exists within this unit. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has occurrence records for wolverine, pygmy shrew, and wood frog in this unit. The database also contains a historic record of black-footed ferret. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include boreal toad, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, boreal owl, warbling vireo, golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Elk and deer winter and summer range exist as well as year round habitat for bighorn sheep. This CRA includes Lower Deadman Creek, which supports a population of brook trout. Nunn Creek is unique in that it supports a high-elevation brown trout fishery as well. Black bear, moose, and mountain lion use the area regularly.

The area falls within four 6th level watersheds: Laramie Comp3 (composite), Nunn Creek, Laramie Comp1, and Upper Laramie River. In the 1997 Forest Plan, all were rated Class II—at-risk, except Laramie Comp1, which was rated Class III—non-functional. There are a high percentage of sensitive/highly erosive soils mapped on the west of the parcel. Most of the CRA is rated high and moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is low for most of the area, however, there are some areas rated as high in the west of the CRA. The Green Ridge West CRA is within the Medicine Bow Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Rawah, Neota, the northern half of Never Summer, and the western portion of Comanche Peaks. With the exception of the Class I Rawah Wilderness Area, all are Class II areas. The area has a high degree of scenic integrity. Views within the area have a natural appearance. The area is visible from the Rawah Wilderness, the Laramie River Road (CR 103), NFST 139 (Green Ridge trail), NFST 960 (West Branch trail), and Tunnel Campground.

Most of the recreation use in this area includes hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. No developed trail system exists within this roadless area but heavy use exists in the Lost Lake area. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to the close proximity to roads and private land. The Laramie-Poudre Tunnel lies within this roadless area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Portions of four different cultural resource inventories were located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is free of non-federal land ownership, leases, or easements. There is one outfitter-guide permit for hunting and horseback riding operating within this unit. South Bald Mountain has a communications site. The Laramie-Poudre Tunnel lies within this unit. It is believed that there is a diversion structure in the northwest section of the unit. Two potential reservoir sites exist. Potential also exists for augmenting water supplies by constructing snow fences in areas with favorable wind and topographic characteristics. Livestock grazing occurs on five permitted allotments (Deadman, Nunn Creek, Pete Creek, Sand Creek, Upper Laramie) totaling 13,453 acres. There are no known valuable minerals. The area contains no oil or gas leases or permits. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 40 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Green Ridge West CRA. This CRA contains about 10,700 acres (79%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 1,200 acres (9%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains wildland-urban interface (WUI) for the following communities and subdivisions: Chambers Lake Campground, Tunnel Campground, Rawah Ranch, Stub Creek Administrative Site, and High Country Haven.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
13,600	13,600	No change

Grey Rock (12,200 acres)

1. Description

The Grey Rock area is located 14 miles northwest of Fort Collins in Larimer County, Colorado. To the south it is bounded by the Cache la Poudre River. The eastern boundary is marked by Seaman Reservoir and the western boundary by Cedar Gulch. The northern border is one mile south of Count Road 74E (Red Feather Lakes Road) along the Forest boundary. The area is characterized by steep slopes, rock outcrops, and narrow canyons. Elevations range from 5,600 to 7,600 feet. The soils in the area are highly susceptible to erosion. The main drainage feature of this area is the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River. The principal ecological type is ponderosa pine forest. Approximately one-half of the area is forested. Other habitats include foothills pinyon juniper, mixed foothills shrublands-grasslands, and narrowleaf cottonwoods.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Grey Rock CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse and greenback cutthroat trout. Critical Habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, as designated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), may be found on 1,767 acres of this CRA. According to CDOW, the majority of drainages in this CRA are designated as having low potential for Preble's meadow jumping mouse. However, several drainages in the area have segments designated as having medium potential. High potential areas include primarily, but not limited to, Steven's Gulch, Hewlett Gulch, and the North Fork of the Poudre River. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as Northern goshawk, bighorn sheep, Townsend's big-eared bat, river otter, flammulated owl, Lewis' woodpecker, wood frog, and Northern leopard frog is present within this unit. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has occurrence records for the Townsend's big-eared bat. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pygmy nuthatch, mountain bluebird, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Elk and deer winter and summer range exist as well as winter concentration areas. The southern aspects of this CRA and those from the canyon floor up to the forest edge are designated by CDOW as bighorn sheep overall range, summer and winter range. The areas from the Narrows to Ansel Watrous campground and Red Mountain have been designated as concentration and production areas. The Cache la Poudre River and the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River, from the Main Stem to north of Seaman's reservoir, supports self-sustaining brown trout populations. These sections are also designated by CDOW as river otter overall range. Black bear, moose, wild turkey, and mountain lions use the area regularly. *Aletes humulis*, a rare member of the parsley family is found in the Grey Rock area.

The Grey Rock CRA is within four 6th-level watersheds: Upper Poudre Comp (composite), Lower Poudre Comp1, Hewlett Gulch, and NF Poudre Comp. In the 1997 Forest Plan, all four watersheds were rated Class II—at-risk in the Forest Plan. Primarily this risk comes from the high density of roads and road activity in the watersheds, primarily along the Poudre River Highway 14 corridor. No major soil concerns were noted in the watershed assessment. The air quality is generally good, though some effects may be expected from the highway. Most of the CRA is rated high for risk of erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is moderate for most of the area. The Grey Rock CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The interior portion appears natural and free from human disturbance. Private homes and roads adjacent to the area's boundaries impact views out from the area. The area is visible from communities including Fort Collins, Red Feather, and Glacier View. It is visible from the Cache la Poudre Wilderness Area, the Cache la Poudre National Scenic River corridor, and contains NFST 946 (Grey Rock National Recreation Trail) and NFST 947 (Hewlett Gulch trail). The area is visible from several developed recreation sites in Poudre Canyon including Narrows CG, Stevens Gulch Picnic Area, Stove Prairie CG, Ansel Watrous CG, Ouzel Picnic Area, Diamond Rock Picnic Area, and Poudre Park Picnic Area. NFST 946 and 947 are main attractions of the unit. Grey Rock Mountain is the dominant feature, and the trail is extremely popular and heavily used. Hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing are popular activities. Opportunities for solitude are greatly diminished by the high year round recreation use on the trails. Other portions contain some opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Portions of two different cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private property exists within the unit. Access and right-of-way are provided to private lands and mining claims in this area. There are two outfitter/guide permits for the area. One outfitter operates from Glacier View Meadows and the other from Deer Meadows. Both offer horseback riding during the summer months. There are four active grazing allotments in the CRA, totaling 8,568 acres. Mining claims exist within this area. Some may be valid claims. Some gold prospecting occurred in the Hewlett Gulch vicinity approximately 20 years ago. There is no known activity at the Brinkhoff Mine. Prospect pits may exist with the ½ mile corridor along Colo. Highway 14.

The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 1,210 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within this CRA. This CRA contains about 3,900 acres (32%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Glacier View Meadows, Poudre Park, Mishawaka, Bonner Peak, Livermore, Eagle’s Nest, Dutch George Campground, Stove Prairie Campground, Narrows Campground, Ansel Watrous Campground, Seaman Reservoir Site, and Hewlett Gulch.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
12,200	12,200	No change

Hell Canyon (5,900 acres)

1. Description

Hell Canyon is located along the eastern edge of the Roosevelt National Forest, approximately 15 miles southwest of Loveland in Larimer County. It is approximately 5 miles southeast of Estes Park, Colorado. This area is mostly surrounded by private property. It is administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The area is characterized by broad plateaus intersected by steep canyons. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,900 to 9,200 feet above sea level. Hell Canyon is the main drainage for the area. The area consists of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir mixed with some blue- spruce, lodgepole pine in the higher elevations, and considerable acreage of juniper. The remainder of the area is composed of grass, shrubs, and rock.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The habitats within this CRA exemplify low elevation undisturbed montane life zone with dense stands of lodgepole pine to open ponderosa pine, a few scattered stands of old growth forests, open meadows, aspen stands, shrubs, and grass lands. Several steep and rocky canyons bisect the unit. The area sees relatively little human use, making it a valuable refuge for wildlife. This CRA provides denning and foraging habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx located within the Estes Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU). The Forest Service has identified 379 acres of habitats for the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (a federally listed species), although more habitat may exist. This CRA also provides habitat for the federally listed greenback cutthroat trout. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as the Northern goshawk, bighorn sheep, Townsend’s big-eared bat, flammulated owl, Lewis’ woodpecker, peregrine falcon, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, three-toed woodpecker, fringed myotis, and pygmy shrew is present. This is one of the few areas on the north end of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests where potentially fair to good habitat for the Mexican spotted owl exists. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has documented occurrence of Townsend’s big-eared bat. Historically, bighorn sheep inhabited the area and were recently re-introduced to the area by the CDOW. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pygmy nuthatch, mountain bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, boreal toad, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and brown trout. Elk and deer winter and summer range exist as well as winter concentration areas. Other species such as black bear, moose, wild turkey, and mountain lion use the area regularly.

The CRA is within the North Fork Little Thompson watershed, which was rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan. The watershed has degraded riparian areas, primarily due to road and grazing impacts in Nixon Park. The CRA is steep on the northern side, with a high percentage of sensitive/erosive soils. There are 4-wheel drive roads adjacent to the roadless area on the northwest and southeast boundaries. Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is moderate or low for most of the area. The Hell Canyon CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

This area receives little use due to the inaccessibility. The interior portion appears natural and free from human disturbance. Private lands and roads adjacent to the area’s boundaries impact views out from the area. The area is visible from US Hwy 36 and contains NFST 948 (Hell Canyon trail). Hiking and hunting are popular, but use is low due to limited access. The area does provide opportunity for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A small portion of one cultural resource inventory is located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The southern part of the area has several tracts of intermixed private land. There are no current authorizations. The Elk Ridge allotment (5,924 acres) is an active allotment in this CRA. There are no known minerals nor oil or gas leases or permits within this area.

The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 40 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Hell Canyon CRA. This CRA contains about 4,700 acres (80%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Pole Hill, Meadowdale Hills, Quillan Gulch, Muggins Gulch, Hell Canyon, Estes – Pole Hill Transmission Line, and Estes – Flatiron Transmission Line.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
5,900	5,900	No change

Indian Peaks Adjacent Areas A-D (29,300 acres)

1. Description

Indian Peaks CRA occurs on both sides of the Continental Divide immediately south of Rocky Mountain National Park. It lies about 20 miles west of Boulder, Colorado. The area is accessible by County and Forest Service roads. The CRA is administered by the Boulder ranger District. Indian Peaks CRA consists of Units A-D. In 2002, Unit A and the Ranch Creek portion of unit B was designated Wilderness under the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act. Those portions that were not included in the wilderness are included in this CRA. The CRA units are within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranges from 8,300 to 12,400 feet above sea level. The area has been influenced primarily by glaciations; therefore soils are generally shallow and derived primarily from decomposed granite. The area is located primarily within the upper montane, subalpine, and alpine ecosystem and possesses a wide variety of both coniferous and deciduous plant communities. Areas above timberline are occupied by rock outcrops, talus slopes, fellfields and tundra. Below timberline, vegetation consists of rolling heavily timbered and alpine mountain slopes that vary from gentle to very steep. The dominant vegetation type is coniferous forest, with lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and sub-alpine fir being most common. Meadows, parks, sagebrush hillsides, lake shore line, and extensive riparian areas are found at the lower elevations. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 65 percent of Unit B had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead. Access varies between the units.

Unit B: The Green Ridge area can be accessed from adjacent private land and from trailheads at the north end of the unit. The Knight Ridge area can be accessed by boat from Lake Granby, from the National Park, and Arapaho Pass trail National Recreation Area trailhead (ANRA Trail 6) and NFST 102 (Knight Ridge trail) and NFST 6 (Arapaho Pass trail) at either end of the unit. The Strawberry area can be accessed from adjacent private lands and private in holdings, National Recreation Area trailheads (NRAT 6 and 9), NFSR 125 along Arapaho Bay and NFSR 129 along Meadow Creek Reservoir. The Meadow Creek area can be accessed from adjacent ANRA roads and trails.

Unit C: The Lefthand area includes 3,392 acres that are located between NFSR 506 (Niwot Ridge road) and NFSR 112 (Brainard Lake road). The area is located 3 miles southwest of Ward, Colorado. The area is easily accessible from a variety of roads and trails. The most common vehicle access is the paved NFSR 112. Vehicle access is also available using NFSR 506 and NFSR 232 (Lefthand Reservoir road). NFS Trails 835 (Sourdough), 814.2 (CMC South), 802 (Little Raven), and 906 (Niwot Ridge) provide access into the through the area. The South St. Vrain area includes 3,578 acres that are located between NFSR 112 (Brainard Lake road) and Stapp Lakes. The area located 2 miles northwest of Ward, Colorado. This area is also easily accessible from variety of roads and trails. The most common vehicle access is the paved Brainard Lake road. NFSR 835, 112 (South St. Vrain), NFST 816 (Wapiti), NFST 815 (Baptiste), and NFST 911 (Beaver Creek) trails provide access into and through the area. The Ironclads area includes 3,834 acres that are located between Middle St. Vrain and Rock creeks. The area located 3 miles south of Allenspark, Colorado. The area is accessible by vehicle from the NFSR 114 (Middle St. Vrain), NFSR 202/203 (Bunce School), 115 (Park Creek), 2013 (Cave Creek), and 116 (Rock Creek) roads. The Park Creek Pack trail, NFST 924 provides access into and the through the area.

Unit D: The Caribou area includes 190 acres that are located south of Rainbow Lakes campground and west of Caribou Flats. The area is located 4 miles northwest of Nederland, Colorado. It is accessible by vehicle from the NFSR 918 (Rainbow Lakes road). The Rainbow Lakes area includes 98 acres that are located north of Rainbow Lakes campground. This area is also located 4 miles northwest of Nederland, Colorado. It is accessible by vehicle from the Rainbow Lakes road. The NFST 905 (Arapaho Glacier Trail) provides access into and through the area. The Allenspark area includes 555 acres that are located south of the Triple Creek Ranch Subdivision and north of Rock Creek. The area is located one mile southwest of Allenspark, Colorado. It is accessible by vehicle from Boulder Country Road 90 and NFSR 116 (Rock Creek road). NFST 915 (St. Vrain Mountain trail) provides access into and through the area.

Unit C: Three sub-units adjacent to wilderness are included: Left Hand, South St. Vrain, and Ironclads. All are accessible by high standard roads and trails. Left Hand is adjacent to Brainard Lake Recreation complex, Niwot Ridge Biosphere

Reserve, Indian Peaks Wilderness, Boulder's watershed, and other NFS lands. South St. Vrain is adjacent to the Brainard Lake complex, wilderness, and private lands. Ironclads are adjacent to wilderness, NFS and private lands.

Unit D: Three sub-units are included: Caribou, Rainbow Lakes, and Allenspark. All are accessible by roads and trails. All are adjacent to the Indian Peaks Wilderness and NFS and private lands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen are the primary vegetation types with considerable areas of old growth present. Motorized recreation and general transportation adjacent to these CRAs make these roadless units an important refuge for wildlife. The Canada lynx is a federally listed species that has either presence and/or habitat in all of the adjacent areas. All adjacent areas fall within the Boulder, Fraser, and St. Vrain Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs). Habitat for greenback cutthroat trout occurs in various sub-units of the area. Forest Service Sensitive Species that have presence, habitat, or potential habitat within the Units A-D include: boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, pine marten, wolverine, pygmy shrew, and Colorado River cutthroat trout on the western slope areas. Boreal toad breeding and recruitment is documented in Units A through D. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with presence, habitat, or potential habitat within Units A-D include: deer, elk, boreal toad, golden-crowned kinglet, warbling vireo, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Units A through D are considered overall range for deer and elk providing summer range, productivity areas, and migration corridors. Species without designated listing or status, but are reliant on these roadless areas include, but are not limited to: moose, mountain lion, osprey, Swainson's hawks, great-horned owl, and black bear. Red squirrel and snowshoe hare, the primary prey items for Canada lynx, are also present.

Units A-D are considered overall range, winter range, and concentration areas for moose. This high quality, undisturbed area provides habitat used by moose, as well as elk and deer, reducing the likelihood of these animals utilizing less desirable habitats such as private agricultural lands of surrounding areas. Large meadows with extensive riparian corridors are found throughout the area and provide valuable habitat for numerous species of birds, mammals, and amphibians. Willow-carr nesting migratory songbirds are abundant in this CRA. The CDOW and USFS have cooperated locally on several management prescriptions in the vicinity of this CRA. Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has documented the occurrence of bald eagles (FS Sensitive) nesting, roosting, and foraging in this unit. CDOW considers this unit winter forage habitat for bald eagle. The USFS has annually closed access to the Colorado River from Shadow Mountain dam downstream to Lake Granby to protect wintering bald eagles, and has also prohibited access to several osprey nests in the area. In addition to the above, the following units have specific species information:

Unit B: Denning and foraging habitat for lynx exists in the Fraser Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU). Approximately 26 acres of the Fraser Valley Lynx Linkage Area is located within this sub-unit. This unit contains habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. It is considered by CDOW as overall range and concentration areas for river otter, a Forest Service Sensitive species. Great blue herons are present in the Arapaho Bay and Columbine Bay areas, also considered by CDOW as overall forage habitat. Nesting ospreys can be found along Knight Ridge, Green Ridge, Arapaho Bay, the Colorado River, Meadow Creek Reservoir, and Monarch Lake. The Knight Ridge and the Roaring Fork area provide winter range, severe winter range, and winter concentration areas for elk. Movement and migration corridors for deer and elk exist within this unit. Moose concentration and winter foraging can also be found here.

Unit C: Bighorn sheep (MIS) habitat and presence is known to occur within this unit. Brown and brook trout presence (both MIS) has also been noted here. The area contains river otter concentration areas; lynx denning and foraging habitat in the Boulder and St. Vrain LAUs; and Bald eagles nesting, roosting, and winter foraging areas. Ptarmigan have been known to use the tundra areas. There have been occurrences of Rocky Mountain capshell snail, a Forest Service sensitive mollusk (CNHP database) in the area. Greenback cutthroat trout population exists near the CU Alpine Research Station. Self-sustaining populations of brook trout and rainbow trout occupy the Middle St. Vrain. Lakes in the adjacent wilderness area are stocked with cutthroat.

Unit D: There is lynx denning and foraging habitat in the Boulder and St. Vrain LAUs. Bighorn sheep habitat and presence has been documented in the area. Ptarmigan use the tundra areas. Old growth spruce-fir provides a unique habitat type and supports many wildlife species.

The Indian Peaks Adjacent CRA falls within 12 6th level watersheds: Unit B is within the Lake Granby Comp (composite), Strawberry Creek, Arapaho Creek, and Ranch Creek Watersheds. In the 1997 Forest Plan, Lake Granby Comp was rated Class II—at-risk, but was noted to be in Class I—functional condition on the Forest. Strawberry Creek and Ranch Creek were both rated Class II—at-risk, both with road impacts. Arapaho Creek was rated Class I—functional. Area B is fairly heavily impacted by mountain pine beetle. The potential effects of this epidemic may result in increased levels of flow and sediment in streams and watersheds.

Unit C is within the Rock Creek (Class II—at-risk), Dry St. Vrain Creek (Class II—at-risk), Middle St. Vrain Creek (Class II—at-risk), South St. Vrain Creek (Class III—non-functional overall, but Class I—functional in upper watershed), Left Hand Creek (Class II—at-risk), and Fourmile Creek (Class III—non-functional) watersheds. All of the watersheds ratings were affected by roads, primarily outside of the roadless area.

Unit D is within the North Boulder Creek (Class II—at-risk) and the Middle Boulder Creek (Class III—non-functional).

Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is generally low but areas rated at moderate and high exist within the CRA. The eastern units of the Indian Peaks adjacent CRA are within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed. The western units of the Indian Peaks adjacent CRA are within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas.

This roadless area generally appears undisturbed and natural with a few exceptions. Unit B has a diversion ditch running through it with an associated maintenance road. In addition, Units B and C include old logging and mining roads. Numerous trails are located within Indian Peaks CRA including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, NFST 7 (High Lonesome), NFST 102 (Knight Ridge) and NFST 6 (Arapaho Pass Trail).

Unit B: Most of Unit B is located within the ANRA and in the northern end of the James Peak Protection Area. Recreation uses in the area include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling. The Green Ridge sub-unit is a small unit that is on the Lake Granby shoreline. Some trespass motorized use occurs. The Knight Ridge is a small sub-unit and sits on Lake Granby. The Strawberry sub-unit is relatively intact, but has remains of old historic logging. Mechanized use is popular. The Meadow Creek sub-unit is adjacent to a popular roaded area and has evidence of past logging. The Green and Knight Ridge sub-units can be accessed by boat, and use on the reservoir provides noise and visible impact, as well as dispersed use onshore. The Strawberry sub-unit is popular with mountain bikers, hunters, and snowmobilers. Ditch maintenance occurs. Meadow Creek is adjacent to popular roads and trails.

Unit C: Recreation activities in this unit include mountain bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, and hunting. The Brainard Lake recreation complex is adjacent to portions of this roadless area. Opportunities for solitude and a primitive recreation experience are limited near the Brainard Lake recreation complex due to high use.

Unit D: OHV use occurs in the Caribou parcel. Hiking is popular in all three sub-units. The Rainbow Lakes campground is adjacent to the Caribou and Rainbow Lakes sub-units. Opportunities for solitude are lacking due to use from adjacent developed facilities in the Caribou and Rainbow Lake sub-units, OHV use in the Caribou parcel, and adjacent uses from private lands adjacent to the Allenspark parcel.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Small portions of five different cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. One human burial site has been recorded within the boundaries of this roadless area. Burial sites are often considered sacred or spiritual places. Rollins Pass has been identified as a sacred area for the Ute and Arapaho (Burney, 2007). No consultation regarding traditional uses or sacred sites has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest. It is not known if Native Americans visit the area to collect traditionally used resources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Unit B: The Strawberry unit includes two inholdings with motorized access. The Strawberry unit also contains a diversion ditch for adjacent private land irrigation. The ditch requires annual maintenance necessitating motorized access.

Unit C: There is one isolated 40 acre parcel of private land in the center of the S. St. Vrain area. There are a minimum of 14 Use Restrictions and Encumbrances on Forest Service lands in Lefthand, S. St. Vrain, and Ironclads adjacent Roadless areas.

Unit D: Two patented mining claims are located in the Caribou area. There are no inholdings and no patented mining claims within the Rainbow Lakes or Allenspark areas. There is a Recreation Site Mineral Withdrawal for the Rainbow Lakes campground (done in 1957).

Unit C: Lefthand Reservoir extends into the eastern portion of the Lefthand adjacent Flows in S. St. Vrain Creek are altered by Lefthand Ditch Company.

There are no current authorizations for Units A, D, and B. Unit C: A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Colorado and the Forest Service authorizing the facilities at Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve. A Special Use permit has been issued to the Lefthand Ditch Company for Lefthand Reservoir. Another Special Use permit was issued to the City of Boulder for a drift fence along the southern shoulder of Niwot Ridge. A special use permit was issued to Xcel Energy Company for a buried powerline in the Niwot Ridge Road. Two outfitter guide permits are issued to peaceful Valley Lodge and Trojan Ranch.

Unit B: No grazing allotments are permitted in this sub-unit. Unit C: No grazing occurs

Unit D: The active Caribou Allotment is in parts of Caribou and Rainbow lakes areas.

This area lies along the north edge of the Colorado Mineral Belt. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 1,170 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Indian Peaks Adjacent Areas CRA.

Unit B: No known mineral deposits can be mined profitably now or in the foreseeable future (USGS Report) within this sub-unit.

Unit C: The Lefthand and S. St. Vrain adjacent areas are located on the edge of the Colorado Mineral Belt. Numerous mining claims and patents exist adjacent to the southern and eastern portions of both areas which have a rated mineral potential of moderate. The remainder of these areas and the Ironclads adjacent area are rated as having low mineral potential. There have been limited mineral operations in these areas in the past.

Unit D: There are two patented mining claims in the Caribou area. Mineral potential in the Caribou and Rainbow Lake areas is rated as moderate. The Allenspark area has been rated as having low mineral potential.

This CRA contains about 21,900 acres (72%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 100 acres (<1%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Highland Heights, Shores of Shadow Mountain, Mt. Shadow Estates, Grand View, Armstrong, Lake Forest, Y-Lee, Ward, Pawnee Campground, CU Mountain Research Station, Peaceful Valley, Beaver Reservoir Recreation Residence Group, Camp Dick, Ski Road subdivision, Ferncliff, Allenspark, Eldora, Caribou Ranch, Rainbow Lakes Campground, and Rock Creek Recreation Residence Group. This roadless area contains WUI for the following major values at risk: Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Shadow Mountain Dam, Lake Granby, Monarch Lake, Meadow Creek Reservoir, Greenridge Campground, Roaring Fork (Arapaho Bay) Campground, Big Rock (Arapaho Bay) Campground, Moraine (Arapaho Bay) Campground, and Public Service Company Gas Line.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
29,400	29,300	Boundary adjustments (10 acres) to eliminate summer home subdivision; some acreage was designated part of James Peak Wilderness in 2002, and some units shifted to James Peak Protection Area.

James Peak (2,800 acres)

1. Description

In 2002, the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act designated a portion of the roadless area east of the Continental Divide as wilderness and a portion west of the Continental Divide as a Protection Area. The James Peak CRA includes two units, each broken into sub-units which are described below. The CRA is administered by the Sulfur Ranger District. Unit A includes the portions of the original James Peak roadless area, adjacent to the Wilderness Area that did not receive a Congressional designation. Unit A includes seven sub-unit, totaling about 2300 acres south and east of the James Peak Wilderness. The most northern parcel is about eight miles southwest of Nederland, Colorado, while the most southern parcel is just north of U.S. Highway 40. All sub-units are on the east side of the Continental Divide. Access is through several points including the NFSR 149 (Moffat Road), NFSR 275 (Fall River Road) and U.S. Highway 40. Unit B includes the portions of the original James Peak roadless area, adjacent to the Protection Area that did not receive a Congressional designation. Unit B includes two sub-units totaling about 500 acres just west of the James Peak Protection Area and east

of U.S. Highway 40. Unit B is on the west side of the Continental Divide. The most northern portion of this unit is about five miles south of Winter Park, Colorado and just north and east of Berthoud Pass. Primary access to this area is U.S. Highway 40.

This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranges from 9,400 feet to 13,400 feet at Parry Peak. James Peak includes a mix of upper montane, subalpine, and alpine plant communities consisting of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, Krummholz, subalpine and alpine meadows, willow-carrs, and riparian areas. The recent mountain pine beetle epidemic has impacted the majority of mature lodgepole pine in this area. In 2007, the area was flown and about 27 percent of unit D had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Canada lynx is a federally listed species that has either presence and/or habitat in this roadless area. The Berthoud Pass area in the southern portion of this roadless area is designated as a lynx linkage area. This roadless area is within the Boulder, Fraser, and Clear Creek LAUs. Forest Service Sensitive Species that have presence, habitat, or potential habitat within this roadless area include: boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, pine marten, wolverine, pygmy shrew, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Rare plants found in the James Peak roadless area include the following: Extremely rare in Colorado (Colorado Natural Heritage Program): *Dryopteris expansa* (spreading wood fern), *Aster alpinus* var. *vierhapperi* (alpine aster), and *Erigeron humilis* (low fleabane). Management Indicator Species (MIS) with presence, habitat, or potential habitat in this unit include: deer, elk, boreal toad, golden-crowned kinglet, warbling vireo, Wilson's warbler, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Species without designated listing or status, but are reliant on these roadless areas include, but are not limited to: mountain lion, mountain goats, ptarmigan, osprey, beaver, grouse, great-horned owl, and black bear. Red squirrel and snowshoe hare, the primary prey items for Canada lynx, are also present.

Unit A consists of seven different units within four 6th level watersheds. The very small northern parcel is in the Jenny Creek watershed, which was rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan. The Moffat Road is to the north of this parcel. There are three units in the Fall River watershed, which was rated Class II—at-risk, primarily due to high road densities (mostly in the lower watershed). There is one parcel in the Mill Creek watershed, which was rated Class I—functional. There are roads around the parcel, but none within. The two southernmost units are within the West Fork Clear Creek watershed, which was rated Class III—non-functional. Within these units, 664 meters of a west Clear Creek tributary, Mad Creek, is on the 303(d) list for heavy metal impairment. 561 meters of Fall River and tributaries, a source to Clear Creek, is on the 303(d) list for heavy metal impairment. Both of these sections of stream are located above the mines, so the impairment likely doesn't occur within the CRA.

Units B & C are within the Fraser River 6th level watershed. In the 1997 Forest Plan, the Fraser River watershed was rated Class III—non-functional. The unit is just upslope from Hwy 40 and Berthoud Pass. It is steep and just north of the Berthoud Ski Area. The watershed was rated Class III—non-functional due to high sediment loads from the highway and impacts due to water diversion; neither of these affects the unit. Units D and E are located in the Ranch Creek and Fraser River 6th level watersheds. Ranch Creek was rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan. There are trails through the area and the area is steep. Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is generally moderate to high. The eastern units of the James Peak CRAs are within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

West of the continental divide, the western units of the James Peak Adjacent CRA are within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. Air quality related values, identified as having the potential to be impacted by human caused air pollution, are soil, water quality, flora, fauna, and visibility. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas.

There are numerous impacts within the CRA that affect the natural appearance of the landscape and degrade scenic quality. Highly visible human created changes include: Berthoud Pass Ditch, Winter Park Ski Area, U.S. Highway 40, and the following structures: NFSR N94.0 (Jim Creek road), located in the Jim Creek drainage originally served as access for a timber sale in the area. Although it is currently closed to motorized use, it receives trespass by motor vehicles. Aircraft Beacon site is located on the Continental Divide about three miles south of Rollins Pass. The concrete pad, concrete guy wire anchors, and guy wires are all that remain. A primitive road used to access this site is currently being used as non-motorized access to the Continental Divide. In addition, a powerline corridor that provided power for the aircraft beacon is still visible. The old power poles have been cut down, however, many are scattered along the route with assorted remnants of insulators and cable.

Moffat Tunnel right-of-way is a permanent easement, authorizing the Moffat tunnel and associated improvements. The easement also authorized above ground survey lines cleared during tunnel construction. Mount Eva communication site tower is located on the flanks of Mount Eva. It can be seen in portions of the roadless area. Ines Peak communication site tower is outside the CRA but is adjacent to it and is visible in portions of the roadless area.

Recreational use of James Peak is high compared to the other roadless areas on the Sulphur Ranger District. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail follows the east boundary of the CRA. James Peak, which is on the CDNST, is a popular day-hike destination. Other trails within the CRA are NFST 94 (Jim Creek), 93 (Rogers Pass), 8 (Corona), and Rollins Pass (no assigned number). Snowmobile use is very popular in the northern part of the CRA and guided snowmobile tours are provided under special use permits. Away from these trail corridors, there is a sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. Although hiking and snowmobiling are the major modes of transportation, a limited amount of mountain biking and illegal motorcycle/ATV use occurs in the Corona Lake area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Small portions of five different cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. Rollins Pass has been identified as a sacred area for the Ute and Arapaho (Burney, 2007). No consultation regarding traditional uses or sacred sites has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Outfitter and guide permits are often issued in this area for snowmobile guide services, horseback rides, and guided hunted trips. Public Service Company Gas Line runs through the area. There is an old ditch (5 feet wide by 2 feet deep) that crosses the Continental Divide at Roger Pass. This ditch appears to have been an early trans-basin diversion to move water to the east side of the Continental Divide. Jim Creek diversion (Denver Water) is on the margin of the CRA. The James Peak roadless area is located on the edge of the Colorado Mineral Belt. Numerous patented and unpatented mining claims exist within and adjacent to the area. Prospect pits from past mining operations are evident, particularly in unit A. The majority of the roadless area is rated as having low mineral potential. The area around Berthoud Pass along the east side of the Continental Divide is rated as having medium mineral potential.

This CRA contains about 5,100 acres (35%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 700 acres (5%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions and infrastructure: Old Town Winter Park, Lakota, Bridgers Cache, Village at Winter Park, Mizpah Campground, Clear Creek Picnic ground, Hwy 40, Empire, Mill Creek Park subdivision, St Mary’s / Alice, and East Portal Moffat Tunnel. This roadless area contains WUI for the following major values at risk: Winter Park Resort, Public Service Co. Gas Line, Denver Water Board Fraser River Collection System, Mines Peak Communication Site, West Portal Moffat Tunnel, CDOT Highway Maintenance Shop, and Berthoud Pass Trailhead and warming hut.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
26,000	2,800	Acreage became Congressionally designated wilderness and protection area.

Kelly Creek (8,200 acres)

1. Description

Kelly Creek is located approximately eight miles southwest of Granby, Colorado between Little Muddy Creek and Beaver Creek in Grand County. The area is accessed by NFSRs 133 (Beaver Creek Road) and 134 (Kelly Creek Road). This CRA is administered by the Sulphur Ranger District. Forest, BLM, and private ranches and lands surround this area. The area is not contiguous to any existing wilderness. Kelly Creek road accesses the interior of the roadless area but it is closed to motorized use except when required for administrative use only (range permittee). Motorized access to private property exists on the western edge of the roadless area. Kelly Creek CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,500 to 10,200 feet above sea level. Moderately steep to gentle slopes, v-shaped valleys, rocky outcrops, and meadows characterize the area. The main drainage features of the area include Little Muddy, Strawberry, Cub, and Kelly Creeks. The CRA consists of large meadows with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at low elevations. Aspen and lodgepole pine dominate at the higher elevations. Old growth Douglas-fir remnants occur on north slopes and some ancient ponderosa pine at forest-shrubland interface at lower elevations. Willow, aspen, and riparian areas are common. The area supports approximately 800 acres of lodgepole pine old growth, all of which no longer have old growth characteristics resulting from mountain pine beetle induced mortality. In 2007, the area was flown and about 32 percent of the roadless area had active mountain pine beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is unique as an undisturbed, lower elevation ecosystem with old growth lodgepole pine stands important aquatic, riparian and wetland area, supporting diverse wildlife habitats. The area receives minimal human use outside of hunting seasons making it a

valuable refuge for wildlife. The Kelly Creek CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx denning and foraging habitat, especially on north slopes, can be found within the Williams Fork LAU. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as the Northern goshawk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, flammulated owl, Lewis’ woodpecker, boreal toad, three-toed woodpecker, pygmy shrew, wolverine, marten, boreal owl, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, wood frog, and Colorado River cutthroat trout is present. Kelly, Cub, and Little Muddy Creeks combined support a population of Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT). Brook trout in all three drainages may out-compete CRCT populations. Additionally, water diversions reducing the flows into the Little Muddy also affect cutthroat trout habitat. Strawberry Creek only supports a population of brook trout. All four of these creeks, provide habitat for cutthroat habitat, if reintroduction is desired. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include deer, elk, boreal toad, pygmy nuthatch, mountain bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, Wilson’s warbler, warbling vireo, boreal toad, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Elk and deer overall range, winter and summer range, and movement corridors exist within this CRA. Black bear, moose, red-tailed hawk, and mountain lion use the area regularly. This area contains large blocks of interior forest with some of the most productive black bear habitat on the Sulphur Ranger District. Beaver complexes are found throughout the unit. The area includes some sage grouse summer range with brood-rearing habitat at the lowest elevations.

The Kelly Creek CRA is within two 6th level watersheds: Little Muddy Creek and Beaver Creek. In the 1997 Forest Plan, Little Muddy Creek was rated Class III—non-functional and Beaver Creek was rated Class II—at-risk. There are high densities of roads in the upper watersheds. The Little Muddy watershed is non-functional due to the impacts from diversions. Kelly Creek road, adjacent to the CRA, has impacted Kelly Creek. The Forest has been unsuccessful at closing the road multiple times. The CRA has also been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The potential effects of this epidemic may result in increased levels of flow and sediment in streams and watersheds. Most of the CRA is rated low or moderate for erosion hazard, but areas rated high exist. Mass movement hazard is generally low but there is a large area of high mass movement hazard in the western part of the CRA. The Kelly Creek CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas.

Hunters are the primary recreational users of the unit, with some hiking and snowmobiling occurring on the interior road. The interior road is also used by a rancher for livestock management. Because human use is minimal, there are plentiful opportunities for solitude. However, livestock in the CRA may affect these opportunities. The area is visible from NFSR 133 (Beaver Creek Road). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Small portions of two cultural resource inventories have been located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Morton Ditch is within this CRA. The Brinker Ditch (north and outside the CRA) diverts water from Muddy Creek which is largely dry while the ditch is being operated. There is one outfitter-guide permittee within this area. There is one active grazing allotment, Muddy Cattle and Horse, in this CRA. The area is outside of the Colorado Mineral Belt and no patented mining claims are known to exist within it. Approximately two-thirds of the area (6,633 acres) has high oil and gas potential, although there are currently no active drilling sites and none are anticipated in the near future. This CRA contains about 5,900 acres (72%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 30 acres (<1%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains no Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
8,200	8,200	No change.

Lion Gulch (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The Lion Gulch area is approximately five miles southeast of Estes Park, Colorado in Larimer County. It is administered by the Estes-Poudre Ranger District. The area is surrounded by private lands on three sides. There is one tract of private land within the roadless area boundary. NFSR 118 (Johnny Park Road) forms the southern boundary. National Forest land is adjacent to the southern boundary. The area is bordered on the east by U.S. Highway 36, on the north by private land, on the west by private land, and CR 82 (Homestead Meadows Road). The area is accessed by NFST 949 (Lion Gulch trail) and 1007 (Pierson Park trail). However, public access to these two trails is limited by locked gates and few roads. The private landowner is provided access by CR 82. NFSR 329 is a Level 2 road (high-clearance, 4-wheel drive road) along the western boundary and the means of access to the Detloff property. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 6,800-9,290 feet above sea level. The area has broad plateaus

intersected by steep canyons. Lion Gulch is the main drainage for the area. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are the main vegetation types with some lodgepole pine at higher elevations. There are some areas of old growth. The remainder of the area consists of grass, shrubs, and rocks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA consists of large meadows with ponderosa pine, aspen and Douglas-fir at low elevations. Lodgepole pine and blue spruce mixed forest dominate the higher elevations. The CDOW considers it an important elk harvest area. Lion Gulch has a number of wet meadows and riparian habitat associated with it. The Lion Gulch CRA provides habitat for several federally listed species. Denning and foraging habitat for the Canada lynx can be found within the Estes Lynx Analysis Unit. The Forest Service has identified 134 acres of Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) habitat in this CRA, although more may exist. The steep canyons may provide habitat for the Mexican spotted owl. Lion’s Gulch and nearby Muggins Gulch also provide habitat for greenback cutthroat trout. No fish were seen in Lion’s Gulch in recent surveys; however, the creek is recovering from the effects of a 2002 fire, where sand, silt, and ash were deposited, reducing habitat availability for fish. Habitat is present in this CRA for the following Forest Service Sensitive species: Northern goshawk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, flammulated owl, Lewis’ woodpecker, boreal toad, Northern leopard frog, wood frog, three-toed woodpecker, pygmy shrew, marten, boreal owl, peregrine falcon, and olive-sided flycatcher. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrence of boreal owls in the area. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, Pygmy nuthatch, mountain bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, warbling vireo, boreal owl, boreal toad, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. The CRA also provides habitat for black bear, blue grouse, mountain lion, and wild turkey.

The Lion Gulch CRA falls within two 6th level watersheds: Muggins Gulch and West Fork Thompson River, both were rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan. Both watersheds had riparian areas described as at-risk, and both have a high percentage of roaded area in the watershed (outside the CRA). Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is generally moderate or low. Highway 36 runs along the northeast side of the CRA, air quality in this area may be affected. The Lion Gulch CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The primary attraction of the area is the Homestead Meadows National Historic District and the old homesteads. Several abandoned historic homesteads are interconnected by roads which are used as trails. These trails receive a lot of recreational use, including use by hunters and wildlife watchers. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and viewing historical structures are popular recreation activities. With the exception of this historic area, the majority of the CRA is natural and free from human disturbance. There are a few scattered stands of old growth. Private property and roads on the boundaries detract from the natural appearance and opportunities for solitude. Within the interior of the CRA opportunities for solitude are available. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Small portions of two cultural resource inventories were located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

One parcel of private property totaling 120 acres is present. There are no water developments in the area. There are two outfitter-guide permittees for horseback riding, one for hunting, and two for hiking (and llamas) operating within this area. There are no active grazing allotments with this CRA. There are no known minerals within this unit. The same is true in regards to oil or gas leases or permits within this area. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 240 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Lion Gulch CRA. This CRA contains approximately 5,200 acres (79%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Big Elk Meadows, Hermit Park, Pinewood Springs, Muggins Gulch, Little Valley, Meadowdale Hills, Big Elk Park, and Wild Basin Ranch.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,600	6,600	No change.

Mount Evans Adjacent Areas (10,200 acres)

1. Description

Mount Evans Adjacent Areas consist of four unit (A-D) comprising a total of approximately 10,200 acres. All are administered by the Clear Creek Ranger District and are located within Clear Creek County.. Each unit is described below:

Unit A is approximately 10 miles southwest of Idaho Springs, Colorado. The Mount Evans Wilderness lies immediately to the south of the CRA and CR 381, the Guanella Pass Scenic Byway corridor lies due west of the CRA. The CRA is bisected by NFSR 188 (West Chicago Creek Road) and NFSR 247 (South Chicago Creek road) which bisects the CRA into three major pieces.

Unit B is approximately 12 miles southwest of Idaho Springs, Colorado. The area includes a portion that lies between the NFSR 798.1 (Idaho Springs Reservoir access road) corridor and the Colorado Highway 5 corridor (Mount Evans Scenic Byway), and the Mount Goliath Research Natural Area, on the east side of Colorado Highway 5. The unit's southern and eastern boundaries are the Mount Evans Wilderness. Access is obtained from road corridors adjacent to the roadless area and from three hiking trails within the roadless area.

Unit C is located at the northeastern edge of the Mount Evans Wilderness. The northern boundary of the area is the corridor of Colorado Highway 103. NFST 58 (Chief Mountain trail) approximately 1.5 miles long, off of Highway 103, provides non-motorized trail access to the center of the area. NFSR 192, a closed Level 2 road approximately one mile long forms the eastern boundary of the roadless area, and provides non-motorized access to the eastern margin of the area.

Unit D is located approximately 10 miles west of Evergreen, Colorado. The area is composed of two major blocks of land. The western portion is a crescent-shaped piece of land that lies between and adjacent to the Mount Evans Wilderness. Colorado State Wildlife Management Area and private ranch lands in Indian Park border this unit to the east. The eastern portion of the roadless area is adjacent to the Indian Park ranch lands, and borders a four-wheel-drive road corridor which access National Forest System lands and private lands. Access to the area is very limited. Several wilderness access hiking trails pass through the area. NFSR 244, a Level 2 (high clearance, 4-wheel-drive) road, which is currently closed to public motorized use, provides access to areas adjacent to the eastern boundary of the area. The four-wheel drive roads in the area are gated and do not provide any public motorized access. However, there is some occasional unauthorized motorized use (ATV's) onto the forest from private property owners.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranges from 8,200 to 12,200 feet above sea level. The area contains the upper watershed area of Chicago Creek, a major tributary of Clear Creek. Potential old growth areas consist of acres of spruce-fir. Unit A consists of three broad ridges extending northeastern off of Mount Evans. Vegetation is composed of upper montane species, such as Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Lodgepole, ponderosa pine, and aspen occur at lower elevations, with acres of old growth lodgepole.

Unit B is between the NFSR 798.1 (Idaho Springs Reservoir access road) and the Mt. Evans Scenic Byway, and includes the Mount Goliath Research Natural Area. It is adjacent to the wilderness. The area has rock cliffs and talus slopes composed of granite. The area has no developed streams. Subalpine and alpine timberline ecosystems occur at approximately 11,800 feet. The area contains mature Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forest in the lower elevations. The Mount Goliath Research Natural Area contains a large stand of bristlecone pine. The higher elevations are vegetated with Krummholz and alpine meadows. Old growth stands consist of spruce/fir and bristlecone pine.

Unit C: The area is part of a high spur ridge off of Mount Evans, and includes a steep ravine (Metz Creek). Chief Mountain is a major peak in the area (9,869 feet). The area contains mostly mature Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forest, with mixed lodgepole pine and aspen in lower elevations, stands of alpine meadow and Krummholz at the summit of Mount Chief.

Unit D is composed of steep, rugged lower side slopes of Mount Evans. The area contains several perennial streams draining into Bear Creek. The higher-elevation portions contain mostly mature Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forest, intermixed with lodgepole pine. Small stands of aspen are dispersed throughout the area. Lower-elevations contain ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Old growth stands consist of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir and lodgepole pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The elevation range for the Mount Evans adjacent area Unit's A through D provide montane to alpine habitats with most of the area being sub-alpine. Spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, alpine meadows, old growth lodgepole pine/spruce-fir, wetland, and riparian areas provide important habitats for a diversity of wildlife in the area. The Canada lynx is a federally listed species that has either presence and/or habitat in all of the Adjacent Areas. All Adjacent Areas fall within the Clear Creek (Unit B) and Mount Evans Lynx Analysis Units (Unit

C,D). The greenback cutthroat trout is another federally listed species that has habitat within this CRA. Forest Service Sensitive Species that have presence, habitat, or potential habitat within the Adjacent Areas A-D include: boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, boreal owl, Northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, pine marten, wolverine, ptarmigan, bighorn sheep, and pygmy shrew. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with presence, habitat, or potential habitat in the area include: deer, elk, boreal toad, golden-crowned kinglet, bighorn sheep, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Deer and elk migration corridors are located throughout the area. All units serve as a migration corridor for big game ungulates from the higher elevations to the lower elevations during seasonal changes. Many deer and elk do not actually migrate entirely into the wilderness but remain year-round in the open parks, meadows, and dense conifer stands in the CRA. CDOW annually counts mountain goats and bighorn sheep in Units B, C, and D. Sheep use these areas year-round. During the winter months, these areas become important for bighorn survival. This CRA provides habitat for self-sustaining brook trout populations. While some of the streams are still recovering from the effects of a fire; the streams could eventually be possible sites for reintroduction of native cutthroat. Species without designated listing or status but are reliant on these roadless areas include, but are not limited to: moose, mountain lion, and black bear. Red squirrel and snowshoe hare, the primary prey items for Canada lynx, are also present. Mountain goats are present and CDOW considers units A-D summer and winter range for the goats.

All units provides suitable habitat for resident populations of white-tailed ptarmigan. During the winter months, the area within these units becomes absolutely essential for ptarmigan survival. The following unit specific information is provided:

Unit B: A large old growth stand of bristlecone pine exists in the Mount Goliath Natural Area.

Unit C: Aspen can be found in this unit, forming prime habitat for warbling vireo and wood frog, both FS Sensitive species.

Unit D: Aspen stands can be found in this unit, forming prime habitat for warbling vireo and wood frog, both Forest Service Sensitive species. Areas of aspen, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations also provide habitats for MIS species such as: pygmy nuthatch, warbling vireo, mountain bluebird, hairy woodpecker, Other Sensitive Species such as flammulated owl, Lewis' woodpecker, fringed myotis, and Townsend's big-eared bat also find habitat here.

The Mt. Evans Adjacent Area CRA is within eight 6th level watersheds. Parcel A is within the Chicago Creek COMP (composite), West Chicago Creek, South Clear Creek, and Chicago Creek watersheds. The Chicago Creek COMP and South Clear Creek watersheds were rated Class III—non-functional, although the majority of activity and impacts occur downstream from the CRA. West Chicago Creek and Chicago Creek were rated Class I—functional. Parcel B is within the Chicago and Vance Creek watersheds. Both were rated Class 1. The Mt. Evans road splits the parcel, but otherwise the area is not impacted. Parcel C is within the Vance Creek watershed and a very small portion is in the Barbour Fork watershed (rated Class II—at-risk). Parcel D is within the Bear Creek watershed (rated Class I—functional) and a very small portion is in the Bear Creek Upper COMP watershed (rated Class II—at risk, but impacts are all downstream of CRA). Most of the CRA is rated high for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is generally moderate or low, but two large areas rated as high exist in the area.

The Mt Evans Adjacent CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed. Most of the area appears natural, except for prescribed fire activities and primitive road development. Chief Mountain provides panoramic views of the Front Range peaks and the Denver Basin. The old growth lodgepole pine/spruce fir stands are a unique habitat feature for this CRA. Mount Goliath Nature Center provides visitors an up-close experience with ancient bristlecone pines, alpine plant life, wildlife and other geological features of the area. Wildlife viewing is a major recreation activity provided for in this roadless area, particularly viewing of bighorn sheep, mountain goats and elk.

Unit A: Trail hiking and hunting are the primary recreation uses, with the NFST 53 (Hell's Hole trail) receiving heavy use. Opportunities for solitude and unconfined primitive recreation are limited to two ridges between the road corridors (1,500 acres).

Unit B: Three developed hiking trails receive moderate to heavy hiking use. Heavy dispersed day-use occurs in the corridor within a half mile of the Mount Evans Scenic Byway corridor. Some dispersed camping occurs near Idaho Springs Reservoir. Portions of the Mount Goliath Research Natural Area receive heavy use by visitors observing and walking through the bristlecone pine stands.

Unit C: NFST 58 (Chief Mountain Trail) receives high hiking use. Some dispersed cross-country skiing occurs.

Unit D: The trail corridors receive medium to heavy recreation use, mainly from hiking with some horse and mountain bike use. Dispersed camping occurs along the stream corridors adjacent to trails. Bear Creek receives some fishing use on state land. Outside the trail corridors, recreational use is low and limited to hiking and hunting.

The Idaho Springs Reservoir is adjacent to this roadless area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A small portion of one cultural resource inventory is located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no private land inholdings inside the boundaries of any of the units. There are no water developments and very limited water development potential inside the boundaries of any of the units. Two outfitter/guide permits for hiking/backpacking trips are authorized for Unit A, C, and D. Some statewide outfitter/guide hunting permits are authorized for Units A, B, C, and D. All adjacent areas have no special uses except for Unit D which has two outfitter/guide permits for backpacking trips. No active grazing allotments exist within any of the units. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 150 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within this CRA.

Unit A is adjacent to the Colorado Mineral Belt, but outside the area of heavy past mining operations. The area is classified as having high to medium potential for reserves of gold and silver and other precious metals. Unit B has a low potential of having mineral reserves. Unit C has medium potential of having mineral reserves. Unit D has a very low potential of having mineral reserves.

This CRA contains about 9,100 acres (89%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This CRA contains wildland -urban interface (WUI) for the following communities and subdivisions and/or infrastructure: West Chicago Creek Campground, Chicago Fork Picnic Ground, Eagles Aerie, Georgetown, Silverdale, Ponder Point Picnic ground, Mount Evans Road, Echo Lake, Guanella Pass Road, Clear Lake Campground, Blue Valley, Mount Evans State Wildlife Area, Indian Creek Park, Hells Hole Trailhead, and Mount Goliath Nature Center.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
10,200	10,200	No change.

Mount Sniktau (7,700 acres)

1. Description

Mount Sniktau is in Clear Creek County, approximately 20 miles west of Idaho Springs, Colorado. It is administered by the Clear Creek Ranger District. The roadless area lies south of Interstate 70 between Bakerville and Loveland Ski Area. This area shares a common boundary with the Porcupine Peak roadless area on the White River National Forest. The area extends west to the limits of the ski area and U.S. Highway 6 corridor. Mount Sniktau borders the Continental Divide on the southwest boundary. The roadless area extends eastward to the NFSR 248 (Argentine Pass Road) corridor and to private lands in the Kelso Mountain area. The CRA is primarily inaccessible except for backcountry hiking. The two most heavily used access points are Loveland Pass on U.S. Hwy 6 and NFST 54 (Grays Peak Trailhead). There are two developed hiking trails and several informal hiking trails associated with the Continental Divide from Loveland Pass to Grays Peak. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,000 to 14,270 feet above sea level. Steep alpine ridges, rugged alpine peaks, and alpine glacial features characterize the area. The area contains glacial cirques, several permanent snow fields, many active avalanche paths, and two small alpine lakes. The area also has two 14,000-foot peaks and two 13,000-foot peaks. The drainage contains a five-mile stretch of Clear Creek. The area is primarily alpine tundra with spruce-fir is the dominant vegetation type. Approximately 70% of the area is above timberline, with alpine meadows, exposed rock, and scree. The elevation zone between 11,600 and 12,000 feet contain clusters of dwarfed Engelmann spruce, sub alpine fir and willow spruce. Most of the area below timberline is covered by Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir with scattered stands of aspen, lodgepole pine, and wet areas with willow and alder. Lodgepole pine and aspen stands are more prevalent at the lowest elevations and on southern slopes. The area contains 42 acres of old growth stands of Engelmann spruce mixed with subalpine fir and lodgepole pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area receives a fair amount of hiking traffic but is considered a non-motorized use area, making it desirable for wildlife. Denning and foraging habitat for the Canada lynx, a federally listed species, can be found within the Clear Creek Lynx Analysis Unit. Approximately 91 acres of the Herman Gulch Lynx Linkage Area falls within this CRA, as does 453 acres of the Loveland Pass Lynx Linkage Area. CDOW states that lynx have been tracked into the Mt. Sniktau/Stevens Gulch area in recent years. It is believed that the

region has suitable habitat, available prey species, and enough undisturbed backcountry to be suitable for expanding lynx populations as the species moves north through Colorado. Kearney Gulch is a potential re-introduction site for native greenback cutthroat trout (GBCT), another federally listed species. No GBCT have been observed in recent surveys of Grizzly and Kearney Gulches. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as Northern goshawk, boreal toad, three-toed woodpecker, wolverine, marten, boreal owl, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, and bighorn sheep is present in this area. Boreal toad breeding sites have been located along I-70 in the Clear Creek drainage. Surveys to determine additional suitable habitat are currently being conducted. The area is considered overall range for white-tailed ptarmigan and local populations are present. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include deer, elk, boreal toad, golden-crowned kinglet, Wilson’s warbler, bighorn sheep, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Deer and elk use the tundra seasonally but may drop in elevation as winter weather becomes severe. Big game herds in the area are believed to be primarily residential and do not migrate great distances from Mount Sniktau, Kelso Mountain, and the Continental Divide. The Continental Divide and surrounding peaks are part of the core area for Colorado’s mountain goats (CDOW). The majority of the high peaks are within the overall range and concentration areas for the species. Hunting of this species is also popular in this CRA.

The Mt. Sniktau CRA is primarily located within the Clear Creek 6th level watershed, but a small portion is within the South Clear Creek watershed. Both were rated Class III—non-functional in the 1997 Forest Plan. Both have mining impacts downstream from the CRA. The area is very steep and erosion hazard is high. The upper ends of the watersheds where the CRA is located are relatively undisturbed. Most of the CRA is rated low or moderate for erosion hazard, but large areas rated high exist. Approximately half of the CRA has a high mass movement hazard rating. The Mt Sniktau CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

Approximately 5,000 acres of the roadless area remain natural. Approximately 2,600 acres are impacted by development, recreation use, and mining. The I-70 corridor has a major impact to the natural appearance and integrity of the area due to sights and sound of traffic, vehicle fumes, and disruption to wildlife movement. This roadless area includes two 14,000 foot peaks, Grays and Torreys, which are accessible from Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the Grays Peak National Recreation Trail and informal trails. Recreational use of the area is almost entirely non-motorized. A moderate level of hiking use occurs along the Continental Divide to the peak of Mount Sniktau. Winter activity in the roadless area is low to moderate due to steep terrain and avalanche dangers. The upper Steven’s Gulch and Grizzly Gulch basins receive moderate levels of cross-country ski use and a small amount of snowmobile use. NFST 60 (Bakerville Loveland Trail) receives moderate winter non-motorized use and is closed to snowmobiles. Other recreational uses in the area include fishing, mountain biking and scenic viewing. About 4,500 acres within this roadless area provide solitude and primitive recreation opportunities. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). One systematic cultural resource inventory has been conducted in the area. During this survey four sites were located. These sites contain features that may be identified as sacred. No consultation regarding traditional uses or sacred sites has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest. It is unknown whether Native Americans visit the area to collect traditionally used resources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are 46 acres of private land inholdings composed of thin isolated strips of land (patented mining claims) on steep isolated lands near the Continental Divide. These private lands do not have roaded access. There are no water developments and very limited water development potential exists in this area. Approximately 600 acres of the eastern edge Loveland Ski Area’s permit boundary is in this CRA. Xcel Energy is authorized to drive on the Bakerville Loveland Trail. There are also some outfitter/guide permits for hiking and hunting in Kearny Gulch, Grizzly Peak, and recreation events on the Bakerville Loveland Trail. There are no grazing allotments in this CRA and future livestock operations are not anticipated.

Currently there are no active mining operations in this area. This area borders the outer edge of the Colorado Mineral Belt and there is medium to high potential for mineralized areas. Scattered throughout the area are many mine spoils, waste piles, and abandoned excavations. This CRA contains about 2,700 acres (32%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains wildland-urban interface (WUI) for the following communities and subdivisions: Bakerville, I-70 Corridor, Loveland Ski Area, Herman and Gulch Recreation Residence Group.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
8,300	7,700	600 acres within the Loveland Ski Area permit were removed from the inventory.

Neota Adjacent Area (2,200 acres)

1. Description

The Neota Adjacent Area is located approximately 65 miles northwest of Fort Collins, Colorado. The area is adjacent to the Neota Wilderness on the west and south. Comanche Peak Wilderness borders the area on the east while the National Forest borders it on the north and east. It is administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. Access to this area is via NFSR 156 (Long Draw Road). Access is provided by a four mile route across the State Lone Pine Wildlife Area. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranges from 10,000 to 10,900 feet above sea level. The topography of the area consists of fairly steep slopes rising from NFSR 156 (Long Draw and Trap Park roads). Trap Park is a narrow valley running from Trap Lake to the foot of Iron Mountain. The CRA is primarily alpine and subalpine with spruce-fir, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine the dominant vegetation types. Willow and alpine meadows are also present.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can be found in the Poudre LAU. CDOW states that historically this CRA provided lynx habitat and currently does have potential for lynx with good populations of snowshoe hares, the lynx's primary prey. Recent documentation demonstrates lynx currently utilizing adjacent habitats. Corral Creek currently supports a large self-sustaining population of brook trout and provides habitat to be a potential site for the reintroduction for native greenback cutthroat trout, a federally listed species. This contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, three-toed woodpecker, wolverine, marten, boreal owl, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, and pygmy shrew. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of boreal owl, boreal toad, pygmy shrew, wolverine, and wood frog in the Neota CRA. Confirmed boreal owl breeding records begin in the early 1980s at Cameron Pass, Larimer County, and juveniles observed the birds at Deadman Mountain Lookout. Larimer County documents boreal owl use of adjacent habitat. This CRA includes habitat for boreal toads and their reproduction. Boreal toads may be present in nearby Trap Lake, as well as other lakes within the CRA. The wood frog has breeding areas in the CRA with recruitment into populations here. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include deer, elk, boreal toad, golden-crowned kinglet, Wilson's warbler, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. The CRA provides elk summer concentration areas, elk and deer summer range, and elk production areas. It is known for its high moose density and provides overall moose range, summer range, and concentration areas. This area is valued as a watchable wildlife site. It also provides habitat for species such as black bear and mountain lion. The CNHP Database has recorded occurrence of dwarf shrew.

The CRA is within three 6th level watersheds: La Poudre Pass Creek (rated Class III—non-functional in the 1997 Forest Plan), Upper Poudre Composite (rated Class I—functional), and Joe Wright Creek (rated Class I—functional). There is a high percentage of roaded area in both Joe Wright Creek and La Poudre Pass Creek watersheds. Both streams are also impacted by low flows from reservoir operations. The Long Draw road borders this CRA for most of the northern/eastern boundaries. There are areas of sensitive soils with high erosion hazard in this area. Most of the CRA is rated low or moderate for erosion hazard. Most of the CRA has low or moderate mass movement hazard rating. The Neota Adjacent Area CRA is within the Medicine Bow Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Rawah, Neota, the northern half of Never Summer, and the western portion of Comanche Peaks. With the exception of the Class I Rawah Wilderness Area, all are Class II areas.

Portions of this roadless area, particularly those adjacent to the Wilderness Area, have a natural appearance and have retained ecological integrity. The area is can be viewed from the Neota Wilderness, the Comanche Peak Wilderness Areas, NFSR 56, Long Draw Reservoir, and Grand View CG. NFST 866 (Trap Lake trail) runs through the area. Hiking and mountain biking are popular in Trap Park. Fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling also occur here. NFSR 156 is a popular dispersed recreation area which detracts from the solitude of areas adjacent to the road. However, other areas provide opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been identified.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no water developments. There are no permitted uses within this area. There is one inactive livestock grazing allotment (Corral Park Cattle and Horse) which includes 2,169 acres in the area. There are no known valuable minerals and no oil or gas leases in this unit. This CRA contains about 1,500 acres (68%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are approximately 30 acres (1%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. About 143 acres have been cut in the past, but for the most part is not evident. This roadless area contains wildland urban interface (WUI) for Long Draw Campground and Grandview Campground.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
2,200	2,200	No change.

Never Summer Adjacent Area (11,400 acres)

1. Description

The Never Summer Roadless Area is located on both the Sulphur Ranger District and the Parks District of the Routt National Forest in Grand County, about 15 miles north of Granby. The area is adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, Never Summer Wilderness, and the congressionally designated Bowen Protection Area. The CRA extends south from the Continental Divide and includes the southern portion of the Never Summer Mountain Range. Access into the area is provided via numerous foot, horses and motorized trails. Access from the east side is restricted in places by the National Park and private lands. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000 to 12,700 feet above sea level. The terrain varies from high rugged alpine peaks along the divide to broad timbered ridges and v-shaped valleys. Steep slopes opening to large meadows with abundant grasses, forbs, and shrubs characterize this area. The dominant vegetation type is coniferous forest with lodgepole pine, spruce-fir, and transition (spruce-fir-lodgepole) forest. The area has 3,292 acres of old growth primarily in the Bowen Protection area, however, much of the old growth lodgepole pines lost old growth characteristics due to death of the mature pine trees from the mountain pine beetle infestation. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 43 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

CDOW has concerns that habitat fragmentation from human activities such as density and intensity of motorized uses could impose negative impacts on landscape scale movements and health of many species within the CRA. The area currently has beneficial habitat connectivity between areas including Troublesome CRA, Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), Bowen Protection Area, and Indian Peaks Wilderness. This rare large expanse of relatively undisturbed habitats is important to maintain wildlife species in this area. Currently a large portion of the wildlife security areas are in the Bowen Protection Area.

The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can be found in the Upper Colorado LAU. Habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as northern goshawk, boreal toad, wolverine, marten, boreal owl, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, pygmy shrew, three-toed woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, bighorn sheep, and Colorado River cutthroat trout is present. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of boreal owl, boreal toad, wolverine, and wood frog in the area. The Forest Service has received regular reports of wolverine activity, as recent as 2007. Colorado River cutthroat trout have been found in Stillwater Creek. There are records of stocking within this CRA approximately 20 years ago. Portions of Willow Creek also support rainbow trout in addition to brook trout. The streams within this CRA provide habitat for brook trout and have the potential to be reintroduction sites for native cutthroat trout. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Wilson's warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Bighorn sheep use the southern extent of the Never Summer Adjacent Area in Rocky Mountain National Park. This CRA provides habitat for black bear, moose, and mountain lion. It is overall range for black bear and mountain lion; important seasonal movement corridor and production area for mule deer and elk; year around habitat in higher elevation parks and willow communities. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrence of Barrow's goldeneye.

The Never Summer Adjacent Area CRA falls within ten 6th-level watersheds: The northern portion is within Trout Creek (rated Class I—functional in the 1997 Forest Plan), Pass Creek, and Willow Creek (rated Class II—at-risk). A small portion falls within the Willow Creek Upper COMP (composite) watershed (also rated Class II—at-risk). There is a road along the southern edge of this portion. The middle portion is within Willow Creek (rated Class I—functional). (Baker Gulch is only part of the IRA if the Grand Ditch and its road is part of the IRA. (We don't know if it is because we got several different maps and don't know which is correct.) The southern portion is primarily within Supply Creek and Stillwater Creek (both rated Class II—at-risk), with small portions in Trail Creek and Lake Granby COMP (both rated Class II—at-risk). The eastern portion is within the Colorado COMP watershed (rated Class I—functional). A 4WD road from the Sun Valley Ranch area is shown on the USGS quad map. There is a high percentage of mountain pine beetle impacts in the north and south portions of the CRA within Trout, Supply, and Stillwater Creeks. The potential effects of this epidemic may result in increased levels of flow and sediment in streams and watersheds.

Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Most of the CRA has a low or moderate mass movement hazard rating but areas rated high exist on steep slopes. The Never Summer Adjacent Area CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of

Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas.

The majority of the area is natural appearing. The narrow strip surrounding the protection area contains small harvested areas and motorized and mechanized trails, as does the western portion. The area is viewable from the Never Summer Wilderness Area, and from Rocky Mountain National Park. NFST 118 (Wolverine Trail) runs through the area. Summer recreation use includes hiking, camping, and fishing. Heavy motorized use occurs on several popular trails. The eastern portion receives heavy snowmobile use. The motorized and mechanized trails in the narrow strip and the western portion reduce the opportunities for solitude in that area. Opportunities for solitude exist in the core of the area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located within this area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Vagabond Ranch, a private inholding, lies adjacent to the roadless area. The old Mulstay Homestead is adjacent on the southwest corner. There are no water developments in the CRA. The only known permitted permanent land use within this area is a short section of a water transmission ditch in the vicinity of Illinois Pass. Portions of this CRA are either in the Stillwater Cattle and Horse allotment or the Baker Sheep and Goat allotment. The Baker Sheep and Goat allotment is considered unsuitable for sheep grazing and the Stillwater allotment is vacant. The potential for oil and gas is high but the Bowen Protection Area is withdrawn. This CRA contains about 8,200 acres (41%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains wildland urban interface (WUI) for the following communities and subdivisions: Sun Valley Ranch, Wildacres, and North Fork Acres.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
11,500	11,400	Areas with previous timber harvest activities were removed from the inventory; Bowen Protection Area excluded (approx 8,700 acres).

North Lone Pine (9,500 acres)

1. Description

The North Lone Pine unit is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Fort Collins, between Livermore and Red Feather Lakes. The CRA is administered by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. It is independent of existing wilderness. Access can be obtained via County Road 74E (Red Feather Lakes Road) or through private property. This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 6,500 feet to 8,050 feet. The area is characterized by many granite outcroppings, steep slopes, and shallow seasonal ponds. The Lone Pine Creek drainage is the main feature of the area. There are some large open meadows in the area, but they are difficult to access from the Lone Pine drainage due to steepness of the terrain. The principle tree species in the unit are Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. These species occupy the majority of the area, with much of the remainder covered by grasses, forbs, and shrubs dominating the south-facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The North Lone Pine CRA contains primarily ponderosa pine savannas with numerous ponds throughout. CDOW considers this CRA excellent habitat due to the inaccessibility of most of the area. The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) and greenback cutthroat trout. Critical Habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, as designated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), may be found on 2,166 acres of this CRA. The CNHP database has recorded occurrences of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse in this CRA. Habitat is present for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, flammulated owl, fringed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, and Lewis' woodpecker. The CNHP database has recorded occurrences of Townsend's big-eared bat. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Wilson's warbler, mountain bluebird, pygmy nuthatch, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Critical winter range for deer and elk is present in this CRA. Other species such as black bear, mountain lion, and Abert's squirrel inhabit the area as well. North Lone Pine Creek supports populations of brook trout. However, this creek is diverted; low flows limit the fish populations and habitat availability within this CRA. Grazing occurs upstream of the CRA which may impact downstream productivity.

This CRA is located within four 6th level watersheds: Rabbit Creek (rated Class I—functional in the 1997 Forest Plan), North Lone Pine Creek (rated Class III—non-functional), South Lone Pine Creek, and Lone Pine Creek (rated Class II— at-risk). There is a 4WD road evident on the USGS quad map along Lone Pine and North Lone Pine Creeks. The northern end of the CRA is very steep, with very difficult access. North Lone Pine and Lone Pine Creek were both noted to at risk due to cumulative effects of

urban/rural development, roads, flow disruptions, and recreation in the watershed above. However, very little activity is occurring in the CRA itself. Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is moderate or low for most of the area, but two small areas rated high exist. The Lone Pine CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. Air quality related values identified as having the potential to be impacted by human caused air pollution are soil, water quality, flora, fauna, and visibility. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The majority of the area is natural and free from human disturbance. An old road and old timber sales are visible. Private property and roads on the boundaries detracts from the natural appearance and solitude. The primary attraction is NFST 951 (Lone Pine Creek Trail), which is used by mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. Hunting is also a popular activity. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mountain biking are popular. Trespass motorized use from adjacent private property may limit opportunities for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no water developments in this unit. There are no permitted uses within this area. There is one active range allotment (Fanning) present. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 250 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the North Lone Pine CRA. 3,840 acres of the RA have private mineral rights. The northwest portion of the area has a high potential for minerals. This CRA contains about 6,200 acres (65%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Red Feather Highlands, Magic Sky, Glacier View Meadows, Green Mountain Meadows, Red Feather Ranch, Rabbit Gulch, Elk Meadows, and Prairie Divide.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
9,500	9,500	No change.

North St. Vrain (11,700 acres)

1. Description

The North St. Vrain Roadless Area is approximately eleven miles south of Estes Park, Colorado and four miles west of Lyons, Colorado. It is administered by the Boulder Ranger District. North St. Vrain is not contiguous with any existing wilderness. The western and southern boundaries of the area are accessible by roads that originate from Colorado Highway 7, which extends from Lyons to Estes Park. Access to the northern portion of the area can be gained through County Road 118 (Johnny Park), which runs east and west between US Highway 36. The eastern portion of the area is accessible from Boulder Country Road 80 (North St. Vrain Drive). Access into the North St. Vrain is provided by a network of trails that begin on the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the area. Access trails include the NFST 21.2 (Bright Extensions), 828 (North Seep Mountain), 916 (Coulson Gulch), 920 (Dry St. Vrain), 819 (South Sheep Mountain), and 921 (Bright trail). The majority of these trails were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,800 to 9,100 feet above sea level. The prominent geological and topographical feature of the area is the North St. Vrain canyon. It is the only major canyon on the Front Range that does not have a major access road through it. From its headwaters in the Rocky Mountain National Park to the plains of Lyons, Colorado, the river has cut a deep gorge into a plateau of the ancient Rocky Mountain peneplain. According to the CDOW, the North St. Vrain watershed is one of the last free-flowing sections of river on the Front Range. The area is located primarily within the lower montane ecosystem and possesses a wide variety of both coniferous and deciduous plant communities. Primary vegetation types include ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations, with lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Shrublands and aspen dominated areas are also present. North St. Vrain Creek provides a riparian corridor as well as a migration corridor for several wildlife species.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides occupied range and overall range with low to high potential for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM). The Forest Service has identified 831 acres of PMJM habitat in this CRA, although more may exist. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of the PMJM in this area. Other federally listed species with potential habitat in this CRA include the greenback cutthroat trout and the Mexican spotted owl. The North St. Vrain is recognized

by the CDOW as a Wild Trout Water and along with its tributaries is a potential reintroduction habitat for greenback cutthroat trout. It is suspected that greenback cutthroat trout could still be present in small numbers near the headwaters. Currently brook, brown, and rainbow trout are found in the drainage. This area contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, flammulated owl, fringed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, Lewis' woodpecker, peregrine falcon, and marten. Several marshes and ponds within the area are potential habitat for boreal toad, a species that can be negatively impacted by disturbance associated with roads. The entire CRA is designated as a foraging area for peregrine falcon. A historically active peregrine nest site is located within five kilometers of the roadless area. Rock outcrops along the riparian area provide raptor roosts and reproduction areas. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Wilson's warbler, warbling vireo, mountain bluebird, pygmy nuthatch, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. Critical severe winter range, winter concentration areas, summer range, production area, migration corridors, and overall range for elk are located in this CRA; as well as overall, summer, and winter range for mule deer. Bighorn sheep are counted annually throughout the North St. Vrain CRA which provides overall range, winter range, and sheep production areas. It also provides overall range for mountain lion and black bear. The riparian corridor provides summer concentration areas for black bear. Wild turkey habitat is located throughout the CRA, with the eastern half providing winter range and the northern portion providing winter concentration areas for these birds.

The North Saint Vrain CRA is within five 6th level watersheds: Little Thompson COMP (composite) and North Saint Vrain COMP, both rated Class I—functional in the 1997 Forest Plan; Dry St. Vrain; Rock Creek; and Cabin Creek, all rated Class II—at-risk. The CRA is primarily located in the North Saint Vrain COMP watershed. Highway 36 runs along the east side of the northern portion of the CRA. There is a 4WD road mapped within the CRA on the southeast side and one crossing the CRA within Coulson Gulch. This CRA is mostly within the lower montane and montane climatic zones. Soils are moderately durable with respect to disturbance and recovery but lack of moisture may limit vegetative growth or recovery following disturbance. Most of the CRA is rated high for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard is moderate or low. Soils are moderately shallow over most of the area with some moderately deep and deep soils on lower hill-slopes and valley bottoms. Most of the soils have loamy textures and high soil rock content. There are wet soils that support riparian vegetation within or directly adjacent to this CRA. The North Saint Vrain CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The majority of the area is very natural. Exceptions include the old Sheep Mountain Ranch/ road and other roads that are closed to vehicle access. The North St. Vrain provides opportunities for fishing, hiking, camping, and ecosystem studies. Fishing and hiking are the primary recreation activities. Gaining access to the canyon and traveling within it are difficult, enhancing opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation in this area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The Ralph Price (Buttonrock) Reservoir is located just east of this roadless area and is the primary water storage facility for the City of Longmont. A small portion of one cultural resource inventory is located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located here. The Forest has consulted with members of the Northern Arapaho Tribes Language and Culture Commission (Mr. William C'Hair and Mr. Alonzo Moss) regarding traditional Arapaho Place names. One area identified by the Arapaho as "Lot's of Beaver (Hébesii Tíiwoo 0ee 0i)" was identified as Cow Creek and is located within this CRA. The place names were based on the 1913 visit of three Arapaho men to Rocky Mountain National Park (Toll, 1962).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Ralph Price (Buttonrock) Reservoir is located just east of this CRA. This reservoir serves as the primary water storage facility for the City of Longmont, Colorado. Three outfitter guides are permitted within this area. There are five vacant allotments (Buttonrock, Coffintop, Coulson, Rubendahl, and Taylor Mtn) and one active allotment (Twin Sisters) within this CRA. This CRA is located north of the mineral belt and there are no patented mining claims within its boundaries. The potential for mineral development in this area is low. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 560 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the North St. Vrain CRA. The area has at least 23 use restrictions and encumbrances. The most recent was a temporary mineral withdrawal for the North St. Vrain Wild and Scenic River Study.

The CRA contains about 8,600 acres (74%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Big Elk Meadows, Pinewood Springs, Spring Gulch, Meeker Park, Big Elk Park, Wild Basin Ranch, Riverside, Raymond, Taylor Mountain subdivision, Button Rock Reservoir, Rowell Hill, Allenspark, and Pinewood Springs.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
11,700	11,700	No change.

Rawah Adjacent Area (2,800 acres)

1. Description

Rawah Adjacent Area is located approximately 65 miles northwest of Fort Collins, Colorado. The seven units making up this CRA are immediately adjacent to the Rawah Wilderness. The scenery and proximity to the existing Rawah Wilderness are the special features of the CRA. In the northern portion of the CRA an established road provides access to the La Garde Creek Wildlife Area (leased from the State Land Board). This road is essential for access to this property to provide hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. The area can be accessed via County Road 103 (the Laramie River Road) and Colorado Highway 14. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,200 to 11,100 feet above sea level. The topography of the area is characterized by moderate to steep slopes and ridges. The principle live zone is subalpine. Dominant tree species are Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, with some areas of lodgepole pine. Grasses, forbs, and shrubs cover approximately 15 percent of the remaining land area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can be found in the Laramie and Poudre Lynx Analysis Units. This area contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, Townsend's big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, three-toed woodpecker, bald eagle, olive-sided flycatcher, boreal owl, wolverine, pygmy shrew, peregrine falcon, and marten. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of wolverine, wood frog, boreal toad, pygmy shrew, and boreal owl in this CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, and brook trout. This CRA provides habitat for black bear, moose, mountain lion, and dwarf shrew. The CNHP Database has recorded occurrences of dwarf shrew. It provides summer range and year round habitat for elk, moose, and mule deer.

This CRA is adjacent to a mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress, and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Rawah Wilderness. Most of the CRA has high erosion hazard/sensitive soils, primarily due to steep slopes. The six units fall within six watersheds. The northern most parcel is in the La Garde Creek watershed, which was rated Class I—functional in the 1997 Forest Plan. The next parcel to the south is in the McIntyre and Stub Creek watersheds, both rated Class I—functional. There is heavy recreational use in the Browns Park area. The next parcels south are located in the Laramie Comp2 (composite) and Rawah Creek watersheds, rated Class II—at-risk and Class I—functional respectively. This area sits just upslope of the Laramie River in the Drink Creek area. There is a large wetland/pond complex in the parcel. The southernmost three units are in the Joe Wright Creek watershed, rated Class II—at-risk. There is heavy road activity south of the northern parcel and Highway 14 is on the East. The road to Chambers Lake Campground crosses the parcel. The southern most parcel is just north of Highway 14 and Cameron Pass. Montgomery Pass Trail crosses it. It sits upslope from Joe Wright Reservoir. There is heavy recreational use in this area. Throughout all of the units there are many areas mapped with sensitive and highly erosive soils. Air quality could be compromised by heavy road activity on Highway 14 at times.

Most of the CRA is rated high or moderate for erosion hazard. Most of the CRA has low or moderate mass movement hazard rating but a small area rated high exists. The Rawah Adjacent Area CRA is within the Medicine Bow Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Rawah, Neota, the northern half of Never Summer, and the western portion of Comanche Peaks. With the exception of the Class I Rawah Wilderness Area, all are Class II areas.

The natural appearance of the area remains intact, except for minor impacts along the trail corridors and in the southern portion of the roadless area where about 60 acres have been harvested. Horse riding, hiking, and cross country skiing are recreational uses occurring in this area. The area does offer some opportunities for solitude away from Colorado Hwy 14. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no water developments in this CRA. There are no permitted uses within this area. There are two active grazing allotments (Forrester Creek and Upper Laramie) in this CRA. There are no known valuable minerals in this CRA. No oil or gas leases are located within this unit. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 2 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Rawah Adjacent Area CRA. This CRA contains about 2,000 acres (70%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 300 acres (11%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber

production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Glendevey, Chambers Lake Campground, Diamond Trail Ranch, Rawah Ranch, and the Stub Creek Administrative Site.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
2,800	2,800	No change.

Square Top Mountain (6,400 acres)

1. Description

The Square Top Mountain CRA is located in Clear Creek County, approximately five miles south of Georgetown, Colorado. The area is bounded on the north by the Upper Cabin Creek Reservoir. It is bounded on the west by Argentine Power line and four-wheel-drive roads on the west flank of Paines Mountain. On the east, the area is bordered by the Guanella Pass National Scenic Byway corridor. The southern boundary is adjacent to the Pike National Forest. The roadless area continues to the south into Pike National Forest and southwest into the Dillon Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest (this district administered by the White River National Forest). The remainder of the CRA is administered by the Clear Creek Ranger District. This CRA can be accessed from County Road 381 (Guanella Pass National Scenic Byway), a Level 3 (two-wheel-drive, gravel) road and a Level 2 (high clearance, four-wheel-drive) road, both intersecting NFSR 248 (Argentine Road), a Level 2 road. Access into the area is by one non-motorized trail, NFST 79 (Silver Dollar Lake Trail) off of CR 381, and two non-motorized routes from the Waldorf area. A trace of a Level 2 road exists into the area for approximately 1.5 miles following a ridge from Paines Mountain towards Otter Mountain. The road is physically closed outside the roadless area. The southwest portion of the area has no nearby access.

It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,400 to 13,700 feet. The area is dominated by a major ridge with four major peaks including Square Top Mountain. It is characterized by open rolling alpine meadows broken by rocky headwalls and steep talus slopes. The headwalls surround glacial cirques which are accented with permanent snow fields and six small alpine lakes. The area contains upper watersheds of Clear Creek, with eight small first order streams. Approximately 70 percent of the area is above timberline. The alpine area is a combination of barren rock or scree slope, alpine meadow flora, and Krummholz area of willow, dwarfed Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. The remaining area contains dense forests of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, mixed with lodgepole pine and aspen stands in the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Habitats include lodgepole pine with wet alpine meadows and willow. The majority of the CRA is steep talus slopes with few trails, serving as a refuge area of minimal disturbance for local wildlife populations. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed greenback cutthroat trout and Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can be found in the Clear Creek Lynx Analysis Units and approximately 11 acres of the Guanella Pass lynx Linkage Area within this CRA. Lynx have been tracked by CDOW in the CRA and their movements north through the state. Given the available contiguous habitat, prey availability, and minimal disturbance in the CRA, it is possible that Colorado's lynx population will establish in the area as the animals' numbers increase and expand throughout the state. This CRA contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, three-toed woodpecker, bighorn sheep, boreal owl, wolverine, pygmy shrew, marten, peregrine falcon, and white-tailed ptarmigan. Numerous studies and counts are currently being conducted by CDOW and USFS along the South Clear Creek/Guanella Pass corridor for suitable boreal toad habitat. This CRA is a prime white-tailed ptarmigan hunting area and a historical wintering and nesting area for the bird. Rare plants (Moonworts) exist here and have been documented as recently as 2006.

Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Golden-crowned kinglet, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. The CRA provides year round habitat for moose, mule deer, and elk. CDOW has designated the area as a summer range for these species. Mule deer and elk are seasonally found near the higher elevations and use the open meadows where more lush vegetation can be found. From November through March deer and elk may descend to some more dense forest habitats at lower elevations. Even with the seasonal migrations, most local herds tend to stay in the general area, including both the north and south sides of Guanella Pass, and stretching from Mt. Evans west to Square Top Mountain. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats also use the area and historically used the higher elevations of the surrounding peaks. Square Top Mountain is within the boundaries of sheep and goat management units S3 and G7, popular areas for backcountry sheep and goat hunting. The peaks along the Pike and Arapaho National Forest borders, including Mt. Evans, Mt. Bierstadt, Square Top Mountain, Gray's Peak and Torrey's Peak, serve as a core area for mountain goats (CDOW) in Colorado's central mountains. Traditionally, CDOW manages hunts for sheep and goats as a more primitive, back country opportunity, partially as a result of the natural habitats for both species, and as a general hunter preference.

The South Fork Clear Creek currently supports populations of brook trout, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout hybrids. Leavenworth Creek has been heavily impacted by mining activities and due to heavy metal concentrations, viable populations of trout are not found or

supported here. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion, and dwarf shrew. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of dwarf shrew in the area.

The Square Top CRA is within the South Clear Creek watershed, which was rated Class III—non-functional in the 1997 Forest Plan. This rating was primarily due to mining impacts in the Leavenworth Creek drainage. The South Fork Clear Creek drainage above Leavenworth Creek confluence was considered a Class II—at-risk watershed. There is heavy recreational use along the CR 381 and in the Cabin Creek Reservoir area, but that is the primary impact in the CRA. The slopes above the road are steep. Most of the CRA is rated either high or moderate for erosion hazard. There are large areas with high mass movement hazard rating within the CRA. The Square Top CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All of these areas are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

Due to the lack of access, the southern and central areas (approximately 6,000 acres) are natural appearing. In the northern area, impacts from mining operations in the Paines Mountain area and associated old mining roads detract from the natural appearance of the area. The area is viewable from CR 381, and from the very popular NFST 55 (Mt. Bierstadt trail). Some hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, fishing and birding occur. There is moderate hiking use on NFST 79 (Silver Dollar Lake) in the summer and cross-country skier and snowshoers in the winter. Although opportunities for solitude are limited in areas adjacent to the CR 381, these opportunities are greater in approximately 3,400 acres of the southern and central CRA. This area is located within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Silver Dollar and Murray Reservoirs are in the CRA. There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is void of any non-federal lands. A 40-acre parcel of private land around Naylor Lake, along with an access road, form a corridor at the southeaster boundary of this CRA. Silver Dollar and Murray Reservoirs and Leavenworth pipeline currently are part of Xcel Energy’s water development system. The two small lakes have small developed outlet structures, but the outlets are not operational at this time. The pipeline is not visible from the surface of this CRA. Xcel Energy has an authorization to operate its water development system in and adjacent to this CRA. Reservoir and power lines are located just outside of the roadless area. Some outfitter/guide permits are authorized for hiking on NFST 79.

No active grazing allotments are present in this unit. This area borders the outer edge of the Colorado Mineral Belt, and it is assessed as having medium to low potential for containing mineral reserves. The northwestern and northern portions of the area contain a scattering of mining prospect pits and waste piles. This CRA contains about 1,000 acres (16%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are no lands within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. No timber harvest has occurred in this unit due to the high altitude and low accessibility. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions and/or infrastructure: Guanella Pass Trailhead, Clear Lake Campground, Silverdale, Georgetown, Silverplume, Silver Dollar Trailhead, Guanella Pass Campground, and the Xcel Energy water development facility.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,400	6,400	No change.

Troublesome (13,800 acres)

1. Description

The Troublesome Roadless Area, within the Sulphur Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest, is located in northern Grand Country, about 15 miles northwest of Granby. It extends from the Arapaho National Forest boundary on the west to Colorado Highway 125 on the east. It shares a common boundary with the Troublesome South roadless area on the Routt National Forest. This area includes a strip of land along NFSR 108.1 (Buffalo Creek Road). Access to the area is provided by main roads and trails. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,800 to 13,000 feet. It has moderately steep slopes dissected by narrow stream bottoms and large meadows, with common rock outcrops. The area encompasses several large drainages including: Cabin Creek, Buffalo Creek, Trail Creek, and Sawmill Creek. The principle life zone is montane. Lodgepole pine and aspen dominate the vegetation of the area, with some stands of spruce and fir at higher elevations. Sagebrush shrub lands and riparian habitats composed of extensive willow-carrs, wet meadow complexes, mesic meadows, and perennial creeks, are common in drainage bottoms. This CRA has several unique domed springs. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 59 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine has perished.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can be found in the Upper Colorado Lynx Analysis Unit. This CRA contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, three-toed woodpecker, boreal owl, wolverine, pygmy shrew, marten, Townsend's big-eared bat, white-tailed ptarmigan, and Colorado River cutthroat trout is present. A high elevation area near Parkview Mountain has white-tailed ptarmigan habitat. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of wolverine in this CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Golden-crowned kinglet, Warbling vireo, hairy woodpecker, and brook trout, brown trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Mule deer and elk summer range, migration corridors, and production areas are present in this CRA. Extensive east-west movement of elk occurs from Troublesome Basin to Willow Creek basin and on to winter ranges.

Buffalo Creek currently supports populations of both brook trout and rainbow trout. Colorado River cutthroat trout may also be present, but they are incidental, as they have been stocked on private land in Upper Buffalo Creek. Other streams within this CRA support brook, brown, and rainbow trout populations as well. These streams provide important habitat for native cutthroat restoration. This CRA serves as overall range for black bear, mountain lion, and year-round high elevation habitat for moose in the parks and willow communities. A CNHP vegetation community report is available recommending the Trail Creek Area designation as a Resource Natural Area for plants and habitat associations.

The Troublesome CRA falls within three 6th level watersheds: Pass Creek, Willow Creek Upper COMP (composite), and Buffalo Creek. All were rated Class II—at-risk in the 1997 Forest Plan. Pass Creek and Willow Creek both have a high percentage of roads in the watershed. These are possibly old timber sale roads, which are shown outside of the CRA. Buffalo Creek has impacts from heavy historical grazing, heavy fall use by hunters, and riparian damage. There are several highways surrounding the CRA. The entire CRA is heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The potential effects of this epidemic may result in increased levels of flow and sediment in streams and watersheds. Approximately equal areas of high, moderate, and low erosion hazards exist within this CRA. Most of the area is rated moderate or low for mass movement hazard, but large areas rated high exist on fine textured soils. The Troublesome CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas. Scenic vistas are present in this CRA. The natural integrity of the area is intact. Paleocene fossil sites are located in this CRA.

The area is visible from State Highway 125, NFS Road 108 (Buffalo Creek Road), and NFS Road 112 (Cabin Creek Road). NFS Trails 27 and 119 run through the area. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail borders the CRA at the northern end. NFSR 258 (Mulstay Road) is a very popular motorized ORV route. Snowmobiling is very popular in this area. The primary recreation attraction in the area is hunting. The existing trail system is minimally developed. Two motorized trails provide hiking and mountain biking opportunities. Opportunities for solitude and unconfined primitive recreation are present in this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A small portion of one cultural resource inventory is located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located within the area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The King Mountain Ranch is located at the end of Forest Road 108.1 in this unit. There are no present or planned water developments in this unit. There are several snowmobile and hunting outfitter-guides operating in the area. Mountain Park Electric has a single phase power line along the north side of the King Mountain Ranch road. There is one active grazing allotment (Buffalo Cattle and Horse) in the area. The Trail Creek Trail is located in this unit; it is used as a stock driveway. This area is located outside of the Colorado Mineral Belt. No patented claims are known to exist in this unit. The potential for oil and gas development here is high. Numerous oil and gas permits exist throughout the area, but there are currently no actual drilling operations. This CRA contains about 11,300 acres (82%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 400 acres (3%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains no WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
13,900	13,800	Adjustments made due to more accurate mapping capabilities.

Vasquez Adjacent Area (6,800 acres)

1. Description

Portions of the Vasquez CRA are located in both Grand and Clear Creek Counties, approximately 18 miles southeast of Granby, Colorado. The CRA is administered by the Sulfur and Clear Creek Ranger Districts. All of the Vasquez Roadless Area is contiguous to existing wilderness. All units lie more or less adjacent to the Fraser Experimental Forest to the west, Winter Park Ski Resort to the north, U.S. 40 and Berthoud Pass to the east, and the Henderson Mine and Jones Pass Road to the south. The Southeastern unit (Clear Creek County) is separated from the James Peak CRA by the U.S. 40 corridor and associated improvements along the corridor. This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 9,000 feet to 13,000 feet. The Vasquez CRA consists of high peaks, steep slopes, broad valleys, and small lakes. Alpine glacial features including high serrated peaks, precipitous slopes, broad valley bottoms, and small lakes are present in the area. The area holds snow through much of the year. The primary drainage features includes: Vasquez Creek in the central area; St. Louis in the western area; and the Fraser River and the West Fork of Clear Creek in the southeastern area. The vegetation in the unit is primarily lodgepole pine, aspen, and spruce-fir. Large wet meadows and high mountain tundra are present. Approximately 717 acres of spruce-fir old growth occurs within this CRA.

The Clear Creek County portion of the Vasquez CRA covers over 6,100 acres of high mountain tundra, open wet meadows and spruce/fir forests north of the Henderson Mine Road, and Jones Pass adjacent to the southern boundary of the Vasquez Wilderness Area. Access to the area is available along the east side of the area from U.S. 40 and County Road 202 (Jones Pass Road). Both roads are paved and open year round to public motorized use, although the Jones Pass Road is often closed until summer because of snow drifts. Access to the Central unit can be obtained from NFSR 148 (Vasquez Creek Road), a Level 2 road (high clearance, 4-wheel drive), which is closed to public motorized use except snowmobiling and is open to the public for mountain biking, hikers and horseback. The lower one-half mile of the road is open for administrative motorized use under permit. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 16 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The greatest benefit this CRA provides to wildlife is a connectivity of landscape habitat linkages from the Vasquez area to Berthoud Pass. The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can found in the Clear Creek, Fraser, and Williams Fork Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs). In addition, this CRA provides movement and dispersal habitat for lynx. It contains 816 acres of the Berthoud Pass Lynx Linkage Area within its boundaries. Habitat for the Greenback cutthroat trout, another federally listed species, is present within the West Fork of Clear Creek County. This CRA contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, three-toed woodpecker, boreal owl, wolverine, pygmy shrew, marten, olive-sided flycatcher, bighorn sheep, and Colorado River cutthroat trout in the Grand County portion of the CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Golden-crowned kinglet, Warbling vireo, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, greenback cutthroat trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout.

This CRA provides summer habitat for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mule deer, elk, black bear and mountain lion. The Clear Creek County portion receives use by mule deer and elk during summer months and milder winters. Moose have migrated over the Continental Divide from Middle Park and may have established a small localized herd in the willow habitats on the southern portion of the area. The Grand County part of this CRA provides habitat for elk, moose, black bear, mountain lion, and mule deer. This portion also provides summer range and production areas for mule deer and elk. This area provides alpine habitat used by Bighorn sheep and mountain goats seasonally, especially as they travel north to Rocky Mountain National Park or along the high ridges (Continental Divide) to the northwest toward the Mt. Nystrom and Byers Peak areas. Sheep migrate to lower elevations along Highway 40 near Berthoud Falls and Empire during the winter months. The CDOW is currently studying bighorn sheep movements and use areas in the Clear Creek drainage to conduct this research. The Grand County part of this CRA provides habitat for boreal toad, Colorado River cutthroat trout, lynx, and wolverine. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of boreal owl and boreal toad in this CRA. Historic records indicate the occurrence of wolverine in remote areas of the CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan winter concentration areas, as well as summer use, is documented in the deep snow/willow-carr habitats of the Clear Creek area as well as First and Second Creek areas within the Sulfur Ranger District.

Upper Vasquez is established habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. However, recent genetic tests indicate that this cutthroat population is hybridized. There are lakes that have been stocked with rainbow trout/cutthroat trout hybrids in this area. Recent sampling efforts indicate there are very few brook trout in the portion of Vasquez Creek within the CRA. However, in downstream portions of Vasquez Creek (outside the CRA), it appears brook trout have out-competed cutthroat downstream. A large water diversion downstream of the CRA sends water through Vasquez Tunnel, greatly augmenting flows in Vasquez Creek. The West Fork of Clear Creek (above the CRA boundary), has potential greenback cutthroat habitat and may be a possible reintroduction site. The flows in the West Fork Clear Creek are also greatly augmented by diversions from the Upper Williams Fork through the Jones Pass tunnel.

The Vasquez Adjacent Area CRA is within four 6th level watersheds: Vasquez Creek, Fraser Upper COMP (composite), Fraser River, and West Fork Clear Creek. In the 1997 Forest Plan, Vasquez Creek was rated Class II—at-risk, and the other 3 were rated Class III—non-functional. However, the portion of the Fraser River COMP watershed that is located within the CRA (Elk Creek) is rated Class II—at-risk, primarily due to past disturbances, primarily below the CRA. Vasquez Creek in the CRA is below the Vasquez tunnel, which carries water into Vasquez Creek from the Williams Fork watershed. There is a road that splits this portion of the CRA, but otherwise it is surrounded by wilderness. Highway 40 and the Henderson Mine are downstream of the CRA in the West Fork Clear Creek watershed (the primary impacts in that watershed). Highway 40 is also the primary impact to the Fraser River watershed, but the CRA is upstream of the highway. Most of the CRA is rated either high or low for erosion hazard. Most of the CRA has a high mass movement hazard rating. Where present, soils are moderately deep to deep. The north-western portion of the Vasquez adjacent CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas. The south-eastern part of this CRA is within the Front Range Airshed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The natural integrity and appearance of this area are intact adjacent to the wilderness boundary. The area is visible from U.S. Highway 40, from the Winter Park Ski Area, from the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, from the Jones Pass trail, and from the Vasquez Peak Wilderness Area. The alpine area offers panoramic views, access to the wilderness, and backcountry bowl skiing. The rugged terrain limits additional recreation development. Moderate to high recreational use occurs, including camping, hiking, cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, mountain biking, and snowmobiling. The Clear Creek portion of the CRA has a fair amount of back country recreation and hunting opportunity. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail provides access to the area from Berthoud Pass to Jones Pass. Jones Pass is passable only to motor vehicles one to two months of the year and is used for backcountry skiing/snowshoeing from October through May. Second Creek Cabin and the Second Creek Cabin Trail (no number assigned) are popular destinations for summer and winter alpine recreation. NFST 14 (Mt. Nystrom Trail) coincides with the Continental Divide and a section of a proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Small portions of two cultural resource inventories are located within the boundaries of this roadless area. Three sites have been located and recorded in this area. No consultation regarding traditional uses or sacred sites has been accomplished with Tribes that have traditionally used this area of the Forest. It is unknown if Native Americans visit the area to collect traditionally used resources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are 16 acres of private inholdings in the area. There are no known conflicts or issues regarding the inholdings. There are no water developments in this area. Tunnels at major depths below the surface carry water under the Continental Divide to Vasquez Creek and from Vasquez Creek to a pipe through the Moffat Tunnel. These tunnels are not evident on the surface of this roadless area. There is a special use application waiting approval for winter snowcat, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and ski mountaineering operations north of the Jones Pass road, which includes a portion of the roadless area. There are no grazing allotments in the CRA. Minerals of economic value probably exist in the area, but geologic surveys indicate the mineral potential is low everywhere in this CRA, except in the southern portion of the Southeastern unit that is adjacent to the Henderson Mine (a large scale development for molybdenum). The mineral potential of that portion of the area is rated as medium. Minerals found in adjacent areas are gold, silver, lead, zinc, and molybdenum. There is no known potential for oil and gas development. This CRA contains about 1,300 acres (18%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 200 acres (3%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains no WUI with communities and subdivisions, but does contain WUI for the following major values at risk: Winter Park Resort and the Denver Water Vasquez Collection System.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,100	6,800	Approximately 700 acres have been added to the inventory.

Small unit of acreage were added to the original inventoried acreage along the northern boundary of the Vasquez Wilderness Area and between the original roadless boundary and the U.S. 40 corridors.

White Pine Mountain (10,200 acres)

1. Description

White Pine Mountain CRA is located in Larimer County about 35 miles west of Fort Collins. It is administered by the Estes-Poudre Ranger District. The majority of the units lay south of the Cache la Poudre Wilderness Area, making access difficult. One parcel

lies along the Poudre River and along Hwy 14. This CRA is bordered on the south by the NFSR 926 (Buckhorn Road), 152 (Flowers Road) on the north, and by private land on the east and west sides. There are no formal access points for this roadless area and there are no National Forest System trails maintained for public use. It is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 6,400 to 10,300 feet. The area can be characterized by very rough and steep slopes. Main drainages for the area include Twin Cabin Creek and Pendergrass Creek. Vegetation is ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir; spruce-fir also exists there. There are patches of lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old growth in the area. Tree cover is dense, especially on north slopes and at higher elevations. Open meadows and aspen stands are interspersed throughout the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides Douglas-fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine habitats at the lower elevations and lodgepole pine and spruce-fir habitats at the higher elevations. Steep slopes are present as are riparian corridors. The area has a good representation of low elevation backcountry. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can be found in the Estes and Poudre Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs). The CRA provides habitat for Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, a federally listed species. The majority of drainages in this CRA are designated as low potential for Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, although small isolated segments of several drainages have medium to high potential habitat areas. Steep slopes with dense Douglas-fir and/or ponderosa pine provide potential habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, a federally listed species. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the federally listed greenback cutthroat trout. This CRA contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, three-toed woodpecker, boreal owl, flammulated owl, Townsend’s big-eared bat, pygmy shrew, marten, olive-sided flycatcher, and bighorn sheep. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) database has recorded occurrences of Townsend’s big-eared bat in this CRA. Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep, Golden-crowned kinglet, Warbling vireo, Wilson’s warbler, mountain bluebird, hairy woodpecker, brook and brown trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. This CRA provides essential habitat needs for several species including, but not limited to black bear, elk, mountain lion, and mule deer. It provides habitats used by mule deer and elk as winter concentration areas, winter and summer range, production areas, as well as serving as a migration corridor.

This CRA lies with 4 6th level watersheds: South Fork Poudre Comp (composite), Buckhorn Creek, Young’s Gulch, and Upper Poudre Comp. South Fork Poudre Comp and Young’s Gulch were rated Class I—functional in the 1997 Forest Plan; they have very low levels of disturbance and watershed risk factors. The remaining watersheds were rated Class II—at-risk. Primarily this rating was given due to high density of roads within the watershed and or heavy recreational use. There may be road activity in the CRA, but no roads are shown. There were no major soils concerns noted during the watershed assessment and air quality is generally good. Most of the CRA is rated either high or moderate for erosion hazard. Mass movement hazard rating is low or moderate. The White Pine Mountain CRA is within the Front Range Air-shed. Areas within this air-shed are currently in non-attainment for ozone. In addition to ozone, the Front Range Air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. There are four wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: Comanche Peaks, Cache la Poudre, Mt. Evans, and the eastern half of the Indian Peaks. All are Class II Wilderness Areas. A small portion of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park is included in this air-shed.

The area is largely untouched and natural appearing except for some closed four-wheel drive roads. There are opportunities for solitude, challenging experiences, and primitive recreation. The area gets little recreation use except for NFSR 100 (West White Pine Road). The area is important for big game migration. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A small portion of one cultural resource inventory is located within the boundaries of this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is 160 acres of private land inholdings but no known outstanding rights. There are no water developments in this unit. There is one outfitter/guide operation on the east end of the Flowers Road. Portions of three, active, grazing allotments are in this CRA totaling 10,051 acres. There is no known mineral potential in this CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has mineral interest next to the White Pine Mountain CRA. This mineral interest underlies Forest Service surface ownership of less than one acre within the White Pine Mountain CRA. This CRA contains about 5,400 acres (53%) of land classified as tentatively suitable but unavailable for timber production. There are about 4,400 acres (43%) within this CRA classified as suitable and available for timber production. This roadless area contains WUI for the following communities and subdivisions: Monument Gulch, Ponderosa Hills, and Buckhorn Estates.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
10,200	10,200	No change

Williams Fork (35,800 acres)

1. Description

This area is located in Grand County southeast of Kremmling on the Sulphur Ranger District. The area is on the north and east slopes of the Williams Fork Mountains. The area is contiguous along its west and south sides with the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness, approximately 1 mile west of the Vasquez Peak Wilderness (12,300 acres) and 2 miles south of the Byers Peak Wilderness (8,095 acres). In addition, it shares a common boundary with the Ptarmigan B roadless area on the White River National Forest. It is bordered by NFSRs 132, 138, 142, 144, 144.1A, and 144.1B. It is accessed by NFSTs 21, 24, 31, and 35.

This CRA is within the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological units. The terrain is characterized by broad, steep slopes and high ridges and peaks. It is dissected by several perennial streams. The vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine and spruce-fir with subalpine willow and shrub land scattered throughout. It rises to tundra habitats above timberline. It contains very large area of forested, alpine, and large, high elevation riparian areas: wetlands, open parks and wet meadows, scree and boulder fields, cliffs and avalanche chutes. It is some of the most remote and rugged landscape on the Sulphur Ranger District. It was withheld from wilderness consideration due to Denver Water's existing road and ditch network and outstanding water filings on creeks yet to be diverted. This area has been affected by the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic. In 2007, the area was flown and about 11 percent of the roadless area had active beetle activity. As a result of the beetle epidemic, approximately 90 percent of the mature lodgepole pine is dead.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The large remote areas of alpine and subalpine habitat and the diverse types of habitats within the CRA provide very important areas of solitude and refuge for many species; This CRA is important for maintaining the ecological health and integrity of a high elevation landscape. Southeast of this CRA is the I-70 land bridge along the Continental Divide, which is a very important landscape corridor for wildlife, particularly for lynx. The CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Denning and foraging habitat for lynx can found in the Clear Creek and Williams Fork Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs). Two federally listed aquatic species occupy the CRA: Two self-sustaining populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout and a population of greenback cutthroat trout (Bobtail Creek), currently used as the reference for genetic testing. This unit contains habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: Northern goshawk, boreal toad, wood frog, Northern leopard frog, three-toed woodpecker, boreal owl, wolverine, white-tailed ptarmigan, pygmy shrew, marten, olive-sided flycatcher, bighorn sheep, and Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Management Indicator Species (MIS) with habitat in this CRA include: deer, elk, boreal toad, bighorn sheep (summer range), Golden-crowned kinglet, Wilson's warbler, hairy woodpecker, brook trout, brown trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Boreal toad populations are present in this tract. The Middle Fork of the Williams Fork River supports populations of brook, brown, rainbow, and cutthroat trout species. This CRA provides important habitat needs for several species including but not limited to: black bear, elk, mountain goat, moose, mountain lion, mountain goat, and mule deer. This habitat serves as summer range for elk and mule deer. It is has all-season use by moose and mountain goat. This CRA has numerous historic wolverine reports. Habitat for Pine marten is abundant. The streams in this CRA are affected by Denver Water Board diversion structures. The structures are downstream of the CRA but they currently isolate two populations of self-sustaining Colorado River cutthroat trout.

The Williams Fork CRA falls within four 6th level watersheds: North Williams Fork, South Williams Fork, Ute Creek Composite, and Ute Creek. All have been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The potential effects of this epidemic may result in increased levels of flow and sediment in streams and watersheds. The biggest impact to the water resources in this CRA are due to the extensive diversion system operated by Denver Water in the upper watershed. The headwaters of several of the streams in the North and South Fork Williams Fork watersheds are completely diverted to the other side of the divide. The access road for the ditches is partially shown in the CRA. In addition, Bobtail Creek has been heavily eroded by being used as a dump-site when water is not being sent over the divide (rather than not divert the water through the ditch, Denver Water opts to cast off the water into Bobtail Creek at un-naturally high flows.) There is also a paved road over Ute Pass on the west side of the CRA; otherwise, the CRA is in good condition, with no roads or grazing. Most of the CRA is rated either high or moderate for erosion hazard. Areas of high mass movement hazard rating exist within this CRA. The Williams Fork CRA is within the Granby Air-shed. This air-shed has existing air quality impacts and the potential for future impacts from pollutants such as sulfur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. Air quality related values, identified as having the potential to be impacted by human caused air pollution, are soil, water quality, flora, fauna, and visibility. There are three wilderness areas in the portion of this air-shed over the National Forests: the western half of Indian Peaks, the southern part of Never Summer, and Vasquez. Additionally, the Arapaho National Recreation Area and a large portion of Rocky Mountain National Park are within this air-shed. With the exception of the Class I Rocky Mountain National Park, all are Class II areas.

The scenic features of the area are outstanding. The area contains beautiful scenery, notably the alpine areas with high peaks and valleys. High points in the area also offer remarkable views of surrounding areas. The area is sufficiently large and diverse to offer a sense of isolation and solitude. The area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. The north half has been heavily modified as a result of past activity, while the south half is completely unmodified. Educational opportunities are rated as high due to the area's proximity to

the Sugarloaf, South Fork, and Horseshoe developed recreation facilities. Recreation use is generally low to moderate. The 1983 Routt National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan identified a proposed route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and an alternative route; both of which pass through the southeast part of this area. The trails in the area are currently open to mountain bike use. Use occurs mostly on NFST 21 (South Fork Trail), which makes a loop through the area. A small amount of motorcycle use occurs near the end of NFSR 142 and around the Bobtail Mine on the eastern end of the area. Small portions of the area are easily accessible to snowmobiles. Use is low but does occur around the Jones Pass area. No proposed developed recreation sites are identified. This CRA is within a state defined source water protection area (municipal water supply).

There have been no systematic surveys within this roadless area. No cultural resources that could be traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been located. An examination of the Plates from the Hayden Atlas of Colorado of 1881 indicates that a “Ute Trail” runs over Ute Pass just north of Ute Peak on the most northern end of the roadless area. Trails and other linear features are often considered to be sacred sites, especially when they connect major sites.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Some of the facilities in place for water diversion by Denver Water (DW) are visible from the eastern 1/3 and the northern 1/2 of the area. In addition, at least one of the DW’s expansion proposals includes additional diversion structures and roads in the Middle and South Fork and Short Creek drainages. Another alternative proposes a reservoir, pump station, pipeline and roads in the vicinity of Old Bald Mountain. DW owns most of the water rights for Williams Fork drainage. A portion of the Henderson-Georgetown 115 Kilovolt Transmission line owned by Mt Parks Electric is in this CRA. There are four valid (as of 11/93) unpatented mining claims within the area. They are located in T. 3S, R. 76W, two in NE 1/4 of Sec. 33 and two in SE 1/4 of Sec. 28. In addition, there are five valid, unpatented claims which may also be within the area. This could not be determined with enough precision from the available records. These claims are located in the same township as the others, four in NW 1/4 of Sec. 34 and one in SW 1/4 of Sec. 27.

Approximately 95% of the area has low potential for locatable minerals, and the remaining 5% has medium potential. There are no salable mineral sites within the area. The entire area has no potential for oil and gas. There are no leases currently held for lands in this area. The area contains approximately 13,799 acres of tentatively suited land for timber harvest. The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 38% of the total area. This roadless area contains no WUI with communities and subdivisions, but does contain WUI for the following major values at risk: Henderson to Georgetown Transmission Line (Public Service Co of Colorado), Henderson Mill, Henderson Conveyor Belt, West portal for the Henderson Conveyor Belt tunnel, and Denver Water Board Williams Fork Collection System.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
36,000	35,800	Approximately 200 acres were removed due to a road, power line and mine site structures.

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