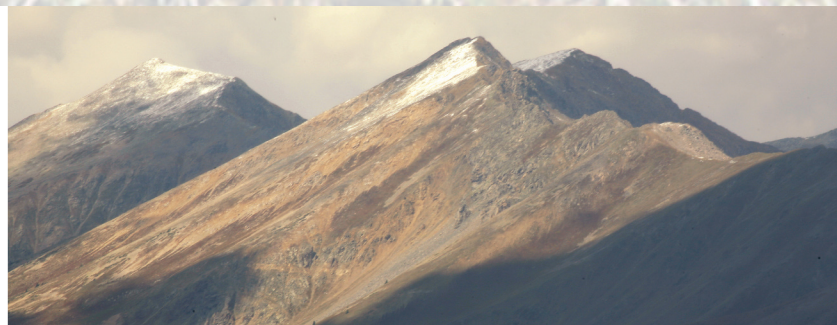


PROFILES OF COLORADO ROADLESS AREAS



Prepared by the
USDA Forest Service,
Rocky Mountain Region

July 23, 2008

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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. |

GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST

Agate Creek, # 40 (12,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Current uses within this unit include the Agate Creek cattle allotment, a powerline utility corridor adjacent to the north east boundary, and the Larkspur and Cole Ditches, both with access roads along the ditches. There are approximately 4,700 acres of land tentatively suitable for wood fiber production in this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Chipeta = 16,200 | 12,700 | Timber harvest and construction of roads in the southern portion of 2001 inventory lands. Adjusted boundary along private lands to the west for manageability. |

American Flag Mountain, # 32 (9,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

A portion of the American Flag Mountain is within the potential conservation area identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) for two alpine plant species (*Braya humilis* and *B. glabella*). The entire area is included in The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Cottonwood Pass Conservation Site. Species requiring high elevation conifer, riparian, and alpine habitats can find habitat within this area. The spruce/fir habitats are mapped as denning and winter foraging habitat for Canada lynx. The alpine areas provide habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan. The forested portions of the American Flag Mountain provide habitat for the following sensitive species: American martin, American three-toed woodpecker, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and golden crowned kinglet. Potential habitat for wolverine is also present in this area; however there are no recorded sightings in the area. This area provides summer

range for mule deer and elk, with migration paths for both species bisecting the area. This CRA provides winter and summer motorized recreation opportunities. The area is bisected by two motorized trails NFST 411 (Star Trail) and NFST 534. Star Trail is an important motorized single-track which links NFSR 744 with the Reno Divide area creating a motorized loop system. Motorcycles frequently travel to the summit of American Flag Mountain. Winter motorized recreation occurs along Italian Creek.

The area is rugged and offers dense vegetation; however, the close proximity of roads and trails makes it difficult to escape the sound of motors, affecting the sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park cattle allotment is located within the area. There are approximately 6,100 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Timber harvest has occurred adjacent to the roadless area. There are several historic mine sites and the town sites of Dorchester and Lily Pond (which include log structures, flumes, and trams) located within the vicinity of the CRA. However, once away from these sites and roads, the area appears natural. The potential for oil and gas in this area is low.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | American Flag Mountain = 9,500 | 33 miles of road construction, 1800 acres of timber harvest and non National Forest System lands were removed from the Inventory. After removing the above lands, logical manageable boundaries were described. |
| | Granite Basin = 25,500 | |
| Boston Peak – 46,700 | Total = 35,000 | |

Baldy, #53 (2,300 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

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

Battlements, #04 (24,700 acres)

1. Description

The Battlements CRA is located 6 miles north of the town of Collbran in Mesa County. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The northern boundary is bordered by the White River National Forest, where the lands are managed for non-motorized summer recreation, winter motorized recreation, and elk habitat. This area also borders the Mamm Peak IRA on the White River National Forest. The southern boundary is developed (roaded) BLM and private lands. The Battlements CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,500' to 11,000'. It is steep and rugged terrain. Existing vegetation ranges from Gambel oak mixed with serviceberry and other mountain shrubs at the lower elevations, up through aspen dominated stands to spruce-fir and Douglas-fir stands at the higher elevations. An area of mostly bare cover occurs in the northwest portions of this IRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The eastern edge of this CRA lies within the Battlement Mesa lynx linkage area. Higher elevation areas are mapped as denning and other habitat for Canada lynx. McCurry Reservoir, Brush Creek, Hawxhurst Creek, Kimball Creek, and Smalley Creek all support Colorado River cutthroat trout. The Gambel oak intermixed with aspen provides potential habitat for sensitive species like Lewis' woodpecker. The Battlements CRA has received extensive controlled burning to increase big game and livestock forage and decrease fuels loading. The burning has imitated natural processes, but is the result of human intervention. McCurry Reservoir and numerous irrigation systems are located in this area.

The area contains six motorized trails within its rugged terrain (NFST 532, 530, 531, 529, 527, 504). These are more frequently used during the fall big game season. Recreational use is low in the summer allowing one to experience a sense of remoteness and solitude. This is diminished during the fall game season. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Three cattle allotments are within this area. Some fences on these allotments are maintained using motorized vehicles. Other land uses include McCurry Reservoir and associated water transmission lines. There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit.

The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. Portions of the unit are currently under lease or have expressions of interest for leasing. The unit is predominately a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) lease stipulation with some small areas of Controlled Surface Use (CSU). The Debeque gas field and numerous gas producing wells are located adjacent to the CRA. There are five oil and gas leases issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing approximately 4,176 acres. All of these leases have a "No Surface Occupancy" stipulation covering the entire leased area within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Beaver # 18 (3,600 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

Beaver Creek, a distinctive canyon has been identified as a potential state conservation area by the Colorado Division of Wildlife for its (*Populus angustifolia/Salix lucida*) riparian woodland. The entire area lies within the much larger Gunnison Basin conservation site identified by The Nature Conservancy. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the spruce/fir habitat at the northern end of this area. Gunnison sage grouse winter range occurs at the southern, lower end. During the winter, bald eagles forage along Beaver Creek. This area is also identified as bighorn sheep habitat. Beaver Creek hosts a Conservation Population of Colorado River cutthroat trout and is a reintroduction site for this species. Projects including a concrete fish barrier and the application of Rotenone chemical pesticide have occurred in to creek to protect and enhance these fish populations. Most of the area is summer range for elk and mule deer. The southern portion is also identified as elk and mule deer winter range. Several elk migration corridors cross this CRA.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Antelope and Beaver cattle allotments are located in the Beaver Creek portion of this unit. There are approximately 4,300 acres within the three segments that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Castle = 8,700 | |
| | Steuben = 3,500 | |
| | East Elk = 4,200 | |
| Beaver-Castle = 35,700 | Total = 20,000 | Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features. |

Beckwiths, #16 (18,600 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. Winter motorized activities (snowmobiling) are common in this unit. The area is rugged and retains a high degree of naturalness. The CRA is characterized by rugged terrain and a relative sense of remoteness. However, the sense of solitude is limited by winter snowmobiling, adjacent private land developments, the Lost Lake Campground, and the Floresta town site (east of the CRA). This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Snowshoe Cattle allotment is within this unit. There are approximately 5,600 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Only a portion of the area has any potential for oil and gas and that portion is covered with a No Lease stipulation. The remainder of the area is not available for oil and gas lease. The CRA may have potential for coal mining. Currently there are no existing leases, lease applications or exploration applications.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mt. Lamborn = 18,800 | |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | 51 miles of constructed road, 500 acres of lands treated with vegetation harvest, areas with coal leases and non |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | |

Calamity Basin, #63 (12,200 acres)

1. Description

The Calamity Basin CRA is on the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately nine miles east of Gateway in Mesa County. The unit lies along the western perimeter of the Uncompahgre Plateau, within the Grand Valley Ranger District. The CRA is encircled and can be accessed from NFSR 416, 416.1A, 405, 405.2a, and 404. The area is bordered to the west by developed and roaded BLM lands. Calamity Basin CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco- Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,500' to 9,100'. Existing vegetation includes pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations, mixing with and transitioning to Gambel oak. Aspen and ponderosa pine mixed forests occur at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Two roads intrude into the area, NFSR 4058.4A and 416.1A, creating a cherry stem effect. Remnants of timber harvest from the 1950s are evident along the northern perimeter of the unit. Both motorized and non motorized trails are within the unit. One motorized trail, NFST 608, bisects the unit and is linked to a larger motorized trail system on the Plateau. The relatively open vegetation and close proximity to sights and sounds of roads and trails diminish the sense of remoteness within this unit. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Blue Creek cattle allotment and minor portions of the Mudholes and Lakes allotment are within this CRA. Existing livestock fences and stock ponds are maintained with motorized equipment. Approximately 1,300 acres of tentatively suited timber lands are within this unit. The area is considered to have a moderate mineral potential. Portions of the area are available for oil and gas leasing. Lease applications have been received for both areas currently available for leasing and for areas that have not been analyzed for leasing to date. The area is covered by Timing Limitation with Controlled Surface Use and Seasonal Timing Limitation stipulations.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Calamity Basin = 12,200 | |
| | UnawEEP = 12,100 | 14 miles of constructed roads, lands commercially harvested and non |
| Ute Creek = 29,800 | Total = 24,300 | National Forest lands were removed from these units. |

Cannibal Plateau, #44 (14,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Non-motorized and motorized dispersed recreation occurs in the area. The motorized recreation opportunities are highly valued by the Lake City community. Three motorized trails traverse the CRA, representing an important and popular ATV route in the Lake City area. There is also a groomed snowmobile route within the CRA. The sense of remoteness is high along the crest and away from motorized trails. However, the town of Lake City and developments can be viewed from the western rim. In addition, the relatively close proximity to roads, trails, and sights and sounds of development diminish the sense of remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Cannibal sheep allotment is in this CRA. Approximately 1,300 acres of land are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Canyon Creek/Antero, #39 (12,000 acres)

1. Description

The Canyon Creek/Antero CRA is along the Continental Divide, approximately six miles from the town of Pitkin in Gunnison County. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. This CRA is south of the Mirror Lake CRA (# 37). The Alpine Tunnel Road and Middle Quartz Creek Road separate the two CRA's and also provide public access points to each. This area borders the Mt. Antero roadless area, located on the Pike- San Isabel National Forest. This CRA is directly south of the Alpine Tunnel Historic District. It is bounded to the east by patented mining claims along NFSR 788 (Tomichi Creek Road). The western boundary follows Canyon Creek. Stella and Granite Mountains are prominent features. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,400' to 12,600'. The Canyon Creek portion is dominated by lodgepole pine mixed with spruce/fir forests in the southwest half, transitioning to alpine habitats on Stella, Granite and Paywell mountains. The Antero portion of the area is entirely alpine habitat

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Tomichi and Pitkin cattle allotments are located in this CRA. The area is adjacent to the Buffalo Fork timber sale unit. There are approximately 1,500 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Canyon Creek/Antero= 1,700 | |
| | Canyon creek= 10,300 | Removal of non National Forest lands, constructed roads and lands treated with vegetation harvest. |
| Canyon Creek = 12,600 | Total= 12,000 | |

Carson, #45 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a closed livestock allotment within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands within this unit. This area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Carson = 6,000 | |
| | Cataract = 10,000 | Timber harvest in Rambouillet Creek drainage, 16 miles of constructed roads and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. |
| Carson Peak 25,900 | Total = 16,000 | |

Castle, #17 (8,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. NFST 438 (Lowline Trail) runs through the CRA and provides a non-motorized single-track backcountry trail opportunity that is a limited recreation resource in the Gunnison Basin. The area receives moderate to heavy visitor use during the fall big game hunting season. The unit is located above adjacent lands that have been previously harvested along the southern boundary. To the east, the CRA is well screened from the adjacent private lands which are currently agricultural. The dense vegetation, distance away from roads and trails, and lack of sights and sounds of developments create a sense of remoteness. This CRA lies within a delineated source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this particular assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Beckwiths Cattle allotment is in this CRA. Two water transmission ditches and associated access roads are in the CRA. The unit has a commercial outfitter and guide operation for big game hunting operations. Water transmission ditches are currently accessed and maintained by motorized and mechanized equipment. There are approximately 300 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suited for wood fiber production.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | Castle = 8,700 | |
| | Beaver = 3,600 | |
| | Steuben = 3,500 | Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide natural features. |
| | East Elk = 4,200 | |
| Beaver-Castle = 35,700 | Total = 20,000 | |

Cataract, #46 (10,000 acres)

1. Description

The Cataract CRA is approximately 10 miles southwest of Lake City and 10 miles northeast of Silverton. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA is bordered by the BLM to the north, the Rio Grande National Forest to the south and shares the Continental Divide. It was included in the 2003 Colorado Wilderness Act proposal as part of the Handies Peak Wilderness Area. The area is separated from The Carson CRA by NFSR 468 (Wager Gulch Road). This CRA is within ten miles of four wilderness areas: Uncompahgre, La Granita, Powderhorn, and Weminuche. It is adjacent to the Handies Peak BLM Wilderness Study Area and to the Pole Mountain/Finger Mesa roadless areas on the Rio Grande National Forest. It is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 10,900' to 13,900'. It is dominated by alpine habitats. Riparian habitats are scattered throughout the area. Spruce/fir forests occur at the lower elevations of drainages and in the northeast corner.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is within The Nature Conservancy's Uncompahgre/Red Cloud conservation site. The Half Peak Potential Conservation Area has been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for several alpine plants, including the sensitive species *Gilia sedifolia*. The CRA is also suitable habitat for moose. Several have been sighted on a regular basis in the area near and around both Cuba

Gulch and Cataract Gulch. This area also provides summer range for mule deer, black bear and elk as well as an elk concentration area in Mill Gulch.

Suitable habitat for Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs within this CRA. Suitable lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested habitats within this CRA. This area is adjacent to the Silverton-Lake City lynx linkage area. Other species, like wolverine are also likely to use this linkage area to move between ranges. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs throughout this area. The Cataract CRA is critical summer and winter range for wild bighorn sheep as well as a production area where several bighorn ewe and lamb groups have been seen on a frequent basis. Some evidence of historic mineral development may be seen throughout the CRA. However, overall, the area has a high degree of naturalness. Travel is moderate to heavy along the Wager Gulch Road. The dense vegetation, distance away from roads and trails, and lack of sights and sounds of developments create a sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Cottonwood and Cataract-Cuba cattle allotments are in this CRA. There are no suitable timber lands within the capable portion of this unit. This CRA has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Carson = 6,000 | |
| | Cataract = 10,000 | Timber harvest in Rambouillet Creek drainage, 16 miles of constructed roads |
| Carson Peak 25,900 | Total = 16,000 | and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. |

Cimarron Ridge, #52 (12,200 acres)

1. Description

The Cimarron Ridge CRA is approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Ridgeway. It is within the Ouray Ranger District. This area is also approximately two miles northwest of the Uncompahgre Wilderness and within a mile of the Turret Ridge CRA (#20451). NFSR # 858 (Owl Creek-Cimarron Road) borders the east and south boundary of the CRA. This road provides access to the area. The Big Cimarron River runs along the eastern boundary. The National Forest boundary is along the northern border. There is no public access the north. The CRA is within the South – Central Highlands Eco-section (M331G) with an elevation that ranges from 8,800' to 11, 900'. Existing vegetation includes aspen forests at the lower elevations, transitioning to aspen mixed with spruce/fir, to spruce/fir mixed with aspen, with only spruce/fir at the higher elevations. Open parks are scattered throughout the area, along with cliff outcrops along the ridgeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Along the eastern perimeter of the area, there is evidence of aspen clearcuts that occurred during the 1950s and 1960s. The Silver Jack Reservoir and campground are along the east side of the Big Cimarron River. Cimarron Ridge divides the CRA into two segments, west and east. The west side of the ridge retains a higher degree of naturalness in comparison to the east side which is influenced by past timber harvests, evidence of roads, and the influence of the reservoirs and dams. The west side away from the private lands appears natural and undisturbed. There are several motorized trails system within this CRA. Connected motorized single-tracks NFST 225 (Nate Creek Trail) and NFST 222 (Lou Creek Trail) bisects the CRA in half north to south. NFST 249 (Fox Creek Trail), a double track ATV route, spurs off of the Lou Creek trail and travels north along the Big Cimarron River. NFST 244 (Cowboy Lake Trail) parallels the boundary separating the CRA from the Silver Jack reservoir.

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Cimarron and Lou Creek cattle allotments are within this unit. Private lands along the eastern boundary are currently being developed as ranchettes. There are approximately 10,000 acres of tentatively suitable timber for wood fiber production within this unit. This CRA has a low potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Cimarron IRA = 15,600 | 12,200 | Non National Forest lands, and the Montrose Reservoirs were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain and natural features. |

Clear Fork, #09 (24,200 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Huntsman ridge portion of this CRA is within The Nature Conservancy's McClure Pass conservation site. This area is year round habitat for moose. This CRA provides calving areas and summer range for elk, as well as winter range at the lower elevations. Summer range for mule deer, black bear, and turkey also occur here. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. Clear Fork Muddy Creek, Second Creek, North Twin Creek, and South Twin Creek are designated native cutthroat waters. These streams contain conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. Several purple martin nesting colonies occur in this CRA. The Audubon society has identified this area as an important bird area due to the presence of these colonies. Northern goshawk and flammulated owl also inhabit portions of the area with large diameter aspen. Once away from the gas wells, roads and pipelines the terrain and vegetation appear natural. With only a limited number of non-motorized trails through the area, the CRA offers a sense of remoteness. This CRA lies within a delineated source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Greater than 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Deadhorse and Muddy sheep allotments are in this CRA. There are approximately 14,600 acres of land that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The CRA has a high potential for oil and gas. Two producing gas wells are in the CRA. An active gas pipeline with a cleared Right of Way (ROW) forms the western boundary. There are plans to expand the ROW of this pipeline. The Bull Mountain Pipeline Right-of-Way has been approved by the BLM which parallels the Ragged Mountain Pipeline in the Clear Creek IRA. It is unknown for certain when construction will begin.

There are currently 16 oil and gas leases partially within Clear Fork CRA. Eight of these leases encompassing 8,414 acres were issued prior to January 12, 2001. Eight leases encompassing a total of 2,020 acres were issued after January 12, 2001. No surface occupancy stipulations for wetlands and areas with steep slopes are in effect on 1,567 acres and controlled surface use stipulations for

no roads to be built are in effect on approximately 453 acres. There are three areas with expressions of interest for energy leasing in the Clear Fork CRA, encompassing 4,614 acres.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Turner Creek = 13,000 | |
| | Clear Fork = 24,200 | Constructed roads and gas pipeline corridor were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |
| Clear Creek = 43,000 | Total = 37,200 | |

Cochetopa Creek, #43 (2,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer habitat for big game species (black bear, mule deer, elk, and moose). The drier forest types in this area are mapped as other lynx habitat. One administrative road NFSR 472.1A (Table Mountain road) is in the CRA. The canyon area along Cochetopa Creek retains a high degree of naturalness even with a road running through it. Cochetopa Creek is a popular fishing area. Due to the terrain of the canyon, the area provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The portion outside the canyon, however, is on a bench adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest where the lands are roaded and experience heavy motorized use. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Saguache Park and Cochetopa cattle allotments are in this CRA. There are no suitable timber lands within this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | | Constructed roads and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible. |
| Middle Fork = 11,200 | 2,500 | |

Cochetopa Hills, #41 (46,200 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

Most of this CRA lies within the Trickle Mountain conservation site or the Gunnison Basin conservation site and potential conservation area. This area provides summer range for black bear and mule deer. This CRA also provides elk summer concentration areas and production areas in the Long Branch Baldy to Green Mountain areas, as well as the Razor Creek Dome to West Baldy. It provides big game wintering areas and potential sage grouse habitat in the lower elevations. Pronghorn use the lower elevations for summer habitats. This CRA contains lynx habitat and the North Pass/Cochetopa Hills lynx linkage area (movement corridor). Lower

elevations provide summer range for Gunnison sage grouse. Bald eagle winter range extends into the northern edges of this CRA. NFSR 781 (Needle Creek Road) bisects the area, leaving two unroaded segments, one to the east and one to the west. Portions of the eastern unit have low naturalness due to past management activities. In the western segment, the Hicks Gulch drainage, specifically the ponderosa pine lands, has evidence of dozer lines and past prescribed fire activities. Once away from roads and harvest units on the eastern edge of the unit, the remainder of the western segment retains a high degree of naturalness.

An interconnected series of nine single-track motorized trails are in the CRA. Trails are used by both motorcyclists and mountain bikes. Needle Creek Reservoir, a popular camping area, is adjacent to the northern boundary of the CRA. A segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) is located within this unit. The high density of motorized trails influences the sense of solitude. Once away from the roads and trails, the rugged terrain and dense thickets of lodgepole pine vegetation provide for a sense of naturalness and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Long Branch, Razor, Needle, and Rock cattle allotments are in this CRA. Ponderosa pine restoration projects utilizing prescribed fire are planned for the northern portions of the unit. Approximately 4,400 acres in the capable portion of the CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 6,400 acres of tentatively suitable timber land are within the inventory portion of the CRA. There is no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Cochetopa Hills = 71,400 | 46,200 | 67 miles of constructed roads, lands harvested in the Long Branch and Tank Seven Creek drainages, and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain and natural features where possible. |

Cottonwoods, #02 (10,900 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

One motorized trail NFST 511 (Crum Reservoir Trail), bisects the west quarter of the area. Motorized routes, NFSR 254.1A and NFST 259 (Bull Basin Trail), run along the southern border. The eastern edge of the CRA follows a road, a penstock, and a 12.5 KV power line. Extensive unauthorized motorized use from private lands is a growing problem as lands become developed to the north. Motorized winter over snow activities occur in the area. Summer recreation use is low, but the sense of solitude is tempered by uses that

occur in the vicinity of NFSR 254 (Long Slough Road), reservoirs to the south, and other water uses in the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Bull and Cottonwood Creek cattle allotments are in this CRA. Fences are maintained using motorized vehicles. Irrigation reservoirs are located in this CRA. There are several reservoirs and water transmission lines within the area. There are approximately 3,300 acres within the capable portion that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 400 acres of suitable timber land are within the CRA. The area is considered to have a high potential for oil and gas resources. There are expressions of interest in gas leasing in approximately one-fifth of the CRA. One existing lease (886 acres) has been awarded in the northwest corner of the CRA prior to January 12, 2001. Existing surface occupancy stipulations are controlled surface use and no surface occupancy on a small part of the lease due to wetlands and geologic hazards.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Nick Mountain = 10,400 | 10,900 | Lands altered by developments were removed from the inventory, lands were added to adjust the boundary for better manageability |

Crystal Peak, #47 (11,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Crystal Peak/Lower Elk sheep allotment, which is currently vacant, is within this unit. The San Juan Springs Irrigation ditch is a Special Use Permit to Colorado Division of Wildlife at Larson Lakes for fish culture. There are approximately 200 acres of land tentatively suited for wood fiber production in this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas. The southern portion of this CRA is within the Henson Creek mineralized area.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Curecanti, #20 (12,400 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mt. Lamborn = 18,800 | |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | 51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Currant Creek, #06 (10,800 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Current Creek CRA is an important calving and fawning ground, as well as winter range for both deer and elk. It is also highly utilized by black bear in the fall due to high density of acorns and chokecherries. Lynx habitat is mapped in the highest elevations. Lewis' woodpecker is an additional sensitive species that finds suitable habitat in the oak/aspen types. There is little evidence of human-induced change, and the area appears natural.

Motorized recreation opportunities exist in surrounding areas. Therefore, travel management in the CRA needs to be clearly defined and motorized activities must be kept to the established routes. One motorized route, NFST 719 (Green Mountain), runs between the north boundary of this CRA and the south boundary of Flattops/Elk Park CRA. One non-motorized trail NFST 710 (Currant Creek) provides access into the CRA from Green Mountain Trail.

The area is bordered on the south by the National Forest boundary with private land. There is no public access across this private land. The difficulty of access makes this area remote. The lower third of the CRA includes steep oak brush canyons. Cross country travel is difficult. This CRA is within a state defined source water Assessment area (municipal water supply). The landscape contains many tributaries to the Gunnison River. Tributaries within the CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Green Mountain and Leroux Creek cattle allotments are in the CRA. There is one commercial outfitter operation, including two authorized camps. The CRA has reservoirs and ditches, most notably the Patterson and Carl Smith Reservoirs. Approximately 4,800 acres of land in this CRA are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. A majority of the CRA is designated as an area with no potential for future oil and gas leasing. There are two existing oil and gas leases partially within Currant Creek CRA (approximately 10% of the CRA) that were issued prior to January 12, 2001, comprising 792 acres. A majority of the leased lands have no surface occupancy for those areas with wetlands, geologic hazards, and steep slopes. There are also small patches of controlled surface use. There is an approved lease in the areas just south of Green Mountain Trail with standard lease terms.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Currant Creek = 10,800 | Lands altered from road construction, timber harvest, water development, water transmission lines, and Non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. |
| | Flattops/Elk Park = 70,600 | |
| Priest Mountain = 95,000 | Total = 81,400 | |

Deer Creek, #28 (9,400 acres)

1. Description

The Deer Creek CRA is approximately two miles east of Crested Butte. It is within the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA adjoins the Maroon Bells Wilderness to the north and parallels the East River to the town of Gothic. West Brush Creek separates the unit into the western Deer Creek segment and the eastern Brush Creek segment. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000' to 12,600'. The eastern portion is dominated by mixed forests of aspen, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Englemann spruce. The western portion transitions to more open grass/forb and sagebrush within the East River drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

The CRA in general has gentle terrain and the vegetation offers minimal screening of the roads, trails, and developments. The visibility of the Gothic Road detracts from a sense of remoteness and solitude. The motorized trails and the heavily used Deer Creek trail detract from the sense of solitude. However, there are isolated pockets of land where one can find solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS which recognizes the CRA as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Deer Creek, Dry Basin, and Gothic cattle allotments are in this CRA. The area along the East River contains private in-holdings. Approximately 1,100 acres of this CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Oil and gas potential in this unit is low.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Deer Creek = 9,400 | |
| | Double Top = 23,700 | |
| | Italian Mountain = 8,700 | 72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber |
| | Texas Creek = 2,300 | harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were |
| Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100 | Total = 44,100 | adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible. |

Dominguez, #65 (12,800 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

There are three non- motorized trails NFST 645 (Winter Camp), NFST 635 (Bad Land), and NFST 613 (Black Point). Unplanned roads established by recreation users have been systematically closed or converted to trails (NFST 645 and 635) as a result of the Uncompahgre Travel Plan decision of 2000. Although the steep terrain makes travel through much of this country arduous to impossible, the area is popular for hunting and wildlife viewing. It is particularly congested during the fall big game hunting season. Summer recreation use is minimal due to the dry and hot conditions. The generally open and relatively flat terrain allows for views of distant roads and people. Only after dropping off of Black Point into the canyon is there a feeling of solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA contains approximately 1 mile of tributaries to the Gunnison River. Tributaries are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the clean water act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Black Point = 9,900 | 12,800 | Constructed roads and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. Lands were added that were not within the 2001 inventory. |

Double Top, #30 (23,700 acres)

1. Description

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

northern third of this CRA is alpine. Riparian habitats occur along the major drainages of Middle Brush Creek, East Brush Creek, Farris Creek, and Cement Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

This CRA is adjacent to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The CRA is bordered by NFSR 740 (Cement Creek) to the east; NFSR 738 (Brush Creek) to the west, and private land to the south. One non-motorized trail, NFST 580 (Beaver Slide) is in the CRA. The area has a high density trail network of 11 interconnected single tracks used heavily by both motorized and mechanized users. It is difficult to get away from the sights and sounds of motorized travel with this density of motorized trails throughout the area. State Highway 135 and private land development of Crested Butte South also influence and detract from the sense of remoteness and solitude. Within the CRA are pockets of dense timber providing a vegetation buffer from the sights and sounds of development and motorized recreation. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Brush Creek cattle allotment is in the western portion of the CRA. The Cement Creek cattle allotment is in the eastern portion. Morgan Ditch has Ditch Bill Easement. Approximately 7,300 acres in the capable portion of this CRA are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The CRA has a low potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Deer Creek = 9,400 | |
| | Double Top = 23,700 | |
| | Italian Mountain = 8,700 | 72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible. |
| | Texas Creek = 2,300 | |
| Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100 | Total = 44,100 | |

East Elk Creek, #18 (4,200 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Red Creek and Rainbow cattle allotment is in the East Elk Creek portion. This unit has a private land in-holding within the unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Castle = 8,700 | |
| | Beaver = 3,600 | |
| | Steuben = 3,500 | |
| | East Elk = 4,200 | |
| Beaver-Castle = 35,700 | Total = 20,000 | Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide natural features. |

Electric Mountain, #10 (9,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Although the CRA retains its roadless character, it is surrounded by roads. The Forest boundary to the south is bordered by private lands which are developed into 35 acre ranchettes. The power line and its associated road are adjacent to the west boundary. An irrigation ditch near Beaver Creek is within the area. A foot and horse trail NFST 802 (Terror Trail), bisects the CRA. Activities along the edges of the area are particularly widespread during the hunting season, limiting opportunities for solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Electric Mountain, Condemit Park, Hubbard Park, and West Muddy sheep allotments are in this CRA. Western Area Power Association electrical transmission line runs along the western boundary. Approximately 3,900 acres are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The CRA has a high potential for oil and gas. There are two oil and gas leases encompassing 51 acres issued after January 12, 2001. These leases have no surface occupancy stipulation for wetland areas, geologic hazards, and areas with steep slopes.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Electric Mt. = 8,200 | 9,700 | Boundary adjustments. |

Failes Creek/Soldier Creek, #49 (8,800 acres)

1. Description

The Failes Creek/Soldier Creek CRA is approximately 20 miles northeast of the town of Ouray. It is managed by the Ouray Ranger District. It is bordered to the north by the BLM and the south by the Uncompahgre Wilderness Area. The CRA is split by the Big Blue

Creek into the western portion, the Failes Creek area and the Soldiers Creek portion to the east. NFSR 868.1A (Little Cimarron Road) is the western boundary and NFSR 868 (Alpine Road) is the east boundary. The CRA is within the South–Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,800’ to 11,900’. Existing vegetation varies with elevation, slope and aspect throughout this CRA. The area is predominately a spruce-fir forest that has not been altered. The Big Park area is dominated with spruce/fir forests intermixed with wet meadows. Slopes east of Failes Creek are spruce/fir. The Big Blue Creek drainage is dominated by willow riparian habitats. The area south of Soldier Creek is also dominated by spruce/fir, transitioning into aspen and Douglas-fir in the eastern end.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The Motorized NFST 225 (Alpine Trail) runs through the northern portion of this unit and is linked to a larger trail system. NFSR 868 (Alpine Road), which borders the Soldier Creek segment, provides access to the Big Blue Creek (Uncompahgre Wilderness) trail head. Two non-motorized trails are within the unit, NFST 230 (Failes Creek Trail) and NFST 234 (Big Park Trail). Parks and meadows within this unit are popular winter snowmobiling areas. The unit is surrounded by roads and one motorized trail. The segment of the Little Cimarron Road that borders the unit is closed to public access; therefore, disturbances from the road are minimal. The Alpine Trail receives generally low levels of use with the exception of annual motorcycle events where the volume of users is significant during event days. The Alpine road along the Soldiers Creek segment receives steady use during the summer and fall. Generally, the eastern Failes Creek segment offers opportunity for solitude and sense of remoteness similar to the adjacent Uncompahgre Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Park and Alpine Plateau cattle allotments are within this unit. There are approximately 1,700 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. This area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Failes Ck/Soldier Ck = 8,800 | |
| | Little Cimarron = 4,200 | |
| | Turret Ridge = 5,500 | |
| Uncompahgre = 26,200 | Total: 18,500 | Timber harvest, road construction, boundary alignment. |

Flatirons, #24 (8,700 acres)

1. Description

This area is located approximately nine miles east of Paonia, and north of, although not contiguous to, the West Elk Wilderness. It is within the Paonia ranger District. The National Forest boundary is to the north with checker-boarded ownership pattern of BLM and private lands. NFSR 711 (Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek) borders the eastern boundary. The area between NFSR 711 and NFSR 709 was too narrow to be considered as part of the inventory. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 6,300’–12,000’. Lower elevations are dominated by Gambel oak and mixed mountain shrub. Aspen mixed with spruce/fir and Douglas-fir in some locations occurs at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is a fall concentration area for black bear due to the abundant oak mast. This area provides calving areas, summer range, and winter range for elk. Mule deer also summer in this area. The forested areas have been mapped as lynx habitat. This CRA provides habitat for sensitive species that key into oak, like Lewis’ woodpecker. This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act.

This area is bounded by roads. The western portion of the area shows evidence of multiple temporary roads previously used for mineral exploration and development. The eastern portion retains its naturalness once away from NFSR 711 and 711.3C. Opportunities for remoteness and solitude are limited due to the motorized access into the area. The influence of State Highway 133 can be seen and

heard from within portions of the area. The area is heavily used during the hunting season. Although the CRA has areas with steep and natural terrain, the sights and sounds of roads and development detract from a sense of remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Dry Fork cattle allotment is within this unit and is currently vacant. There are approximately 1,500 acres suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has recoverable coal reserves and currently contains approximately 2,068 acres of authorized Federal Coal Leases. These coal leases have a variety of no surface occupancy for areas with wetlands, steep slope, or high geologic hazards and controlled surface use stipulations for areas with big game winter range, or moderate slopes. There are no existing authorized gas leases in the Flatirons CRA; however, there are expressions of interest for oil/gas leasing on approximately 8,500 acres.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mt. Lamborn = 18,800 | |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | 51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Flattops/Elk Park, #07 (70,600 acres)

1. Description

The area is located approximately 10 miles north of Paonia. The watershed divide (Buzzard Divide) which separates Mesa and Delta Counties also separates this CRA into two distinct segments. The Flattops located within Mesa County and managed by the Grand Mesa Ranger District, is between the Divide and NFSR 262 (Park Creek Road). The second, Elk Park, is located within Delta County, between the Divide and the Overland Ditch. This segment is located within both the Grand Mesa Ranger District (western most portions) and the Paonia Ranger District (eastern portion). The area is bounded to the west by NFSR 262 and NFSR 265 (Buzzard Divide Road) and the Overland Ditch to the south and east. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,500' to 11,300'. The Flattops CRA can be characterized by its large open meadows and numerous spruce-fir pockets. It also has large expanses of aspen, wet meadows, and mountain shrub. Riparian areas are common surrounding the many streams, natural ponds and reservoirs. A very large portion of this CRA is dotted with wet seeps, springs, creeks, and wetlands that would be both problematic and sensitive to further road development.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The southwest portion of the Flattop segment is heavily influenced by water developments. Away from these developments and boundary roads, the area retains a high level of naturalness. There are several popular motorized ATV trails within this unit. Trails within the Flattops segment are: NFST 515 (High Trail), 518 (Monument Trail), 519 (Buzzard Park Trail), and 730 (East Leon Trail). Trails within the Elk Park segment are NFST 800 (Elk Park Trail) and 730 (East Leon Trail). The dense vegetation and limited trails within the Elk Park segment allow for a sense of remoteness. A greater portion of the trail systems occur in the Flattops segment. The relatively open vegetation and flat terrain cannot screen the motorized activities within the Flattops, which influence the sense of solitude and remoteness in this area. Several water developments are within this CRA including two reservoirs. Monument Reservoirs #1 and #2 located in the center of the Flattop segment. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Leon, Buzzard, and Dyke cattle allotments are located within this area. The Elk Park segment area is within the West Muddy and West Terror cattle allotments. There are approximately 31,600 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. The Flattops segment is covered by a no lease stipulation. Elk Park is currently available for oil and gas leasing, however, much of the area is covered by a no lease stipulation. A small area in the extreme southeast corner of Elk Park is encumbered with an existing lease covered by a controlled surface use stipulation. One oil and gas lease encompassing 677 acres issued prior to January 12, 2001, has no surface occupancy for areas with geologic hazards, riparian areas, and steep slopes. Two other leases encompassing 798 acres issued after January 12, 2001, have no surface occupancy for areas with wetlands and steep slopes. There are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in 2 areas encompassing 1,599 acres within the Flattops/Elk Park CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Currant Creek = 10,800 | Constructed roads, water developments and transmission lines, non |
| | Flattops/Elk Park = 70,600 | National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the |
| Priest Mountain = 95,000 | Total = 81,400 | inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Gothic, #26 (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The area is located four miles north of the town of Crested Butte and east of the Gothic Town site in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The CRA lies between NFSR 317 (Scholfield Pass Road) to the east and NFSR 811 (Washington Gulch) to the west. The lands north of the CRA are within the White River National Forest and managed for dispersed recreation allowing motorized uses. Private lands are adjacent to the unit in the south and within the unit, a result of patented mining claims. The area includes Gothic Mountain (12,625') and Snodgrass Mountain (11,145'). The CRA is separated from the nearest wilderness lands, the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness, by roads. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 6,300' to 12,625'. The Snodgrass mountain portion is dominated by mixed aspen, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The Gothic Mountain and the northern end are primarily alpine habitat. Spruce forests dominate in the land between Gothic Mountain and the alpine habitat. Riparian habitats occur in the East River drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Gothic Research Natural Area is located in the northern portion of this CRA. The entire area is within The Nature Conservancy's Crested Butte conservation site. Two Potential Conservation Areas (PCA's) extend into this CRA; the East River PCA at Rustler's Gulch, identified for the presence of boreal toad and pygmy shrew; and the Mount Bellview PCA, identified for rare alpine plants. This area provides summer range for big game species, with elk possibly using the lower elevations of Snodgrass Mountain for winter range. Lynx habitat is present within this CRA. Boreal toad and pygmy shrew are both known to inhabit the East River drainage. White-tailed ptarmigan use the alpine habitats along the northern edge of this unit.

There is an administrative road within the Snodgrass segment. Away from the road, the area has a high degree of naturalness. The area along the East River is a popular and heavily used recreation corridor. Winter snowmobiling occurs on the east (Washington Gulch) side of the unit. Presently, the Gothic corridor is closed to public winter motorized use. The CRA has two mountain bike trails; NFST 590 (Snodgrass) and NFST 403 (Washington Gulch). NFST 403, an advanced mountain bike route, runs through the area and connects to a larger system.

Although the area offers steep terrain and pockets of dense vegetation, the sense of remoteness is diminished by the following factors: the Scholfield Pass road corridor and the corresponding high volume of recreation traffic, the sights and sounds of Crested Butte, and private land development adjacent to the Snodgrass area. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Gothic and Slate River Cattle allotments are located within this area. There are approximately 600 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The CRA is adjacent to Snodgrass Mountain currently identified within the permitted lands for the Mt Crested Butte Ski Area. Snodgrass Mountain is a proposed ski area expansion site. With the exception of an administrative access road, these lands are currently undeveloped. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Gothic = 6,200 | 6,600 | Adjustments to boundaries to natural features. 943 acres removed as part of the Crested Butte Ski Area. Additional acreage added. |

Granite Basin, #33 (25,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Winter snowmobile recreation occurs along the Spring Creek road. Three single-track motorized trails and two mountain bike trails exist within the area. NFST 744.3A (Bear Creek) and NFST 420 (Deadman Gulch) are considered premier single track mountain bike routes. These single tracks are also used by motorcycles. These routes connect to a larger motorized trail system within the Crested Butte area. The deep canyon and rugged terrain, along with the heavy conifer vegetation, provide a sense of remoteness. However, the heavily used trail system adversely influences the opportunity for solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Mesa and Soap Creek Cattle allotments are within this unit. There are approximately 12,500 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. This area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | American Flag Mountain = 9,500 | 33 miles of road construction, 1800 acres of timber harvest and non National Forest System lands were removed from the Inventory. After removing the above lands, logical manageable boundaries were described. |
| | Granite Basin = 25,500 | |
| Boston = 46,700 | Total = 35,000 | |

Hope Lake, #56 (6,800 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

One mechanized trail, NFST 634 (Swamp Canyon), bisects the east portion of this area. This trail, currently open to mountain bike use, is being proposed to change use to non-motorized foot and horse travel only. The steep, rugged terrain in this area limits the sights and sounds of traffic on Highway 145 and associated with the scattered home sites on adjacent private lands. There are many opportunities for various types of recreation including rock climbing, peak climbing, and back country skiing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Prospect and Basin Lake sheep allotments are located within this area. Xcel Energy operates the Ames Hydro-Electric Project which includes the Hope Lake dam and water storage in the lake. There are approximately 500 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. A commercial heli-ski operation is authorized to conduct tours in this area and other non-roadless areas within the Ouray-Telluride vicinity. A weather station operated by the Silverton Avalanche Center is within the unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| San Miguel = 9,200 | 6,800 | The Hope Lake dam and access road, the existing utility corridor along the northeast of the unit and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. |

Horse Ranch Park, #15 (3,800 acres)

1. Description

This area is located approximately 10 miles west of Crested Butte in Gunnison County. It is within the Paonia Ranger District. The area adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness along Dyke Creek and is bounded by County Road 12 – Kebler Pass Road to the south. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section. (M33IH). Elevations range from 6,800’ to 13,000’. Existing vegetation in the CRA is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with spruce/fir. Riparian habitats exist along streams and small wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

This area has retained a high degree of naturalness. NFST 837 (Dyke Trail), for mountain bikes, is partially located in the unit. The private and public developments at Lake Irwin and County Road 12 provide sights and sounds of development. Vehicle travel along the Kebler Pass road can be heard. The subdivision on the private land near Floresta is visible from vantage points along Dyke Creek. Opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude are diminished in this area. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Ruby sheep allotment is located within this unit. A special use permit for entomological research is located near the roadless area. The 22 acre special use permit, issued to Oberlin College has been allowed to operate here since 1979. There are approximately, 1600 acres of tentatively suitable timber land within the inventory portion of this unit. This area has a low potential for oil and gas development. Currently there are no existing leases or interest in leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Tomahawk = 12,500 | |
| | Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 | |
| | Horse Ranch Park = 3,800 | |
| | Poverty Gulch = 5,500 | |
| Raggeds = 27,100 | Total = 25,300 | Timber harvest, constructed roads, and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features where possible. |

Horsefly Canyon, #59 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately six miles northeast of Norwood in Montrose County. It is managed by the Norwood ranger District. The canyon sits south of the NFSR 512 (Hanks Valley Road) and north of the Sanborn Park private land settlement. The CRA is within Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,800' to 13,000'. Existing vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper mixed with mountain shrubs on the west end and along south facing slopes in the canyon. Douglas-fir mixed with spruce/ fir and aspen occur along the canyon bottoms. Douglas-fir mixed with oak extends up the north facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Ponderosa, Horsefly Point, Sanborn Park, and Sheep Creek cattle allotments are within this area. An electrical power line crosses above the canyon. There are no suitable timber lands within this unit. There are 4 oil and gas leases issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing 2,740 acres. These leases have a no surface occupancy stipulation for wetland areas, geologic hazards, or areas consisting of steep slopes

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 0 | 6,100 | This unit was an addition to the 2001 inventory. |

Huntsman Ridge, #12 (9,200 acres)

1. Description

This area is approximately six miles northwest of Marble, just north of Highway 133, in the vicinity of McClure Pass. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The hydrologic divide between Muddy Creek and the Crystal River marks the boundary with the White River and Gunnison National Forest, forming the eastern boundary of the area. Access into the area remains difficult. Raggeds Wilderness is within one mile. Dispersed recreation and scenic corridors are the management emphasis for the lands on the adjacent White River National Forest lands. The western boundary consists of the GMUG Forest boundary, which is adjacent to private land. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,600' to 9,800'. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with Englemann spruce forests. Gambel oak occurs at lower elevations and as understory under aspen as elevation increases. Riparian habitat occurs along Roberts Creek and around scattered ponds.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

Although there are existing oil and gas leases in the area, development of those leases has not yet occurred. The terrain and vegetation retains a high level of naturalness. The area nearest to the McClure Pass Highway is affected by the sights and sounds of traffic, diminishing the feeling of solitude. Access into the area remains difficult. One non-motorized trail is within the unit. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Huntsman sheep allotment is located within this unit. There are approximately 1,400 acres of land tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. Coal exploration occurred north of the unit during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1980s. Most surface mine facilities are located on private land within the White River National Forest. There are currently five oil and gas leases issued prior to January 12, 2001, encompassing 3,181 acres. These leases have a no surface occupancy stipulation for wetland areas and areas with steep slopes. Two leases were issued after January 12, 2001 encompassing 1,414 acres with a controlled surface use stipulation for no roads to be built in the roadless areas. There are 143 acres with expressions of interest for leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Drift Creek = 9,400 | 9,200 | Boundaries were adjusted to eliminate constructed roads. |

Italian Mountain, #31 (8,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Winter motorized over-snow activities are prevalent in the Cement Creek and Italian Creek Roads. Motorized NFST 561 (Eyre Basin) bisects the unit. Although the terrain is steep, the unit is surrounded by roads; sounds generated from Taylor Park Road, Cement Creek Road, and Italian Creek jeep road limit the opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park and Cement Creek cattle allotments are within this area. There are approximately 3,300 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has no potential for oil and gas resources.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Deer Creek = 9,400 | |
| | Double Top = 23,700 | |
| | Italian Mountain = 8,700 | 72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber |
| | Texas Creek = 2,300 | harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were |
| Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100 | Total = 44,100 | adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible. |

Johnson Basin, #61 (12,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 10 miles north of Nucla in Montrose and Mesa counties. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. Johnson Basin CRA is located just south of the Long Canyon CRA. The two CRA's are separated by NFSR 411.2A (Willow Creek Road) and NFSR 411 (Campbell Lake Road). The eastern boundary of the CRA is NFSR 402 (Divide Road) and the western boundary is consistent with the National Forest boundary. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 7,000' to 9,200'. Existing vegetation includes pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations transitioning to Gambel oak and other mountain shrubs with elevation gain. At the highest elevations, ponderosa pine and aspen habitats occur, with limited Douglas-fir and spruce/fir growth occurring in the South Fork Mesa Creek drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Club cattle allotment is located within this area. Existing livestock fences, stock ponds, and stock drive paths are maintained using motorized equipment. Management activities have been implemented in the area, for wildlife habitat and vegetative improvement. There are approximately 500 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Portions of the area are available for oil and gas leasing. Lease applications have been received for both areas currently available and those that have not been analyzed for leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Johnson Creek = 10,800 | 12,000 | Constructed roads were removed from the inventory and boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features, resulting in an increased acreage. |

Kannah Creek, #01 (34,600 acres)

1. Description

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

fir, spruce-fir-aspen, and aspen which transition into oak-serviceberry, with pinyon-juniper at the lowest elevations. Shrubby cinquefoil and snowberry dominate the Indian Point area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Kannah Creek and Point cattle allotments are located within this area. The Mesa Point Electronic Site is buffered out of the south corner of the area. There are also irrigation ditches in this area. There are 500 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production within the inventoried portion of this CRA. The area has a high potential for oil and gas resources. However, the majority of the area has been designated with no lease stipulations. There are expressions of interest (two lease applications) for oil and gas leasing encompassing 1, 584 acres along the edges of the unit. This is approximately 10% of the CRA. One recently sold lease application is under protest. There are two existing oil and gas leases issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing 158 acres, with no surface occupancy stipulations for wetland areas, geologic hazards, or areas consisting of steep slopes.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Kannah Creek = 34,200 | 34,600 | Lands that were altered by road construction and timber harvest were removed. |

Kelso Mesa, #66 (36,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is included in The Nature Conservancy's Escalante River conservation site and the Escalante Creek potential conservation area in recognition of riparian forest and shrubland types. This diversity provides important habitats for black bear (fall concentration area), turkey (summer range and production areas), mule deer (summer, winter and fawning areas), and elk (winter range, summer range and calving areas). Potential lynx habitat occurs in the southwestern portion of this CRA in spruce/fir/aspen mixed forests. Bald eagle

winter range extends into the area along the lower reaches of the major drainage. Sensitive species that rely on pinyon-juniper, Gambel oak mixed with mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and aspen have potential habitat in this area including. These species include the spotted bat, fringed myotis, Lewis' woodpecker, flammulated owl, and the Northern goshawk.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private lands border this area. Development of the lands along the western perimeter is beginning and expected to continue. The Musser and Kelso Creek cattle allotments are located within this area. Existing livestock fences and stock ponds are maintained with motorized equipment. There is an existing commercial fall big game hunting operation that is permitted to transport equipment and clients into the area using horse drawn wagons. There are approximately 2,900 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. Portions of this area are available for oil and gas leasing. Currently there are no existing leases or expressions of interest in leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Kelso Point = 34,400 | 36,700 | Constructed roads, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. Lands were added that were not within the 2001 inventory. |

Last Dollar/Sheep Creek, #55 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is adjacent to several private land parcels, many of which were associated with historic mining. Today those lands are being developed as home sites. The Aldasoro, Greyhead, and Sunnyside subdivisions are large developments adjacent to the area. The San Miguel and Alder cattle allotments, as well as the Ruffner sheep allotment, are located within this unit. An irrigation ditch network that is maintained with motorized equipment follows a portion of the Deep Creek Trail near Sheep Creek. A cross-country

ski/summer bike hut, under special use permit, is located within the unit. Private lands are located along three quarters of the unit. There are approximately 1,000 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has little potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Iron Mountain = 7,600 | 6,100 | Roaded lands and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with terrain or natural features. |

Little Cimarron, #50 (4,200 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Big Blue and Fall Creek cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 1,000 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Little Cimarron = 4,200 | |
| | Turret Ridge = 5,500 | |
| | Failes/Soldier Creek = 8,800 | |
| Uncompahgre = 26,200 | Total = 18,500 | Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features. |

Long Canyon, #62 (17,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Club-Campbell Point, Blue Creek, and UC cattle allotments are located within this area. Livestock fences, stock ponds, and stock driveways are maintained with motorized equipment. There are approximately 4,500 acres tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production in this unit. Prescribed burning activities for wildlife habitat improvement occur periodically. There are expressions of interest in the area for oil and gas leasing. Portions of the area are available for leasing. Lease applications have been received both for areas currently available and those that have not been analyzed for leasing.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Matchless=34,100 | 17,500 | 30 miles of constructed road, non National Forest Lands and lands harvested for timber were removed from the inventory. |

Matchless Mountain, #34 (22,400 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The area has a high degree of naturalness. There are three single-track motorized trails are within the area. One of these trails being the Gunnison Spur of the Colorado Trail which is considered a premier mountain bike route. Although the unit has rugged terrain and dense vegetation, it is just above developments, roads, and traffic along Taylor Canyon Road. Sights and sounds from Taylor Park are evident from within the area. Motorized trails run throughout the area and motorized recreation occurs on the reservoir. The area provides a low opportunity for remoteness and solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Creek Cattle allotment is located within the unit. There are approximately 4,000 acres of suitable timber lands in this unit and another 5,000 acres of tentatively suited timber lands within the inventory portion of this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Campbell Point = 11,300 | 17,500 | Adjusted boundaries to remove timber harvest lands, constructed roads, and follow natural features. |

Matterhorn, #48 (3,600 acres)

1. Description

The area lies approximately 10 miles west of Lake City and approximately eight miles east of Ouray in Hinsdale County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area is bounded by Wilderness on three sides. It is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, south of Wetterhorn Peak. The BLM American Flats Wilderness Study Area is south of the National Forest boundary, however, it is not contiguous with this unit. The CRA is within the South Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 10,300' to 13,200'. This CRA is dominated by alpine habitats, with spruce/fir and spruce/fir/aspen forests occurring at the lower elevations. Riparian habitats exist along the streams and in scattered alpine wetlands

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Numerous historic mining roads are evident off of Mary Alice Creek. Other evidence of historic mining exists on the landscape. Away from the road, the area has recovered a high degree of naturalness. The south boundary of the area is NFSR 870.3 (the North Fork of Henson Creek). Approximately 4 miles of roads, NFSR 870 (Mary Alice Creek) and NFSR 870.2A, (Matterhorn Creek) occur within the area. Because these routes provide access to wilderness areas, recreation use on these roads is very popular. The boundaries of the CRA have been adjusted to remove these routes from the roadless area. A private access road permit to land in the southeast corner of this unit has been granted. Three non-motorized trails are within the area: Matterhorn Basin, NFST 226.5 (Mary Alice Creek), and NFST 233 (Ridge Stock Driveway). The area provides access to the 14,000' Uncompahgre Peak. This CRA offers opportunities for solitude and remoteness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Uncompahgre Peak-North Henson Creek sheep allotments are located within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands in this CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development. The southern portion of this unit is within the Henson Creek Mineralized Area as defined by the USGS.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Mendicant #21 (17,800 acres)

1. Description

This area is 10 miles southeast of Crawford in Gunnison County and east of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The landscape follows the topography of Medicant Ridge and Bellmire Ridge, both adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,760' to 12,000'. Existing vegetation includes aspen mixed with spruce/fir at lower elevations, shifting to just spruce/fir at higher elevations. Scattered small areas of shrub and grass/forb are scattered throughout. Exposed cliff areas also occur.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is within The Nature Conservancy's Crested Butte conservation site. A portion of the Upper Smith Fork Drainage Potential Conservation Area extends into this area in the north. Black bear use the area for summer range with fall concentration occurring in Virginia Creek. Turkey, mule deer, and elk use the area for summer range. The upper part of North Dyer Creek is an elk

calf nursery, which indicates that the area is also an elk calving ground in the lower aspen grooves. Lynx habitat is mapped in this area. Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in South Smith Fork within this CRA. Doug Creek located in the watershed below the Mendicant CRA is designated native cutthroat water as it contains a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Elk cattle allotment and the Dyer sheep allotment are within this unit. A radio repeater tower is located on Bald Mountain. There are approximately 800 acres within the capable portion of this IRA that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 700 acres of suitable timber land are within the inventory portion. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mt. Lamborn = 18,800 | |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | 51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Mirror Lake, #37 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located along the Continental Divide, approximately nine miles northeast of the town of Pitkin in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The Tincup Pass Road forms the northern boundary separating this CRA from the Sanford Basin CRA to the north. The eastern boundary of the Mirror Lake CRA is adjacent to of the Romley roadless area managed by the San Isabel National Forest. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 10,200' to 13,000'. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, side slopes, ridges, and peaks. Alpine tundra and willow carr occurs at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Mountain goat summer range occurs in the alpine areas, as does elk summer concentrations. Summer habitat for black bear and mule deer also exists in this area. Forested habitats have been mapped as lynx habitat. Suitable habitat for Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly occurs in and adjacent to this area on the Pike/San Isabel NF. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists in the alpine areas. The land generally appears natural although there is some evidence of historic mining activities. The Alpine Tunnel Historic District is directly south of this unit. One motorized trail, NFST 567 (Tincup Interceptor), runs east and west through the area bisecting the unit in half, north and south. It receives moderate use. In general, the unit is narrow and in close proximity to roads. The rugged terrain is mostly above timberline. Once away from Mirror Lake and associated roads, the land provides a sense of solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Pitkin cattle allotment is located within this unit. There are approximately 600 acres of tentatively suitable timber lands within the inventoried portion of this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Mount Lamborn, #22 (18,800 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

The southern portion of this CRA is within The Nature Conservancy's Little Coal Creek conservation site. Two Colorado Natural Heritage Program areas are present. The Upper Smith Fork Drainage is in the south, and the South Fork of Beaver Reservoir Potential Conservation Area is in the north. This area is a major wintering area for elk and deer in mild to normal winters. It also serves as a major migration route from and to the West Elk Wilderness. Little Coal Creek provides a bear concentration area. Bear from all over the West Elk Wilderness move into Cow Creek in the fall to feed on the mast. This area is also used by turkey for summer range. Lynx habitat is mapped in the forested cover at higher elevations. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area from the Gunnison River drainage. The upper end of Second Creek has a historic population of Colorado River native cutthroat trout which has been designated as a brood trout population. The South Fork of Minnesota Creek has Colorado River native cutthroat trout occurrence. This CRA includes Sand Mountain, as site identified as a bighorn sheep transplant site due to its roadless characteristics and proximity to a county road that can provide winter access for sheep trapping.

This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The area is very rugged, has a high degree of naturalness, and provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. It is heavily used in hunting season. A non-motorized route runs through the area and connects to a larger system. Water transmission lines are within the northern perimeter of the unit and the southeastern portion, including Crawford. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Elk cattle allotment is located within this unit. There are no suitable timber lands for wood production within this unit. The area has a low potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mount Lamborn = 18,800 | |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | 51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Munsey Creek/Erickson Springs, #14 (3,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Paonia. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. This area is divided into two small segments: Munsey Creek and Erickson Springs. The Munsey segment has the Creek as its north and west border and the Raggeds Wilderness as its south and east border. The Erickson Springs segment has County Road 12 as its north and south borders with the Raggeds Wilderness as its east border, and the National Forest boundary forming the western border. The CRA is within the

Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH). Elevations range from 6,800’ to 13,000’. Existing habitat in this area is dominated by aspen and aspen mixed with spruce/fir. Riparian habitat occurs along Anthracite Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The Munsey segment retains a high degree of naturalness. It is buffered by National Forest lands and adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness. This segment provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. The core of the Erickson Springs segment which adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness retains a high degree of naturalness and is less influenced by activities adjacent to the CRA. The perimeter of the area, however, is influenced by developments such as the Erickson Springs campground, private lands, and County Road 12 (Kebler Pass Road, a part of the West Elk Scenic Byway). In general, the CRA provides a valuable backcountry hunting experience on public lands prior to elk movement onto private lands at lower elevations. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Munsey Creek and Snowshoe cattle allotment are located within this unit. Approximately 800 acres are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. Currently there are no existing leases or expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing. This unit is being considered as an addition to the existing Raggeds Wilderness for the purpose of boundary management improvement.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Tomahawk = 12,500 | |
| | Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 | |
| | Horse Ranch Park = 3,800 | |
| | Poverty Gulch = 5,500 | Constructed roads and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |
| Raggeds = 27,100 | Total = 25,300 | |

The Forest Service recently acquired a private in-holding within the Munsey unit, making this area more manageable as a roadless unit.

Naturita Canyon, #58 (4,600 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

A portion of The Nature Conservancy’s Naturita Creek conservation site extends into this area. This area provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion, turkey, mule deer and elk. The area contains habitat for Mexican Spotted Owl. Roundtail chub, bluehead sucker, and flannelmouth sucker may all inhabit Naturita Creek. Bald eagle winter range extends into this area. The area is adjacent to the San Miguel BLM Area of Critical Concern. The canyon provides suitable big game winter habitat and also serves as a travel corridor. The nature of the canyon terrain isolates the area from sights and sounds outside of the canyon, providing a sense of remoteness and solitude. Fishing and hunting activities occur within the canyon, including one commercial hunting outfitter-guide. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Naturita, East Naturita, and Portis cattle allotments are located within this area. There are no managed trails within the area. Fishing and hunting activities occur within the canyon, including one commercial hunting outfitter-guide. There are no suitable timber lands within this unit. The area is considered to have high mineral potential. It is available for oil and gas leasing. There are

currently expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in over 50% of the unit. The area is covered by timing limitations with controlled surface use stipulations.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 0 | 4,600 | This unit is an addition to the 2001 inventory. |

Pilot Knob, #11 (16,200 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The area contains approximately .03 miles (55 meters) of tributaries to North Fork of Gunnison River. Roads surround the area. NFSR 783 (Coal Gulch) and NFSR 849 (Aspen) are along the eastern boundary. NFSR 503.1 intrudes into the area. There are two motorized trails that bisect the landscape. The southern portion of the area has road scars from coal exploration and methane drainage gas wells. The area north of the NFST 804 (Buck Mesa Trail) retains a higher degree of naturalness and provides a greater opportunity for a sense of solitude and remoteness than the southern portion. The mixed conifer vegetation provides an effective buffer from sights and sounds of the roads and trails. The area to the south of Buck Mesa Trail is an oak brush community offering a minimal shield from sights and sounds of existing travel ways. The proximity to roads and motorized trails reduces opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. In general, the area provides a valuable backcountry hunting experience on public lands prior to elk moving onto private lands at lower elevations. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Condemit Park and Hotchkiss sheep allotments are located within this unit. A solar powered Forest Service radio site is located approximately one mile west of Springhouse Park. There are approximately 7,500 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. There are existing oil and gas leases and expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing. The area south of NFST 804 contains recoverable coal reserves. There is a coal exploration license for this area. There is currently one oil and gas lease in this CRA issued prior to January 12, 2001, encompassing 119 acres. This lease has a no surface occupancy stipulation for wetland areas. There are 14 leases issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing 16,088 acres. These leases have a no surface occupancy stipulation for wetland areas, geologic hazards, or areas consisting of steep slopes.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Springhouse = 17,600 | 16,200 | Constructed roads were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and identifiable features. |

Poverty Gulch, #25 (5,500 acres)

1. Description

This area is approximately seven miles northwest of Crested Butte, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. This CRA joins the Raggeds Wilderness along the Ruby Range north of Oh-Be-Joyful Peak along the western boundary. NFSR 734 (Slate River Road) creates the eastern boundary. This area has two segments, divided by NFSR 7752 (Poverty Gulch Road) and NFSR 7552.2A (Baxter Basin Road). The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH)

with elevations ranging from 9,000’–13,300’. Lower elevations of this CRA have mixed aspen and spruce forests, transitioning to open alpine habitats at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Slate River Potential Conservation Area extends into this area along the Slate River and Poverty Gulch drainages. Mountain goat summer range extends into the CRA around Purple Mountain. Summer range is available for most other big game species, with a summer concentration for elk occurring as well. Lynx habitat has been mapped in the forested areas of this CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat is found in the alpine areas.

North Fork of Slate River/Yule Canyon is currently identified as eligible in the GMUG Wild and Scenic River inventory. NFST 576 (Yule Pass Trail) is a non-motorized trail located in the northern segment of the unit. The road system within Poverty Gulch in the vicinity of Cascade Mountain is utilized by ORVs. Snowmobile activities occurs in this unit during the winter and spring months. This area has evidence of historic mineral activity. Visitors would encounter evidence of historic mining and old roads. The private lands, once mined for hard rock minerals, are currently undeveloped. The use of the road system by ORVs in the Poverty Gulch /Cascade Mountain vicinity would affect visitor solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Tomahawk = 12,500 | |
| | Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 | |
| | Horse Ranch Park = 3,800 | |
| | Poverty Gulch = 5,500 | |
| Raggeds = 27,100 | Total = 25,300 | Constructed roads, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Salt Creek, #05 (9,000 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The CRA is bounded on the south by NFSR 279 and 260, which are also heavily used at times. Two motorized trails, NFST 514 (Salt Creek) and NFST 513 (West Salt Creek), bisect the CRA. These trails provide motorized access to the area and receive very high use, particularly during the fall big game hunting season. NFSR 262 (Park Creek Road) was improved by Exxon for access to a well near Monument Creek. That portion of the roadless area, closest to this road, has lost its remoteness. The north face and the slope of Leon Creek appear natural and that area remains difficult to travel in. However, the open and gentle topography of the remainder of the CRA

limits the remoteness. Most of the area can be easily accessed by two wheel drive vehicles when dry, consequently numerous non-system routes from vehicle trespass has occurred. These travel ways have disrupted the natural integrity of the landscape. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Leon and Big Creek cattle allotments are located within this area. The Anderson ditch, located in the southern area of this unit, extends from the Anderson Brothers reservoir and is paralleled by a maintenance road. Some maintenance of existing fences is accomplished using motorized vehicles. There are approximately 2,500 acres within the capable portion that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 600 acres of suitable timber land are within the inventory portion. The area has a high potential for oil and gas. There are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in approximately 75% (3,119 acres) of this CRA. There are currently 2 oil and gas leases issued prior to January 12, 2001 encompassing just over 142 acres. One lease just barely enters the Salt Creek CRA. Most of the area is covered by no surface occupation, but there is some controlled surface use and standard lease terms in the southern section.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Sanford Basin, #36 (13,100 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

The area sits along the crest of the Continental Divide, mostly above the timberline. There is some evidence of historic mining. The area provides spectacular scenery. Currently, winter motorized use is heavy within portions of this unit. One motorized trail, NFST 414 (Timberline Trail), runs north and south through the unit, paralleling the Continental Divide and bisecting the area into two segments. The Timberline trail, also a piece of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, is a connector to motorized trail systems in the Taylor Park area. The Cottonwood Pass Road is groomed for snowmobiling. This winter route connects the Arkansas Valley to Taylor Park and provides snowmobile access to northern portions of the CRA. A snowmobile route is also groomed along the Tincup road to Mirror Lake. A proposed non-motorized route for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is located within this CRA. The area consists of high elevation rugged terrain. Since the area is above timberline, it is difficult to get away from the sights and sounds of roads and activities. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Taylor Park and Pitkin cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 4,500 acres of tentatively suitable timber land within the inventoried portion of this area. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Kreutzer-Princeton = 15,500 | 13,100 | 16 miles of constructed road, and lands harvested for timber along Willow Pass Creek were removed from the inventory. |

Sawtooth, #42 (22,800 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The East Beaver, South Beaver, Los Pinos, Sawtooth, and Beak Creek cattle allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 600 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Soap Creek, #19 (7,000 acres)

1. Description

The Soap Creek area is approximately three miles north of Curecanti National Recreation Area and 25 miles west of the city of Gunnison, in Gunnison County. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area adjoins the West Elk Wilderness to the east and is bordered to the west by NFSR 721 (Soap Creek Road). The area wraps around the southern tip of a wilderness boundary to the east, with NFSR 723 (Red Creek) as the eastern most boundary. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,100' to 12,200'. This CRA contains a diversity of cover types, ranging from Gambel oak, serviceberry, and sagebrush at lower elevations; to mixed aspen, Douglas-fir, with spruce increasing in the mix at higher elevations and sites with more moisture. The southern boundary of the CRA provides a very scenic backdrop to the Blue Mesa Reservoir, characterized by cliff outcrops of eroded West Elk Breccia.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Portions of two potential conservation areas (PCA's) identified by Colorado Natural Heritage Program occur in this CRA. Coal Creek PCA at Blue Mesa Reservoir, located at the southern end, experience growth of the sensitive plant species, *Astragalus anisus*. Soap Creek PCA at the north end includes riparian vegetation types. The area provides summer range for mountain lion and black bear, as well as high quality critical habitat for elk and deer. Most of this CRA is classified as elk and deer winter range and severe winter range with some areas identified as winter concentration areas. The CRA contains high quality critical habitat for bighorn sheep and is suitable

for lynx habitat. Potential Gunnison sage grouse habitat extends into the Soap Creek drainage from the south. Peregrine falcon nesting areas extend into the southeast section. Much of the area is within bald eagle winter range, with several roost site locations occurring along Soap Creek.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Red Creek and Soap Creek Cattle allotments are within the area. There are approximately 200 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. There are no known potential for oil and gas resources in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mt. Lamborn = 18,800 | 51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |

Steuben #18 (3,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately eight miles west of Gunnison. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. This small unit is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness along the north boundary. The CRA is comprised of a distinct canyon of Steuben Creek, between NFSR 859 (Upper SU/Reed Road) to the east and NFSR 609.2A (Bear Springs Road) to the west. National Forest borders the southern boundary. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations that range from 8,200' to 11,600'. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen mixed with spruce fir, with an area of ponderosa pine in the southeast, and spruce in the northeast. Riparian habitats occur along Steuben Creek and its tributaries.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area lays within two very large Nature Conservancy conservation sites. The lower, southern portion of this CRA is identified as elk and mule deer winter range. Several elk migration corridors cross this area. Much of this area has been mapped as lynx habitat. Bald eagle winter foraging habitat occurs along the lower end of Steuben Creek, Gunnison sage grouse winter range also occurs in the southern area of this CRA.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Rainbow cattle allotment is located within the Steuben Creek portion of the area. There is a private in-holding between the existing wilderness boundary and this unit. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Castle = 8,700 | Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features. |
| | Steuben = 3,500 | |
| | East Elk = 4,200 | |
| Beaver-Castle = 35,700 | Total = 20,000 | |

Sunnyside, #03 (10,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no active cattle allotments within this unit. However, cattle trespass into this area from the south. There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has a high potential for oil and gas resources. Approximately 10% of the CRA is currently under lease. There are currently six oil and gas leases issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing 4,237 acres. These leases have a no surface occupancy stipulation over the entire roadless area of the lease or in certain areas due to steep slopes. There are expressions of interest in gas leasing in approximately 80% of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Sunset, #23 (5,900 acres)

1. Description

The Sunset CRA is located approximately nine miles east of Paonia. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. The area is north and contiguous to the West Elk Wilderness and is bounded by private land in-holdings to the west and roads to the north. It is separated from the Flatirons CRA by NFSR 711 (Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek Road). This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and

Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 6,300' to 12,000'. Existing vegetation is dominated by aspen mixed with spruce/fir. Gambel oak occurs in the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for elk, mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this CRA. This CRA is adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. The lands directly adjacent to the Wilderness boundary offer a high degree of naturalness. The Deep Creek Slide area exhibits a striking geologic feature. Opportunities for remoteness and solitude are present in the vicinity of the wilderness boundary. The terrain is rugged. However, the proximity to trails and roads diminishes opportunities of self-reliance and adventure. The area is heavily used during hunting season. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Dry Fork cattle allotment is located within this unit and is currently vacant. There are approximately 1,600 acres that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Under the 2004 RFD, the area was identified as having high potential for oil and gas. Although the area was outside the area of analysis and not made available for oil and gas lease, there are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in this area. There is currently an application for a coal exploration license.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Beckwiths = 18,600 | |
| | Soap Creek = 7,000 | |
| | Curecanti = 12,400 | |
| | Mendicant = 17,800 | |
| | Mt. Lamborn = 18,800 | 51 miles of constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, non National Forest lands and lands with coal leases were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |
| | Sunset = 5,900 | |
| | Flatirons = 8,700 | |
| West Elk = 94,600 | Total = 89,200 | |

Texas Creek, #35 (2,300 acres)

1. Description

The area is located approximately 25 miles east of Crested Butte and 17 miles north of the town of Pitkin. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. The area is directly north of NFSR 209 (Cottonwood Pass) and adjoins the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. The area is small; it is bounded by the Timberline Trail to the north and the NFSR 755 (Texas Creek) to the south. The Timberline Trail separates the unit from the Collegiate Peak Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Range Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,900' to 11,600'. Existing vegetation is dominated by lodgepole pine mixed with Englemann spruce. Riparian habitat occurs along drainages.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for mule deer, black bear, and elk. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. Bighorn sheep use the higher elevations, adjacent to the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. Sensitive species that use high elevation conifer, like the Northern goshawk, American marten, and the American three-toed woodpecker, have potential habitat in this area. NFST 414 (Timberline Trail) is a motorized single track which is part of the Colorado Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The non-motorized Gunnison Spur of the Colorado Trail follows Illinois Creek through the area. The area has a high degree of naturalness, particularly closer to the boundary of the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. However, because the unit is small, and in close proximity to the sites and sounds of motorized routes, developments on private in-holdings, and adjacent harvest activities, the sense of remoteness and opportunities for solitude are diminished. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Taylor Park cattle allotment are within this area. There are approximately 1,900 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Deer Creek = 9,400 | |
| | Double Top = 23,700 | |
| | Italian Mountain = 8,700 | 72 miles of constructed road, non National Forest lands and timber harvest areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible. |
| | Texas Creek = 2,300 | |
| Elk Mountain-Collegiate = 65,100 | Total = 44,100 | |

Tomahawk, #13 (12,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area is mostly within The Nature Conservancy's McClure Pass conservation site. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program McClure Pass potential conservation area occurs mostly within this CRA, identified for several species of rare endemic plants. This area provides critical winter range, calving areas and summer range for elk. Summer range is provided for mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. It is likely moose move through this area. Lynx habitat has been mapped in this area. The McClure Pass lynx linkage area also occurs here. This linkage area is also used by other animals requiring large home ranges, such as wolverine, which have historically been seen in this CRA. Deep Creek is designated a native cutthroat water in this CRA. This stream contains a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. This species is also identified in Chair Creek on the north end of this CRA.

Portions of the area retain a high degree of naturalness; however, the segment south of NFST 820 (Raggeds Trail) has a high proportion of water transmission lines that affect the naturalness of the area. Summer and fall motorized use occurs on the Raggeds Trail. The area is influenced by Highway 133 (McClure Pass) and the private lands within and adjacent to the unit. The juxtaposition of this unit to private lands, both along the National Forest boundary and that of large in-holdings, limit a sense of remoteness and solitude. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Spring Creek, Buck Creek, and Chair Creek cattle allotment are within this unit. There are approximately 5,300 acres of timber land that are tentatively suitable for timber and wood fiber production within the unit. The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. There is one oil and gas lease issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing 1,916 acres. This lease has a controlled surface use stipulation for no roads to be built within the roadless area of the lease. There is an expression of interest in oil and gas leasing in another area, encompassing 2,498 acres.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Tomahawk = 12,500 | |
| | Munsey/Erickson = 3,500 | |
| | Horse Ranch Park = 3,800 | Constructed roads, non National Forest lands and vegetation treatment areas were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |
| | Poverty Gulch = 5,500 | |
| Raggeds = 27,100 | Total = 25,300 | |

Turner Creek, #08 (13,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately 20 miles north of Paonia in Delta County. It is managed by the Paonia Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Clear Fork CRA; separated by a gas pipeline which forms the eastern boundary. The northern boundary is the hydrologic

divide between the Grand Mesa and Gunnison National Forests which also forms the boundary between Mesa and Delta Counties. The CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M33IH) with elevations ranging from 7,600' to 11,800'. The southern half of this CRA is currently dominated by aspen with aspen/spruce/fir mixed forests. The northern half is dominated by spruce/fir forests

2. Roadless Characteristics

Moose inhabit that area throughout the year. This area provides summer range for mule, deer, black bear, turkey, with summer concentration and calving areas for elk. Lynx habitat is mapped throughout this CRA. Sensitive species dependant on both aspen and high elevation conifer habitats have suitable habitat in this CRA. NFSR 22 (Burn 277) is located along the western boundary of the unit. Travel is restricted to ATV, foot, horse, and bicycle. A designated motorized trail system is located along the western half of Turner Creek. The steep terrain and dense vegetation, along with limited trails within the unit, provide opportunities for solitude. Away from the gas pipeline, the area appears natural and has a sense of remoteness. The unit is a desirable fall big game hunting unit. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The West Turner and Muddy sheep allotments are located within this unit. There are approximately 9,500 acres of land that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The area has a high potential for oil and gas development. Two producing gas wells are located along the southern boundary of the area. An active gas line forms the eastern boundary. Ten drilled wells and one compressor station are within the unit. The Bull Mountain (Gas) Pipeline borders the eastern boundary of the CRA. There are plans to expand the ROW of this pipeline. Bull Mountain Pipeline Right-of-Way has been approved by the BLM which parallels the Ragged Mountain Pipeline. It is unknown for certain when construction will begin, but it is estimated to begin Spring/Summer 2008 unless litigated. There are several current oil and gas leases at least partially within the Turner Creek CRA. Four oil and gas leases were issued prior to January 12, 2001, encompassing 6,864 acres. Three leases were issued after January 12, 2001, encompassing 101 acres, with no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulations for areas with wetlands or steep slopes.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Turner Creek = 13,000 | Constructed roads, vegetation treatment areas, and gas pipeline corridor were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features. |
| | Clear Fork = 24,200 | |
| Clear Creek = 43,000 | Total = 37,200 | |

Turret Ridge, #51 (5,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area provides summer range for black bear, mountain lion, turkey, mule deer and elk. Moose may also use this area, particularly in aspen habitats. Lynx habitat is mapped within this CRA. This area includes the watershed around West Fork and Middle Fork of Cimarron River which contain Colorado River cutthroat trout. This area is mapped as bighorn sheep overall range with some summer and winter range areas. Sensitive species dependent on spruce/fir also inhabit this area (e.g. boreal owl, northern goshawk, American three-toed woodpecker). There is a potential for wolverines to find habitat in this area as well.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Failles Ck/Soldier Ck = 8,800 | |
| | Little Cimarron = 4,200 | Timber harvest and constructed roads, non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to coincide with natural features. |
| | Turret Ridge = 5,500 | |
| Uncompahgre = 26,200 | Total: 18,500 | |

Unaweep, #64 (12,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located on the extreme northwest edge of Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately eight miles northeast of Gateway and 30 miles southwest of Grand Junction. The area is located south of the Unaweep Canyon and borders Highway 141. It is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. The adjacent BLM land is unroaded and the combined BLM-National Forest area was submitted as part of the DeGette Wilderness proposal in 2003. The boundaries follow established trails and the topographic features of Ute Creek to the south. This CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,500' to 9,100'. Existing vegetation for this CRA consists of pinyon-juniper mixed with sagebrush, Gambel oak and other mountain shrubs on the steep side slopes transitioning to mixed aspen and ponderosa pine forests at the higher elevations, with Douglas-fir on the north facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Mudholes/Lakes and Blue Creek cattle allotments are within this area. Existing livestock fences, stock ponds, and stock driveways are maintained with motorized equipment. Several irrigation ditches are within the unit. There are approximately 150 acres of tentatively suited timber lands within the inventoried portion of this unit. The area is considered low potential for oil and gas and has not been analyzed for oil and gas development. Currently no surface occupancy stipulations have been assigned to the area. There are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing in this area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Calamity Basin = 12,200 | 14 miles of road, vegetation treatment areas and non National Forest lands were removed from the inventory. Boundaries were adjusted to conform with terrain and natural features. |
| | Unaweep = 12,100 | |
| Ute Creek = 29,800 | Total = 24,300 | |

Union Park, #38 (1,600 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

NFSR 752 (Union Canyon Road), a four-wheel drive jeep road, runs along the bottom of the canyon and receives a moderate level of use. The portions of the area in close proximity to roads and trails have a diminished sense of remoteness and solitude. Once away from the road corridor, these opportunities increase. The CRA has rugged terrain with dense vegetation and has a high degree of naturalness. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Crystal Creek = 68,500 | 1,600 | The 2001 acreage included the lands (44,000) that were Congressionally designated as the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (Public Law 103-77). Of the remaining lands, non- National Forest lands and roaded lands were removed from the inventory. |

Whetstone, #29 (14,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately two miles south and west of the town of Crested Butte. It is managed by the Gunnison Ranger District. It is comprised for the most part of three mountain peaks: Whetstone Mountain, Mt. Axtell (12,055'), and Carbon Peak (12,079'), located between NFSR 730 (Ohio Creek Road) and State Highway 133 (Kebler Pass Road). The eastern and western boundaries follow the natural topography of the area (Whetstone Mountain on the east and the ridge of Mt Axtell to the west). The northern and southern boundaries are adjacent to National Forest and private land. This CRA is within the Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,900' to 12,000'. Existing vegetation consists of spruce/fir forests on north facing slopes; aspen dominated forests on south slopes, interspersed grass/forb meadows, and alpine habitats on the three mountain peaks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The entire CRA is within the very large Crested Butte conservation site identified by The Nature Conservancy. This CRA contains elk production (calving area) and summer concentration area which is contiguous with summer concentration areas to the west and south in the West Elk Wilderness. A major migration corridor also crosses this area which currently allows migration to winter ranges south and west. CRA provides important summer habitat for mule deer. This CRA contains lynx habitat and is adjacent to home ranges for several lynx. Other sensitive species dependent on high elevation conifer habitats could potentially occur in this area.

NFST 565 (Baxter Gulch Trail) and NFST 566 (Green Lake Trail), are within the area and used by both motorized and mountain bikes. NFST 565 is a light to moderately used trail by mechanical and motorized users. NFST 566 has moderate to high use and is favored by hikers and mountain bike riders. Winter recreational snowmobiling occurs and has been encouraged in the Wildcat drainage and along the flanks of Mt. Axtell. The area is surrounded on three sides by private land. The Trappers crossing area to the north has high valued homes. The sense of remoteness and solitude is limited along the perimeter of the unit as a result of the private land influences. The City of Gunnison, Highway 135, the Town of Crested Butte, and private land developments are visible from the highest summits. This CRA lies within a source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Over 70% of this assessment area is managed by the FS and is recognized as having a high value for domestic water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Baxter Gulch and Carbon cattle allotments are within this unit. NFST 565 currently is runs through private lands. Local mountain bike groups are pursuing an easement to allow a loop connection with NFST 566. There are approximately 1,300 acres within the capable portion of this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 1,200 acres of tentatively suitable timber lands are located within the inventoried portion of this unit. The area has low potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Whetstone Mountain = 17,500 | 14,200 | 12 miles of road, non National Forest lands and vegetation harvest units within the Splains Gulch areas. Boundaries were adjusted to follow terrain and natural features where possible. |

Whitehouse Mountain, #54 (14,400 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

There are isolated patent mining claims within the area and remnants of historic mining operations. There is evidence in the Wilson Creek drainage of past timber harvest. A cross-country ski hut is located within the unit. The core of the area is comprised of Whitehouse Mountain, Cirque Mountain, Mt. Sneffels, and their flanks. The lands within the core have retained a high degree of naturalness. The unit roughly parallels NFSR 853 (Camp Bird Road) and NFSR 853.1B (Yankee Boy Road) to the south and west. The eastern boundary is in the vicinity of NFST 602 (Oak Creek Trail) just outside of the town of Ouray. NFSR 853 receives high volumes of vehicular traffic and NFST 602, being close to town, also has a high use pattern. Winter motorized recreation occurs in the Miller Mesa area, which is adjacent to the northeast section of the unit. Within the core of the area a sense of remoteness and solitude can be obtained. The remainder of the area is influenced by sights and sounds from trails and developments on private lands. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions the Coal Creek and Cocan Flats cattle allotments fall within the area; however, the majority of this unit does not have any livestock allotments within it. Private in-holdings are located within the unit. A winter ski hut is located within the inventoried area along NFST 200 (Dallas Trail), which allows mountain bike use. There are five non-motorized trails within the unit. There are 3,000 acres of tentatively suitable timber lands. This CRA has a low potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Wilson, #57 (2,700 acres)

1. Description

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

1. Segment 1 is the eastern most segment. It borders NFST 499 (Galloping Goose Trail) and State Highway 145.
2. Segment 2 is the middle segment and is adjacent to private lands and the NFSR 623 (Sunshine Mesa Road).

3. Segment 3 is the northern most segment and is bordered by private land along the National Forest boundary.
4. Segment 4 is the western most segment is bordered by NFSR 622 (Silver Pick Road) along the west and private lands.

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Pick and Bilk cattle allotments are within this area. There are approximately 1,200 acres that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 195 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Wilson CRA. The area has no known potential for oil and gas development.

4. Alternative Designations

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

2001 acres are from Sunshine Mesa (700) added to Wilson Mesa (1,200).

Windy Point, #60 (12,800 acres)

1. Description

Windy Point CRA is located on the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, approximately 10 miles north of Nucla and 10 miles east of Uravan in Montrose County. The unit is managed by the Grand Valley Ranger District. It is just north of the Tabeguache Congressional Designated Special Area, separated only by the NFSR 600 (47). NFSR 600 also forms a portion of the eastern boundary as does NFSR 402 (Divide Road). To the north, the unit is bounded by NFSR 668 (West Campbell Road) which separates Windy Point from Johnson Basin CRA. The Forest boundary to the west is bordered by developed and roaded BLM land as well as a private land development known as The Meadows. The CRA is within the Northern Canyon Lands (Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province) Eco-Section (M341B) with elevations ranging from 6,500’ to 9,000’. Existing vegetation is dominated by Gambel oak, with pinyon-juniper at lower elevations, and aspen stands mixed with Douglas-fir at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The vegetation provides diversity in habitats used by black bear, turkey, mule deer and elk. Black bear fall concentration areas occur due to Gambel oak. Elk habitats in the area include a winter concentration area, summer concentration area, and calving areas. Bald eagle winter range extends into this CRA from the Dolores River canyon. Sensitive species that rely on pinyon-juniper, Gambel

oak mixed with mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and aspen have potential habitat in this area, including the spotted bat, fringed myotis, Lewis' woodpecker, and the flammulated owl. The area has evidence of previous roading. The roads are currently decommissioned and are revegetating. Away from evidence of roads, the landscape retains a high degree of naturalness. NFSR 402 (Divide Road) is a major road corridor and influences solitude and sense of remoteness. Away from the Divide Road, the area provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The BLM lands below the Forest are heavily roaded due to uranium exploration. The presence of this dense road system lessens the feeling of remoteness.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Musser and Kelso Creek cattle allotments are within this area. There are active irrigation ditches that service the Meadows Ranch. Mechanical vegetation treatments (roller chopping) for wildlife habitat improvement are planned in this area. Spruce Mountain timber sale sits just outside of the unit. There are approximately 2,400 acres of lands tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit. The area is considered to have a moderate mineral potential and there are expressions of interest in oil and gas leasing. The area is covered by timing limitations with controlled surface use, no surface occupancy, or controlled surface use stipulations.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0 | 12,800 | This unit was an addition to the 2001 inventory. |

There is no cross-walk IRA given from the 2001 inventory.

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

Roc Creek, #0410134 (7,700 acres)

1. Description

Roc Creek CRA is located in Montrose and Mesa Counties, Colorado and Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah. It is within the Moab Ranger District, approximately 27 air miles southeast of Moab, Utah. The area is accessed from Paradox, Co by National Forest System Roads (NFSR) 371 or 378 and 755. This area is within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province with elevation ranges from 5,300' to 8,200'. Roc Creek cuts through sedimentary rock layers forming a narrow steep-walled canyon. The channel has moderate gradients which are uniform for most of its length. The lower half of the canyon is comprised mostly of sandstone and the upper half of the canyon consists of a mixture of sandstone and shale. The massive sandstone cliffs vary from 1,500 to 1,800 feet in height. Faulting and erosion have created patterns of ledges, benches, and slick rock aprons along Sinbad Ridge. It is located between two collapsed salt domes (Sinbad Valley and Paradox Valley), and terminates in the Dolores River Canyon area. Existing vegetation at the lower elevations of the canyon are tree dominated riparian with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and manzanita on the canyon walls. Pinyon, juniper, and mountain brush occur on the rim. Sinbad Ridge forms the north wall of the 1,500-foot gorge of Roc Creek. Green forests of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine frame the brilliant red walls of the canyon. Sinbad Ridge contains relatively pristine areas of large ponderosa pines. Tree mortality from Douglas-fir beetle is present within the northern half of the unit. Stream flows in Roc Creek are gentle with some cascading water. One waterfall exists within the canyon. Alluvial deposition has produced bench land areas along the canyon bottom, especially in the middle section.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The free-flowing perennial stream descends through diverse riparian vegetation. The relatively undisturbed riparian communities support a diversity of native reptile and amphibian species, and habitat for native Colorado River cutthroat trout. The canyon area and benches are critical winter range for elk. It is an important migration route for deer and elk as they move between summer range in Utah and winter range in Colorado. The canyon is a summer concentration area for wild turkeys and provides year-round habitat for black bears. The area contains habitat for the midget faded rattlesnake, longnose leopard lizard and northern leopard frog, Colorado state species of special concern. Kit foxes, a Colorado state endangered species, may occur in the area. There is nesting habitat for peregrine falcons and golden eagles. Other sensitive species that occur in the area are northern goshawk, and spotted and western big-eared bats. The undisturbed, mature woodland communities in the area support several bird species of concern from Colorado's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, including pinyon/juniper obligate species such as pinyon jay, gray vireo, juniper titmouse and black-throated gray warbler.

Roc Creek is classified as an eligible wild and scenic river based on its scenic and geologic/hydrologic values (USDA Forest Service 2003). Other special features of this CRA include the waterfall and diversity of vegetation found in the canyon. The pristine nature of the area makes it suitable as a reference landscape for several habitat types especially the riparian complex along Roc Creek. Vistas within several areas of the gorge are expansive and varied, ranging from high mountain peaks to canyons and mesas, and eventually to wide valley areas. Faulting and erosion have created ledges, benches and spire-like sandstone columns along the cliff areas of the gorge and along Sinbad Ridge. From the rim, sections of Sinbad Valley are visible. Hiking, hunting, fishing, and backcountry camping occurs within the canyon. Approximately one mile of NFST 310 (Roc Creek Trail) descends into the middle section of the canyon from a trailhead on Carpenter Ridge. This steep trail crosses the channel and connects to NFST 001 (Sinbad Trail) on Sinbad Ridge. Primitive camping and opportunities for trekking and climbing are available. The rugged terrain and limited access provide opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. There is evidence of some historic and possibly prehistoric human uses within the canyon. A few non-intensive cultural resource inventories have been conducted on the rim areas of Roc Creek, but none have been conducted in the canyon itself. The surveys have only identified and documented two archaeological sites within two miles of Roc Creek. One is a historic sawmill and one is an undated prehistoric resource processing site. Although few sites are documented, it is likely that the area was used seasonally by Native Americans for hunting and gathering purposes. The general area was also used historically for mining and cattle grazing, though no sites have been documented to date. Overall, the canyon remains free of visible human uses. Roc Creek does have a water supply designation use associated with it. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Incidental grazing occurs within the canyon bottom. On the ridge tops there are some range improvements such as ponds and fences present but not in the canyon. Geysir ditch upstream of the canyon removes some of the natural flow for agricultural use. Approximately 15 years ago, timber harvest occurred around Carpenter Ridge. There is no current timber harvest planned or proposed due to the limited access in the area. No easement/right-of-way exists across private land onto the National Forest, therefore public motorized access is limited. There is the potential for unauthorized motorized use on the CRA from private lands. Although the CRA is adjacent to private land boundaries; there are no National Fire Plan Communities in close proximity to Roc Creek. Most ignitions in the area are caused by lightning.

Uranium host rocks are present in the canyon bottom and lower slopes. Historic mining and exploration has occurred within the canyon, mostly on adjacent slopes and ridges. A few mining scars are visible. Occurrence potential for uranium/vanadium is high but development potential is probably moderate considering the remoteness of the area. Other than the potential for uranium/vanadium, there are no known valuable deposits of locatable minerals. Very low concentrations of placer gold deposits have been found in other drainages in the area. The potential for deposits exists in the CRA although there are no known placer gold deposits. Some recreational prospecting/panning probably occurs in this area. The potentials for occurrence of oil and gas are considered moderate. There are three current oil and gas leases at least partially within the Roc Creek CRA, all issued after January 12, 2001 encompassing 2,760 acres. These leases have the following stipulations: no surface occupancy on slopes > 35% or unstable areas, riparian areas, arterial and collector roads and semi-primitive recreation (SPR) management units; timing limitation in calving and fawning areas (May 1- July 5); and, lease notices for baseline water data/monitoring and noise/visibility. Sandstone and stream alluvium could be collected and used as landscaping rock/building stone and riprap (mineral materials/saleable minerals).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 11,100 | 7,700 | Some acres were removed due to an authorized road (NFSR 671) and other acres were removed due to previous mining activities. |

PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS

Aspen Ridge #37 (11,900 acres)

1. Description

This Colorado Roadless Area (CRA), is approximately 8 miles north of the town of Salida in Chaffee and Park Counties on the east side of the Arkansas River, above Brown's Canyon. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. National Forest System Road (NFSR) 184 cuts into this CRA from Turret, near the southern boundary. Access is from NFSR 184 which cuts through the CRA from Turret north for three miles. The CRA is the National Forest System (NFS) portion of the larger Brown's Canyon proposed wilderness area. Portions of the northern and southern boundaries are Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range and some portions are managed for general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). Several private land parcels abut the CRA on the south and east sides. The town site of Turret is near the south end of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,000 feet to 10,000 feet. The topography is rolling, broken country with many rock outcrops and open meadows. Vegetation on the western slopes includes pinyon-juniper; eastern slopes are covered with aspen and various species of pine. Approximately 40% is mixed conifer, 37% pinyon-juniper, 9% mountain grassland, 8% ponderosa pine, and 2% aspen forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA has a rich diversity of lower and mid-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. It provides important elk and deer winter range and reproductive areas. Unique rocky outcrops and canyons provide habitats for many birds of prey, such as falcons, golden eagles, and a variety of hawks. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has determined that this CRA has important habitats for wildlife species including, but not limited to, black bear, bighorn sheep, common hog-nosed skunk, elk, golden eagle, mountain lion, mule deer, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, Townsend's big-eared bat. Hawks, owls, woodpeckers, Neotropical migrant birds, and other wildlife species are found.

Most of the CRA shows little or no disturbance from human use. There is evidence of historic mining, railroading, and livestock grazing. Immediately south of this area, there are extensive mining operations. This CRA provides a spectacular view of the southern Collegiate Peaks wilderness and the fourteeners south along the Sawatch Mountain Range. From the boundary road along Aspen Ridge there are spectacular views in all directions. To the west, from high above the Arkansas River valley, the Sawatch Range lines the horizon with its high barren peaks. The Reef is a dramatic rock outcrop visible and recognizable for many miles. Gargantuan rock formations drop precipitously toward the Arkansas River.

The CRA is being considered as a proposed wilderness area with the exception of the portion south of Stafford Gulch. NFSR 184 has been excluded from the CRA by "cherry stemming" the road for three miles through the CRA from Turret north, providing an opportunity for semi-primitive motorized recreation. Hunting has been a popular use for this land. Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. For a CRA in the upper Arkansas Valley, this area is relatively untrammeled, due largely to the difficult access. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Several private land parcels abut the CRA on the south and east sides. Outfitter and guide activities for hunting, hiking, and horseback riding are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs however, it is limited due to a scarcity of water. There are no range improvements. Approximately 3,380 acres or 28% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Most of the suitable timber is in small patches between rock outcrops. Very little of the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the mid- to lower elevations, and the aspen stands on the east side along NFSR 185, are commercially available. There is notable firewood harvesting along the roaded portion of the CRA. In 2001, about 191 acres were treated for natural regeneration site preparation with prescribed fire. Approximately 3,000 acres or 25% of this CRA lie within the WUI. Near the south end of the CRA, the townsite of Turret has recently been subdivided with new homes going in annually.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 262 Rare2 – 15,600 | 11,900 | |
| 5 Rare2 – 600 | | Acreage removed: no longer met the CRA criteria, (east side of NFSR184). |
| Total: 16,200 | 11,900 | Acreage added: New areas met the CRA criteria. |

Badger Creek #38 (14,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located mostly in Fremont County seven miles east of Salida and four miles north of the Arkansas River. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. Badger Creek, a perennial stream and the largest south-flowing tributary of the Arkansas River is fed by several small streams as it winds its way for eight miles through the CRA between Buena Vista and Cañon City. Forest Service lands intermixed with private occur along the northern boundary. The Forest Service lands are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range and general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). Adjacent lands along the southern and eastern boundary are BLM and private. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 10,700 feet. This rugged CRA is an ecological transition zone between the Arkansas River Canyon and higher country in South Park. Vegetation communities include pinyon-juniper woodland, grass and aspen-covered upland ridges, ponderosa pine, and rare narrow-leaf cottonwood forests along streams. This is the very south end of the Mosquito Range. This CRA contains a rich diversity of lower and mid-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Approximately 37% is in mixed conifer, 33% pinyon-juniper, 20% mountain grassland, 5% aspen, and 2% ponderosa pine forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is very remote and access is limited. The CDOW has determined that this CRA has important habitats for the following species: bald eagle, beaver, black bear, bighorn sheep, Brazilian free-tailed bat, common hog-nosed skunk elk, golden eagle, hawks, mountain lion, mule deer, and Townsend's big-eared bats. Neotropical migrant birds are found here. Badger Creek provides usually clear, sometimes muddy, water to the Arkansas River. The steep draws and rocky soils are susceptible to erosion. This CRA is very natural in appearance. There is very little to suggest human management. It features dramatic views from the uplands with complete solitude in the valley below. Evidence of historic prospecting activities is scattered throughout the CRA. Cattle grazing have been the primary historical use.

This area is known more for its gulch's and not for any mountain peaks. It is largely nondescript and rugged country. The ridge tops do provide good views of the northern end of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. This CRA is semi-primitive non-motorized, except the road accessing a private inholding at the confluence of Badger and Two Creeks. Recreation includes backpacking, fly-fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain climbing, nature study. This area includes the proposed Badger Creek Colorado Natural Area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Many private land parcels abut and are included in the CRA. Pasture and grazing permits cover most of the CRA. There are outfitter-guide permits for hunting. There is some mining in Two Creek drainage, and evidence of many prospecting holes. Approximately 3,400 acres or 24% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Approximately 2,170 acres or 15% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 263 Rare2- 14,400 acres | 14,400 | Small reductions made to accommodate Forest Service and private road easements. |

Boreas #40 (9,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Park County on the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District. It is north of the town of Como; it borders Boreas Pass Road and the Tarryall Creek headwaters on the eastern edge and the Michigan Creek headwaters on the western edge. The northern boundary stretches along the Continental Divide from Boreas Pass to Mount Guyot. The southeastern corner of the CRA is adjacent to private land and beyond that, the Teter State Wildlife Area. Forest Service lands along the eastern and western boundaries are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range and some portions are managed for general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). The CRA was expanded by 4,515 acres along the Boreas Pass Road (Park County Road 33) from Boreas Pass on the eastern edge, and along the Forest boundary on the south and southeast boundary. The eastern boundary was expanded to follow the ridgelines above 11,000 feet from the southeastern edge above Volz Gulch, north to Mount Guyot. An area surrounding French Creek on the east was excluded along the route of an administrative use road (NFSR 804), that has since been converted to a non-motorized trail (NFST 651).

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 9,700 feet on the southern boundary to 13,000 feet on the northern boundary. Dominate features include Boreas Mountain, Boreas Pass, Black Powder Pass and

French Pass, along the Continental Divide. Vegetation along the central rocky spine of the area CRA is alpine tundra, running south from the Continental Divide, with subalpine and montane riparian forests of Englemann spruce, bristlecone and lodgepole pine, fir, and aspen on either side of the Divide.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The southern and eastern portions have suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Part of the CRA is in the Georgia Pass linkage area of the Kenosha Pass lynx analysis unit (LAU). This linkage is one of the best forested and undeveloped habitat connections that provide for north-south movements of lynx from South Park across the Continental Divide to Summit County. The CRA also has bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, and the rare plant species Hoosier Pass ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis globularis*). The CRA is in the summer range of elk, moose, mule deer, and the summer and winter range of mountain goat. It also provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion, ptarmigan, and bighorn sheep.

The CRA and Boreas Mountain are visible from State Highway 285, with high scenic quality. In the fall, the aspen groves provide spectacular fall foliage. Evidence of the logging is apparent along the Boreas Pass Road. Recreational use is almost entirely non-motorized. There is only one NFST in the CRA. Approximately 1.5 miles of NFST 651 (French Pass Trail) crosses through the northeastern portion of the CRA, following French Creek to French Pass. The French Pass Trail is designated and managed for foot, horse, and mountain bike use. There are a few popular non-system routes from Boreas Pass to Black Powder Pass and Boreas Mountain. Most use on these routes is from foot traffic. During the winter months, backcountry ski use is popular adjacent to Boreas Pass. Users often travel into the CRA for off-trail backcountry skiing and to access a ski hut atop Boreas Pass. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Most special uses in the CRA are recreation. There is a Granger–Thye permit for use of Forest Service-owned facilities at the top of Boreas Pass as a winter ski hut. Approximately 2,500 or 26% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. A majority of these areas are on slopes greater than 35% and would require roads to access. Little timber harvesting has occurred in the CRA since the turn of the century when it was harvested mainly for mining purposes. Approximately 5,800 acres or 59% of the CRA is in the WUI that surrounds the community of Como.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 342 Rare2 – 5,300 | 9,800 | Acreage added met the CRA criteria. |

Buffalo Peaks East #35 (5,200 acres)

1. Description

Buffalo Peaks East CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. It runs southeast along the eastern boundary of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness, from Weston Pass, along the west side of the South Fork of the South Platte, to Rough and Tumbling Creek and the headwaters of Lynch Creek. It is separated from the Weston Peaks CRA on the northeast by the river corridor and county Road 22. The main access is possible through Weston Pass Road (Park County Road 22), following the South Fork of the South Platte River on the West to Weston Pass, or through NFSR 431 (Buffalo Springs Road) to the Lynch Creek trailhead. Trail access is limited to non-motorized use through NFST 617 (Rich Creek Trail), out of the Weston Pass Campground on NFST 656, or from NFSR 618 (Lynch Creek Trail). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 12,000 feet along Weston Pass to 9,600 feet in the lower elevations along Tumbling Creek. This CRA includes the headwaters of the South Fork of the South Platte River, and portions of its major tributaries, Rough and Tumbling Creek, Lynch Creek and Willow Creek. Vegetation is primarily a subalpine forest dominated by spruce-fir and lodgepole pine. Riparian communities are along the South Fork of the South Platte River. Aspen stands are adjacent to the Rough and Tumbling Creek area; stands of bristlecone pine are along the margin of Rich Creek. There is a minor component of limber pine. Above the tree line, an expanse of alpine tundra extends into the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is in the Buffalo Peaks LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It also has bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, northern goshawk, and the rare plant species Hoosier Pass ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis globularis*), which are listed as sensitive species within the Rocky Mountain Region. The CDOW has determined that this CRA is within the summer range of elk, moose, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat; it provides habitat for American beaver, black bear, mountain lion, and ptarmigan; the southern portion is within the range of wild turkey.

The varied topography offers both gentle and challenging terrain for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, as well as ample stream reaches for fishing. Approximately 3.7 miles of trails pass through the CRA, by three trailheads, offering opportunities for non-motorized use. NFST 656 (Ridgeview Trail) starts at the Weston Pass Campground, passes through the CRA and connects with NFST 616 (Rich Creek Trail) in the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. The Rich Creek Trail begins at the Rich Creek trailhead, on Weston Pass Road, and travels into the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. NFST 617 (Tumble Creek Trail) also begins at the Rich Creek trailhead, traveling 2.7 miles through the CRA before entering the wilderness. Finally, NFST 618 (Salt Creek Trail) continues from the Lynch Creek trailhead through the CRA before connecting with the Rich Creek Trail at the wilderness boundary. Several opportunities for off trail non-motorized use off of Weston Pass, above treeline, occur within the CRA. Numerous off-trail opportunities exist along the Weston Pass Road or on old logging roads in the Lynch Creek drainage which may provide access for hikers and horseback riders. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The southern portion is included in a cattle grazing allotment; the permit authorizes 400 cow/calf pairs for 4.5 months on over 60,000 acres. The portion of this allotment in the CRA is the Jones Hill pasture, which typically is grazed 10 to 30 days a year on a rotational basis. Approximately 2,500 acres or 49% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production; the majority is in the south and southeast portions of the CRA in the Tumbling Creek and Lynch Creek drainages. The majority of suitable timber grows on slopes greater than 35% and would require access roads for harvesting. The last timber harvesting that took place in the CRA was in the 1980s. Wildland-urban interface (WUI): Approximately 2,100 acres or 41% of this CRA lie within WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 250 Rare2 – 18,200 | Buffalo Peaks East – 5,200 Buffalo Peaks South – 7,600 Buffalo Peaks West – 8,000 | Acres removed due to recent timber harvest/logging roads and buffer around an historic recreation residence; acres added include areas with CRA characteristics (South Fork/Lynch Creek drainages). |
| Total – 18,200 | Total – 20,800 | |

Buffalo Peaks South #36 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County, and in the San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District, in Chaffee County. It is contiguous with the southern boundary of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. Marmot Peak, elevation 11,730 feet, is the dominate feature and rises just south of East Buffalo Peak. This CRA is on the divide between the Arkansas and South Platte River drainages. Access to the CRA is through NFSR 375 (Fourmile Road) from the west, the Sevenmile Creek Road from the south or NFSR 435 (Salt Creek Road) from the west. Non-motorized travel within the CRA is possible through NFST 1413 (Davis Meadow Trail) or NFST 618 (Salt Creek Trail). This CRA is also adjacent to the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness, and serves as a buffer for the south end of the wilderness. NFSR 311 and 309A provide the primary access. NFSR 375 is nearby to the southwest. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Vegetation is primarily subalpine forest dominated by spruce/fir and lodgepole pine, interspersed with stands of aspen, and bristlecone pine and limber pine. There are riparian communities along the North Fork of Sevenmile Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Due to the elevation range and the differences in aspects, this area contains a wide range of both plant and animal species. The CRA is within the Buffalo Peaks LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). There have been probable lynx sightings in the CRA. The CRA also has and provides habitat for Abert’s squirrel, bighorn sheep (lambing, severe winter area), black bear, elk (calving and severe wintering), mountain lion, mule deer (concentration, severe winter and winter concentration), ptarmigan, and wild turkey. This is an extremely important area for a bighorn sheep herd that uses portions of this CRA year-round. Goshawks nest in this CRA. The CRA is used by bald eagles for hunting and roosting. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages.

This area feeds clean water into Fourmile Creek as it flows from the wilderness toward the Arkansas River. Much of the area was disturbed during the installation of the aqueduct from Antero pump station leading eastward. The CRA has scenic views of rugged and rocky Marmot Peak, the Buffalo Peaks, and the Collegiate Peaks to the west. The CRA has a high scenic value. A natural arch in the Little Fourmile Creek drainage in the southern portion of the CRA is a unique feature that draws many visitors. Davis Meadows and the old tie-hack camp site are unique to this area. Recreation includes hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing,

viewing scenic vistas and seeking solitude. Non-motorized trail travel is possible within the CRA on NFST 1413 (Davis Meadow Trail) or 618 (Salt Creek Trail). This area is semi-primitive, non-motorized. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Several outfitter and guide activities are permitted hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and hunting. The CRA includes active livestock grazing allotments. Active range management by one of the permittees and his manager has earned them the Society for Range Management’s “Excellence in Range Conservation” award for 2007. Adjacent ownership is a combination of both NFS and private inholdings. A section of private property (a patented mining claim) is in the extreme northeast portion of the CRA. Approximately 350 acres in this CRA are identified as suitable for timber production. The timber grows on slopes greater than 35% and would require access roads for harvesting. Approximately 7,600 acres or 100% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 250 Rare 2 – 18,200 | Buffalo Peaks East – 5,200 Buffalo Peaks South – 7,600 Buffalo Peaks West – 8,000 | |
| Total – 18,200 | Total – 20,800 | Added acres met the CRA criteria. |

Buffalo Peaks West #34 (8,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is east of Twin Lakes, on the Leadville Ranger District. The CRA is in Lake and Chaffee counties. It is bordered by the Weston Pass Road and forms a horseshoe shape around the northern tip of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. It is bordered by BLM and private along portions of the southwestern boundary. The remainder of the outer boundaries is Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range, and general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). The Mosquito Range is a reference landscape for the area. Access is from the Weston Pass Road (County Road 7) and from NFSR 422, 423, 380, 97 and 396. The outer western edge of the CRA was once used as a stage coach route from Leadville to Buena Vista, Colorado. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Physical characteristics include steep mountainous terrain with numerous valleys and draws leading up to the tops of the Mosquito Range. Plant communities include alpine, lodgepole pine, sagebrush, aspen, Douglas fir, spruce/fir, bristlecone and limber pine, and willow.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Animal communities include an elk production area and winter range, bighorn sheep production area and winter range, white-tailed ptarmigan habitat and mountain lion habitat. Recreation is semi-primitive motorized with limited dispersed recreation due to the relatively steep terrain. There is hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits are issued for outfitters and guides, and for recreation events. Approximately 350 acres or 4% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The suitable timber resources are in the extreme southwest corner of the CRA. Approximately 4,300 acres or 53% of this CRA lie within WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 250 Rare 2 – 18,200 | Buffalo Peaks East – 5,200 Buffalo Peaks South – 7,600 Buffalo Peaks West – 8,000 | |
| Total – 18,200 | Total – 20,800 | Improved mapping capabilities. |

Burning Bear #48 (19,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Park County, five miles NW of Grant, Colorado. The CRA is separated from Mt Evans Wilderness by the river corridor (North Fork of the South Platte) and County Road 64 along the eastern boundary. The Continental Divide is the Northwestern boundary, NFSR 60 is the western boundary and CR 285 is the southern boundary. The adjoining Forest Service lands are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range. Access is provided by NFSR 600 and 607 from South Park and Burning Bear trails, and from NFSR 118E and NFSR 565 off County Roads 62 and 60. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations range from 9,000 to 13,000 feet. The CRA is alpine tundra, subalpine forest, and riparian habitats. Cover includes forbs, grasses, rushes, sedges, rock, willow, aspen, Douglas-fir, spruce, and bristle cone, lodgepole pines. Vegetation includes forbs, grasses, rushes, sedges, rock, shrubs, willow, aspen, bristlecone pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, spruce and fir. Both fens and unique iron fens have been mapped in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Within the CRA are three Colorado Natural Heritage Program's Potential Conservation Areas ranked as very high or high in biodiversity significance. Fens and rare iron fens are present. Approximately 36% of the CRA (12,500 acres) is considered habitat for the federally listed Canada Lynx (threatened) and 18% of the area (1,700 acres) is within a linkage area. Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for boreal toads, a Forest Service sensitive species and at least 7 sensitive plants. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas. The CRA has expansive intact natural views of mountain terrain covered with tundra, conifers, and aspen, with foregrounds of open grass and willow covered riparian areas. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are several reference landscapes within the CRA: Geneva Park PCA is a stream valley of willow carrs, wet meadows, and grasslands; Sullivan Mountain characteristic high alpine slopes, and Jefferson Hill unique for the largest bristlecone stand ever documented (3,630 ac). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the USP Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area. Buno Gulch tributary is affected by metal contamination. There are 200 meters (0.1 mile) of Beneva Creek, Scott Gomer Creek to the North Fork of the South Platte River, within the Burning Bear CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Geneva and Kenosha grazing allotments are in this CRA. There is 0.7 mile of administrative road within the CRA, which is under permit to Denver Water. There are possible base and precious metal deposits near Red Cone and Geneva Creek headwaters. About 3,600 acres or 19% of this CRA is suitable for timber production. There have been 355 acres of timber management accomplished in this area in the past. Approximately 7,000 acres or 37% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 251 Rare 2 – 17,700 | 19,100 | Improved mapping capabilities. |

Chipeta #23 (28,700 acres)

1. Description

The Chipeta CRA is located approximately 8 miles west of Poncha Springs, in Chaffee County. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. It is located between Monarch Pass and Marshall Pass. Its western boundary is the Continental Divide. The northeastern boundary is adjacent to the town of Maysville, BLM and private land. The remaining boundaries are Forest Service lands, managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range, and general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). Several roads are cherry-stemmed into the CRA and provide recreation access; NFST 1412 (Green Creek Trail) is open to motorized use. The Colorado Trail follows Fooses Creek up to the Continental Divide where it joins the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. On the south boundary, the Marshall Pass Road follows the former railroad.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is alpine tundra, spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, and riparian species. The CRA is dominated by a high mountain ridge which includes Pahlone Peak, Chipeta Mountain and Mount Ouray. Devils Armchair, a huge cirque on the east flank of Mount Ouray is visible from many vantage points. O'Haver Lake, just off the Marshall Pass road is a popular camping and fishing spot. This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Approximately 33% is spruce fir, 21% lodgepole pine, 12% alpine tundra, 10% rock and bare soil, 9% aspen, 5% mixed conifer, 4% mountain grassland, and 2% bristlecone-limber pine forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx have been frequently documented. This CRA is one of the few identified lynx linkage areas in Colorado for movement across the Continental Divide (it is a major component of the Monarch Pass-Kenosh Pass lynx linkage); the CRA is in the Canada lynx Monarch Pass LAU. The CRA provides habitat for federally listed Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly (endangered) and the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, Townsend's big-eared bat, boreal toad, goshawk, and Gunnison sage grouse. The CRA is immediately adjacent to a Gunnison sage grouse reintroduction site in the Poncha Pass area. This CRA contains severe winter range and winter concentration areas for elk, and mule deer. An important salt lick for bighorn sheep is located here. A new and expanding population of moose is also present. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others can be found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk, various woodpeckers, Neotropical migrant birds, and other wildlife species are also found in the CRA. There have been undocumented sightings of bald eagles.

The area provides views of the Continental Divide and the south end of the Sawatch Range including Mt. Ouray, Chipeta and Pahlone Peaks. It provides primarily semi-primitive non-motorized recreational opportunities; however, there are several motorized trails. There is evidence of previous management activities. Mining and logging have occurred over time and many of the drainages have imprints of old roads. The CRA continues to be a focal point for recreation and hunting because of the easy access and proximity to Highway 50. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Grey Creek feeds O'Haver Lake, part of the Salida municipal water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is an active livestock grazing allotment. Roughly 2,700 acres or 9% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,400 acres or 15% of this CRA lie within the Little Cochetopa Subdivision wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 358 Rare2 – 19,500 | | |
| 5,800 acres of 3a | | Acreage removed: past timber sale and roads occur in this area. Acreage |
| Total – 25,300 | 28,700 | added: areas meet CRA criteria (McClure Creek, Camp Creek, Pass Creek). |

Cuchara North # 13 (8,200 acres)

1. Description

Cuchara North CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County, southwest of the town of LaVeta in the Culebra Range. The western and part of the eastern boundaries are adjacent to private land. The northern boundary is adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation and big game winter range. The southern boundary is adjacent to Cuchara South CRA. The Cuchara South CRA was split from the Cuchara North CRA along the NFSR 423 (Bonnett Park road). Public access is by NFSR 421 (Indian Creek Road) and NFST 1300 (Indian Creek Trail). The lack of public easements through the private lands bordering the east and west boundaries of the CRA restricts public access to much of the CRA. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The dominant landscape feature in this CRA is Raspberry Mountain. Elevations rise from roughly 8,500 feet on the east side of the CRA, to 11,000 feet along the western boundary. The terrain is moderately varied with broad forested slopes. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, and Gambel oak fields on south-facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most of this CRA. Stands of aspen surround the Bonnett Park area. Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine and bristlecone pine forests can be found at higher elevations. Stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine and Gambel oak are common along the lower fringes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A lynx linkage area lies between the Culebra Range and Spanish Peaks. Habitat suitable for lynx wintering and denning is common throughout this CRA. Northern goshawk nesting sites have been identified near this CRA. Rare plant species include mountain whitlow-grass (*Draba rectifurcata*) and both the pale and western moonworts (*Botrychium pallidum* and *B. hesperium*). Wildlife values include summer and fall concentrations of black bear; summer range for mule deer and elk, with some deer and elk winter range in the Indian Creek drainage. Other wildlife game species present include mountain lion and wild turkey. Approximately six miles of NFST 1300 (Indian Trail) passes through the western edge. Foot, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on this trail. Over the past decade ATV riding has become the dominant mode of travel on this trail. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use.

There is evidence of past logging in the Price Canyon drainage. Logging activities probably occurred in this part of the IRA during the 1940s and 1950s. The old logging roads have since revegetated with small trees. This CRA is within a state defined source

water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 7,190 meters (4.5 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Cuchara North CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A household spring development and water line is permitted in the extreme southeast corner. The Indian Creek and Lakes livestock grazing allotments are in this CRA. There has been an expression of interest to lease for oil and gas in the Indian Creek drainage. The potential lease area includes a portion of the CRA. Approximately 870 acres or 11 % of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. A small fuels reduction project is planned for just outside the northern border of the CRA, along the Indian Creek Road (NFSR 421). Approximately 7,300 acres or 89% of the CRA are within the WUI that surrounds the community of Cuchara, and the Forbes Trinchera subdivision on the western boundary. Low-density residential developments are expanding along both the eastern and western boundaries.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 273 Rare 2 – 18,200 | Cuchara North – 8,200 Cuchara South – 7,500 | The Cuchara North and South IRA were split along the NFSR 423. Livestock Grazing permittee has administrative access to NFSR 423. Acres on northern boundary removed due to past timber harvesting and planned fuels treatment projects. |
| Total – 18,200 | Total – 15,700 | |

Cuchara South # 12 (7,500 acres)

1. Description

The Cuchara South CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, west and south of the town of Cuchara in the Culebra Range. The western boundary is private land. The eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation and big game winter range. The northern boundary is adjacent to Cuchara North CRA. The Cuchara South CRA was split from the Cuchara North CRA along the NFSR 423 (Bonnett Park road). Public access is by the Spring Creek trailhead on Highway 12 just south of Cuchara, and from the Bear Lake trailhead on the Blue and Bear Lakes Road (NFSR 422). The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The dominant landscape feature is the line of peaks and saddles that form the ridgeline of the Culebra Range. Elevations range from 9,000 feet on the east side to over 12,000 feet along the western boundary. The visual character of the landscape is distinctive for the mountainous regions of southern Colorado. The terrain is highly varied between alternating alpine peaks and saddles along the Culebra Range skyline, with steep forested valleys below. The vegetation pattern offers moderately high contrast between alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and several large subalpine parks. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate. Large stands of aspen are below Napoleon Peak and in the Baker Creek area. White fir, Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forests can be found at lower elevations in the Dodgeton Creek area. There are several large stands of old growth bristlecone pine and limber pine, most notably in the Teddy’s Peak area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A lynx linkage area is between the Culebra Range and Spanish Peaks, radio-collared lynx have been documented; habitat suitable for lynx wintering and denning is common in this CRA. Rare plant species include both the pale and western moonworts (*Botrychium pallidum* and *B. hesperium*). Wildlife values include summer and fall concentrations of black bear, summer range for mule deer and elk, with some deer winter range. Other wildlife game species present include bighorn sheep, mountain lion, and wild turkey.

There is some evidence of past logging in the Dodgeton Creek drainage. The most recent logging activities probably occurred in this part of the CRA during the 1940s and 1950s. The old logging roads have since revegetated with small trees. Nearly six miles of NFST 1300 (Indian Trail) passes through the CRA from north to south. Another six miles of trails, NFST 1302 (Dodgeton) and 1301 (Baker Trails) connects the Indian Trail to the Spring Creek trailhead, just south of the town of Cuchara. Foot, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on these trails. Short day trips from the Spring Creek trailhead and the Bear Lake Campground are popular with hikers. ATV-riding is more common for longer distance trips on the Dodgeton and Indian Trails. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use. The public has a comparatively high level of access to most of this CRA from these three trails.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 6,850 meters (4.3 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Cuchara South CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 2,400 acres or 32% of the CRA are identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Small fuels treatment projects are currently being evaluated immediately west of the town of Cuchara, in the extreme northeast corner. Approximately 4,000 acres or 54% of this CRA are within the WUI that borders the town of Cuchara and the resort area at the base of the Cuchara Ski Area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 273 Rare 2 – 18,200 | Cuchara North – 8,200 Cuchara South – 7,500 | The Cuchara North and South IRA were split along the NFSR 423. Livestock grazing permittee has administrative access to NFSR 423. Acres were removed due to the Cuchara Ski Area permit and Cuchara Water and Sanitation District water storage tanks/ pipelines at two locations just inside the National Forest boundary. |
| Total – 18,200 | Total – 15,700 | |

Elk Mountain-Collegiate North #28 (32,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is south of Twin Lakes Reservoir and south of Clear Creek Reservoir between Highway 24 and the Collegiate Peaks wilderness. Pine Creek flows out of the wilderness and across the CRA. This CRA lies within both Lake and Chaffee counties on the Leadville Ranger District and is bordered by Twin Lakes Village and the town of Granite. This CRA is bordered to the east by the old railway and 1800’s stage road that ran from Buena Vista to Leadville. The Clear Creek reservoir is located to the north. The Historic mining towns of Vicksburg and Winfield are also located to the north of this CRA. The main portion of the CRA is accessed by SH 82 and Clear Creek Road. NFSR 387 and 387A have been excluded from the CRA by “cherry-stemming” the roads within the CRA. NFSR 387 ends near the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness boundary. NFSR 386 separates the CRA from Frenchman Creek to the south, and this route provides access to another wilderness trail. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail run north and south through the middle of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The terrain surrounding the Elk Mountain-Collegiate North CRA is high alpine mountains with 14,000 foot peaks and rocky canyon country in the lower elevations. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Lodgepole pine dominates the vegetation type. Plant communities include a mix of sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, alpine tundra, and alpine wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The entire CRA is lynx habitat with an east-west linkage between Pine Creek and across the valley to Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. Quality lynx habitat is found on the forested portions. Big game species include elk, mule deer and bighorn sheep. The area provides a mule deer winter range, along the eastern edge of the CRA. Elk have both summer and winter range and two production areas. A substantial elk migration corridor runs from east of Mount Elbert to south of North Cottonwood Creek. Additional migration corridors are on two other sides of the CRA. Bighorn sheep winter range is present in the Pine Creek drainage, and a large lambing area that follows the valley extends well into the wilderness. The south side of the CRA is bighorn sheep winter range. The alpine areas provide white-tailed ptarmigan habitat. Recreation opportunities include fishing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding. The recreation opportunity spectrum is semi-primitive non-motorized. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits are issued for outfitters and guides, and for recreation events. This CRA incorporates numerous private land inholdings south of Twin Lakes. Roughly 2,000 acres or 6% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. A timbered area is scheduled for treatment adjacent to the northeast corner of the CRA (outside of the CRA). Approximately 22,800 acres or 69% of this CRA lie within the WUI. A WUI area inside the CRA boundary is scheduled for treatment around the Interlaken Historical Site in the next two to three years. Activities will be limited to hand treatments and pile burning only. WUI treatments have taken place in the past adjacent to the CRA, south of Pine Creek.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---|--|---|
| 180 Rare 2 (Elk Mountain-Collegiate) – 18,300 | Elk Mountain-Collegiate North – 32,900 | |
| 15,200 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain – Collegiate North | Elk Mountain-Collegiate South – 6,600 | |
| 1,300 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain – Collegiate South | | |
| Total – 34,800 | Total – 32,900 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Elk Mountain-Collegiate South #27 (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The Elk Mountain–Collegiate South CRA is on the southeastern boundary of the Collegiate Peaks wilderness. This CRA is located on the Salida and Leadville Ranger Districts, San Isabel NF, Chaffee County. The Heckendorf State Wildlife Area is located immediately to the east of this CRA. On the north side, NFST 1449 goes into the Collegiate Peak Wilderness and the Colorado Trail cuts across the northwest corner before it too enters the wilderness area. The CRA is adjacent to the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, and provides views into the east side of the wilderness. The Collegiate Peaks are a reference landscape and Mt. Columbia and Mt. Yale form a backdrop for this area to the west.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush shrublands, pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, spruce-fir, and aspen. The Sawatch Mountain Range is situated immediately to the west of this CRA. This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Approximately 27% is lodgepole pine, 27% spruce-fir, 13% aspen, 10% mixed conifer, 6% alpine tundra, 6% limber/bristlecone pine, 5% mountain shrub, 2% piñon-juniper, and 2% mountain grasslands. North Cottonwood Creek and several other streams provide good riparian habitat.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Canada lynx have been frequently documented; the CRA is part of the second lynx denning and concentration core area in the state. This CRA is in the Canada lynx Cottonwood Pass LAU. The CRA also provides habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: boreal toad and northern goshawks. It contains a portion of the most important boreal toad breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present. The CRA provides mule deer winter range and sever winter range; it also provides elk and bighorn sheep summer and winter range and production areas. This CRA also provides habitats for the following species: black bear, mountain lions, and mountain goats. A new and expanding population of moose is also present. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as many Neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found.

The CRA is semi-primitive, non-motorized except along NFSR 365. Recreation includes hiking and wildlife viewing, and viewing scenic vistas, and solitude. This area has had limited prospecting in the past and the landscape shows some modification and soil disturbance from those mining activities. Some personal wood gathering and limited timber harvesting have also left their marks. The old Stage road from the late 1800 that ran from Buena Vista to Leadville can be seen from this CRA. The creeks all flow year round with good quality water. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). North Cottonwood Creek provides water for the Buena Vista municipal water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is heavily-populated private land along the east boundary and outfitter-guide permits for hunting. Roughly 50 acres or 1% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,900 acres or 59% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---|--|---|
| 180 Rare 2 (Elk Mountain-Collegiate) – 18,300 | Elk Mountain-Collegiate North – 32,900 | |
| 15,200 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain-Collegiate North | Elk Mountain-Collegiate South – 6,600 | |
| 1,300 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain-Collegiate South | | Added acres meets the CRA criteria and improved mapping capabilities. |
| Total – 34,800 | Total – 32,900 | |

Elk Mountain-Collegiate West #29 (5,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is bordered by the Collegiate Peaks wilderness southwest of Mount Elbert and by Independence Pass to the north. It lays within both Lake and Chaffee counties on the Leadville Ranger District. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Access is provided by Highway 82 and NFSR 391. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. High alpine mountains surround this CRA. Plant communities include spruce/fir in the lower elevations, lodgepole pine, aspen, willow, and alpine habitats

2. Roadless Characteristics

High quality lynx habitat occurs throughout the CRA and there is documented boreal toad breeding near the CRA. Wildlife habitat includes, but is not limited to, elk and mountain goat production areas and white-tailed ptarmigan habitat. Although the CRA is not heavily used for recreation, there are mountaineering opportunities, with a rough trail to La Plata Peak and another trailhead into the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness in Sayre's Gulch. The CRA is in an old silver and gold mining area. Evidence of old silver and gold mining is very prevalent around this CRA. Surface water is affected by natural acid drainage from Red Mountain in the South Fork of Lake Creek. There are 880 meters (0.5 miles) of the South Fork Lake Creek, source to Lake Creek, identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Special use permits are for general utility rights-of-ways and intercontinental water diversions and tunnels. There are numerous private land inholdings. Recreation special use permits are issued for outfitters-guides and recreation events. Dispersed recreation includes hiking, biking, camping and horseback riding. Limited mining activities take place in this CRA today. Approximately 2,700 acres or 47% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 50 acres of 8c | | |
| 400 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | |
| 1,400 acres of 3a | | |
| Total – 1,850 | 5,800 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Farnum #42 (11,100 acres)

1. Description

The Farnum CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. Located west of the Lost Creek wilderness in the northern end of the Puma Hills, this CRA is bordered by the Tarryall Road (Park County Road 77) on the northeast, Packer Gulch on the west and Allen Creek on the southeast. The Tarryall Reservoir is just north of the CRA. Farnum Peak dominates the landscape. The major access routes to the CRA are the CR 77, NFSR 144 (Packer Gulch Road) and NFSR 235 (Allen Creek Road). There are no National Forest system trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is primarily subalpine forest dominated by spruce/fir, interspersed with stands of limber pine in proximity to Puma Hills. Stands of lodgepole pine occur above Bridge Gulch; stands of ponderosa pine occur on the eastern portion of the CRA. Grassland habitats and a narrow band of riparian vegetation are along Parker Gulch. A minor component of aspen and bristlecone pine are also in the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA is located within the Lost Creek LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for Canada lynx. The eastern and northwestern portions of the CRA contain mule deer and elk severe winter areas, respectively. A mule deer winter concentration area is located within the eastern portion of the CRA. It also provides summer and winter range of elk and mule deer. The CRA contains bighorn sheep and the northeast portion of the CRA is within the range of bighorn sheep. The CRA is within the winter range of pronghorn. The CRA also provides habitat for black bear and mountain lion. There are no NFSTs. Hikers use non-system routes to access Farnum Peak. Rock climbing is also popular in a few areas in the northeast portion. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private land borders the CRA adjacent to most of northeastern boundary along the Tarryall Road. There are also two large private land parcels on the southeastern boundary along Allen Creek and Burns Park. Permitted recreation special uses include hiking and rock climbing. The CRA is within the Puma, Packer and Rishaberger C and H active livestock (cattle) grazing allotments. Approximately 1,400 acres or 12% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The last occurrence of timber harvesting in these area was in the 1980s. Approximately 6,400 acres or 58% of the CRA is within the WUI that surrounds several private land parcels in Webber Park.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,000 acres of 3a | | Acres added in upper Allen Creek drainage and on the north slope of |
| 343 Rare 2 – 1,400 | | Schoolmarm Mountain. Acres removed (along NFSR 233) due to high use |
| Total – 7,400 | 11,100 | dispersed camping overflow from the Tarryall State Wildlife Area. |

Green Mountain #53 (11,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Jefferson County, five miles northwest of Buffalo Creek, Colorado. It can be accessed from NFSTs 1776 and 772 and NFSRs 211, 560, and 546. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 6,900 to 10,190 feet. This CRA provides a near-pristine example of a transition zone between a montane and subalpine forest. Cover includes forbs, grass, rushes, sedges, rock, shrubs, mountain mahogany, aspen, blue spruce, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, spruce and fir. The 2002 Hayman fire burned approximately 3,000 acres of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed species: Pawnee montane skipper habitat, Preble’s meadow jumping mouse habitat and critical and restricted acres of Mexican spotted owl habitat. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas in the CRA. Recreation is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. The area offers intact natural views of conifer and aspen covered mountains. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Craig Meadows and Wigwam livestock grazing allotments are in this CRA. Seven acres are approved for watershed restoration and hazardous fuels treatment within the Upper South Platte Watershed. There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz, and amazonite in the CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 1,620 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Green Mountain CRA. About 2,700 acres or 25% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. There have been 1,534 acres of timber management accomplished in this area in the past. Under the Upper South Platte Project, 1% of the area is approved for watershed restoration and fuels treatment. Approximately 8,300 acres or 76% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 254 Rare 2 – 10,200 | 11,000 | Added acres met the CRA criteria. |

Greenhorn Mountain: Badito Cone to Dry Creek # 8 (1,800 acres)

1. Description

The Greenhorn Mountain: Badito Cone to Dry Creek CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is on the south and southwest flanks of the Greenhorn Mountain wilderness, about seven miles east of the community of Gardner. Public access is limited to the Badito Cone Road (NFSR 438), which is very rough and sometimes impassable after washouts from summer thunderstorms. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations range from 7,200 feet to 8,400 feet. Badito Cone’s distinctive volcanic cone is a landmark for much of the surrounding area, as are the much higher peaks of Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness just to the north. Santana Butte is another distinctive mid-elevation mountain, which is five miles northwest of Badito Cone. Primary vegetation types are pinyon and juniper forests, broken by an occasional ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir, with small grasslands of mostly Arizona fescue. The predominantly dry southwest-facing aspects within this CRA favor vegetative communities that would typically be found at lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA includes foraging habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) and Mexican spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). This CRA provides winter range for mule deer, elk, mountain lion and bighorn sheep. The visual character of the landscape is common to minimal for the foothills regions of Southern Colorado. The terrain is moderately varied with sharp ridges and common exposures of lighter colored soils and rocks that contrast with the open grown conifer forests. Several of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape. Recreational use of this CRA is light to non-existent. About 1/2 mile of the old Santana Trail crosses the northern part of this CRA. This trail has been abandoned as a National Forest System Trail. The western terminus originated on the

ajoining private lands that no longer allow public access. The eastern half of this trail was destroyed in the Maes Creek fire of 1978 and was never rebuilt. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are currently no livestock grazing allotments. No part of this CRA is suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 700 acres or 42% of this CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1,600 acres of 270 Rare 2 | | The 2001 boundaries of this CRA were modified in 2007 to 1) exclude a rock quarry, county-owned radio tower and access road on the south and east sides of Badito Cone, 2) exclude the Maes Creek ditch and service road, and 3) exclude the Santana Springs water development, pipeline and service road. |
| 200 acres of 8b | | |
| Total – 1,800 | 1,800 | |

Greenhorn Mountain: Cisneros Creek to Upper Turkey Creek #9 (2,400 acres)

1. Description

The Greenhorn Mountain: Cisneros Creek to Upper Turkey Creek CRA is located on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is contiguous with the northwest flank of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness. It is about 10 miles north of the community of Gardner. Old logging roads are found along the edge of the CRA, but the Forest Service has closed many of these spurs, and at the end of the logging spurs the forest is relatively undisturbed. Access to the northern part is from NFSR 369 (Greenhorn Road), and to the southern part from NFSR 637 (Turkey Creek road).

The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations range from 8,500 feet in the southern section to 11,000 feet in the northern section. Turkey Creek Canyon is the dominant landscape feature. The two parts of the CRA adjoin the north and west flanks of Turkey Creek Canyon. The visual character of the landscape in the CRA is common for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The terrain is moderately varied with broad forested slopes. The rock formations within the CRA are generally not distinctive or unusual in appearance or color. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, and Gambel oak shrublands on south-facing slopes. Vegetation in the southern section transitions from pinyon and juniper forests at the lowest elevations, to Gambel oak shrublands intermixed with ponderosa pine, to white and Douglas-fir forests. In the northern section, the vegetation is almost entirely Engelmann spruce, with a few large aspen stands and riparian wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican Spotted owl (threatened). The northern section provides suitable denning and winter habitat for lynx. The southern section offers suitable nesting and roosting habitat for Mexican spotted owls. Segments of Turkey Creek have been identified as potential sites for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. Reflected moonwort (*Botrychium echo*) is a rare plant of the CRA. The CRA provides summer and winter range for elk and mule deer. The mid-elevations are an identified elk calving area that extends across the southwest flank of the Wet Mountains. Mountain lion, bear, and wild turkey also frequent this area.

Approximately three miles of NFST 1314 (Cisneros Trail) passes through the center of this CRA from north to south. Pedestrian, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on this trail. About two miles of NFST 1315 (Turkey Creek Trail) passes through the northern section of the CRA from east to west. Pedestrian, horse, and mountain bike travel is authorized on this trail. The Turkey Creek Trail originally connected with the Cisneros Trail; however there is no public easement for a short section of trail that crosses a private inholding. The current landowners have restricted public access across their land and the Turkey Creek Trail is falling into disuse. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the primary recreational use of this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is in the Greenhorn livestock grazing allotment. About 270 acres or 11% of the CRA is suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 2,300 acres or 96% of this CRA is in WUI that borders the residential developments on lower Turkey Creek.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 300 acres of 270 Rare 2 | | Acres removed due to historic and more current timber harvesting activities and logging access roads; Acres added to include adjoining lands with roadless area characteristics (Custer Creek drainage). |
| 500 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | |
| Total – 800 | 2,400 | |

Greenhorn Mountain: Graneros Creek to Section 10 #7 (4,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo and Huerfano Counties and includes the rugged and remote areas between the east side of Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness and the National Forest boundary. The only public easement through the private lands borders the CRA on the eastside is at the Bartlett trailhead, about four miles south of the town of Rye. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations range from 8,000 feet along the eastern border to 9,500 feet on the western perimeter. The dominant landscape features of this CRA are the deeply incised drainages that pour out of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness onto the plains below. Graneros Creek, Little Graneros Creek and the two forks of Apache Creek form the major valleys that cut through the rugged east facing granite slopes of this CRA. The terrain is highly varied with sharp ridges and common exposures of lighter colored soils and rocks showing on cliffs and at the lower elevations. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests in the valleys and on north facing aspects, with oak shrublands on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas fir forests dominate most of this CRA. Ponderosa pine, limber pine and Gambel oak shrublands are on south facing aspects and other dry or rocky sites. Pinyon and juniper woodlands are scattered along lower elevations in the southern part.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides suitable nesting and roosting habitat for federally listed Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Mexican spotted owls have been sighted in the CRA. Peregrine falcon nesting sites are located in this CRA. Black swift habitat exists at Apache Falls. North and South Apache Creeks have been determined to be suitable streams for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*). The cutthroat trout that currently occupy these streams have been genetically tagged as Colorado River cutthroat trout, a threatened species native to the west slope of Colorado. Mountain lion, wild turkey and black bear can be found across the area in all seasons. Bighorn sheep have winter range here, although they likely go to the higher elevations in the wilderness area in the summer. Mule deer and elk have summer and winter range across most of the area.

Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. About one mile of the Bartlett Trail (NFST 1310) passes through the northern part of this CRA. Foot and horse travel is authorized on this trail. One mile of the Apache Trail (NFST 1311) crosses the central section this CRA. However, this trail originates on private lands east of the National Forest boundary. There is no public easement across the neighboring private land; this trail is slowly falling into disuse. Foot and horse travel is authorized on these trails. The lack of public easements through the private lands east of the CRA restricts public access to much of the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 5,120 meters (3 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, CF&I diversion to the Arkansas River, within the CRA on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

About 140 acres or 3% of this CRA were identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,500 acres or 95% of this CRA are in the WUI that borders the town of Rye.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4,800 acres of 270 Rare 2 | 4,800 | No change. |

Greenhorn Mountain: Little Saint Charles Creek to Greenhorn Creek # 6 (5,300 acres)

1. Description

The Greenhorn Mountain: Little Saint Charles Creek to Greenhorn Creek CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo County and is contiguous with the northeast flank of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness. This CRA is located about six miles west of the community of Rye. Access is by the Greenhorn, Millset and Snowslide trails. Trailheads for these three trails are located along State Highway 165 from the east and along NFSR 369 (Greenhorn Road) from the west.

The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations rise from 8,000 feet near the southeastern border to 11,500 feet on the ridgeline that forms the western perimeter of this area. The dominant landscape feature is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Wet Mountains. The landscape drops off very steeply from this relatively flat and broad ridge down to Highway 165. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate most of this Little Saint Charles Creek to Greenhorn Creek CRA. White fir, Douglas fir and aspen forests can be found at lower elevations and on south facing aspects. There are many stands of large old-growth spruce and fir within this CRA. There are scattered stands of limber and bristlecone pine along ridgelines and wetland habitats adjacent to the larger streams.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owls (threatened). Habitat for lynx foraging and denning is found through this CRA, except at the lower eastern fringes. The lower elevations offer suitable habitat for Mexican spotted owls. Upper Greenhorn Creek has been determined to be a suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. Reflected moonwort is a rare plant found in this CRA. This CRA provides summer ranges for elk, deer, bear, mountain lion and wild turkey. There are several small elk calving areas, and some winter range for mule deer. The visual character of the landscape within this CRA is common for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between extensive forested slopes, sharp ridges and deep valleys. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, riparian wetlands and rock outcrops. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape.

About six miles of trail traverse this CRA from east to west. NFST 1317 (Millset Trail) passes through the center of this CRA; NFST 1318 (Snowslide Trail) skirts the northern boundary; and NFST 1316 (Greenhorn Trail) marks the southern boundary. Pedestrian and horse trail use is authorized on NFST 1317 and 1316. Pedestrian, horse, mountain bike, and motorized trail bikes are allowed on NFST 1318. Recreation includes hiking, wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use. This whole area is rugged and little visited except along the trail corridors. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 13,300 meters (8 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, CF&I diversion to the Arkansas River, within this CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 1,500 acres or 28% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,850 acres or 72% of the CRA are in the WUI that borders the residential developments along State Highway 165 and the community of Rye.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 4900 acres of 270 Rare 2 | | The 2001 boundaries of this CRA were modified in 2007 to 1) better reflect timber harvesting activities and logging access roads dating from the 1960s and 1970s along the western perimeter of the CRA, and 2) exclude old logging roads, timber harvest areas, and two residential spring developments with pipelines in the Little Saint Charles drainage. |
| 2400 acres of 3a | | |
| Total – 7,300 | 5,300 | |

Gunbarrel #54 (8,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Jefferson County, one mile north of Deckers. Access is from County Roads 97 and 67. There is a trail to the summit of Long Scraggy Peak. Trail work was approved in the Rampart Range Recreation Area Motorized Roads and Trail Decision Notice. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 6,200 to 8,585 feet. Long Scraggy is a dominate granite rock feature with jagged outcrops and conifer covered side-slopes. It is an impressive scenic element from many viewpoints in the South Platte River Valley. Little Scraggy is a near-pristine example of a xeric ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest covering rugged granitic terrain. Vegetation includes montane forest, forbs, grasses, mountain mahogany, aspen, blue spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole and ponderosa pines. The 1996 Buffalo Creek Fire burned 10% of this area (490 acres) and the 2002 Hayman Fire burned 34% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) ranked the South Platte River corridor an area of general biodiversity interest. This CRA has important habitat for mountain lions and black bears. There is one sensitive plant; and habitat for the following federally

listed (threatened) species: Pawnee montane skipper habitat and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse habitat (of which some is designated critical habitat). Water quality within Saloon Gulch and Gunbarrel Creek and tributaries is degraded by excess sediment from the Buffalo Creek and Hayman fires. There is minimal human activity in the CRA, however, there is substantial erosion caused by these wildfires. Recreation is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. Long Scraggy summit is a popular hiking destination. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA has the following grazing allotments: Buffalo Creek/Craig Meadows and Wigwam. The CRA contains possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite. Under the Upper South Platte Watershed Restoration and Protection Project, 2,400 acres or 28% of the CRA is approved for watershed restoration and fuels treatment. This project was approved prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule designation, with implementation continuing in the area under the requirements of the 2001 Roadless Rule. Prior to 2001, there were 3,239 acres of timber management accomplished in this CRA. About 2,700 acres or 32% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Approximately 7,900 acres or 94% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 345 Rare 2 – 8,800 | 8,400 | Acres removed due to past resource activities and associated roads. |

Hardscrabble #3 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

The Hardscrabble CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Custer County, in the Wet Mountains about six miles southwest of the community of Wetmore. Public access is from State Highway 96, NFSR 386 (South Hardscrabble road) (NFSR 386), and NFST 1327 (Rudolf Mountain Trail). The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations rise from 7,400 feet along the lower eastern boundary to over 10,000 feet on Rudolf Mountain. The dominant landscape features are the valleys and steep ridges formed by the three forks of Hardscrabble Creek. The terrain is moderately varied with broad forested slopes. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak fields on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most landscapes. Stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine, and Gambel oak are on south-facing aspects and along the lower fringes of the area. Stands of aspen and spruce are on the higher ridgelines near Rudolf Mountain. Colorado blue spruce is found infrequently along riparian areas that are dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood and Rocky Mountain maple.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat in the higher areas for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Habitat for Mexican spotted owls (threatened) is found throughout this CRA. The north side of the CRA is potential peregrine falcon habitat. Black bear and mountain lion are found here. Elk and deer use the higher elevation areas in the summer and the lower elevations in the winter. Mountain lion, bear, and wild turkey are present year round. The inaccessibility of much of this CRA allows ample security for wildlife.

There are a few signs of historic (late nineteenth and early twentieth century) logging and prospecting activities along the lower perimeters of this CRA. The remains of a Civil Conservation Corp (CCC) camp may be seen near the Rudolf Mountain trailhead, otherwise there is very little evidence of human activities or disturbance. NFST 1327 extends roughly four miles from the South Hardscrabble Road to the slopes of Rudolf Mountain, providing pedestrian and horse access to the southwestern corner of this CRA. This trail is little used, except during hunting seasons. Hunting, especially spring turkey season and the fall big game seasons, is the most popular recreation use. The lack of public easements through the private lands along the eastern and western flanks of this CRA greatly restricts public access to much of the Hardscrabble CRA. The historic trail up Middle Hardscrabble Creek originated on adjacent private lands. There are no public easements across these private lands, and this trail has fallen into disuse. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A household spring development and waterline are permitted near the southwest corner. Approximately 3,900 acres or 53% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 6,100 acres or 82% of the CRA are in WUI that surrounds the community of Wetmore and nearby residential developments.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 339 Rare 2 – 7,500 | 7,400 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Highline #2 (12,400 acres)

1. Description

The Highline CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Freemont and Pueblo Counties, at the north end of the Wet Mountains and about 10 miles southwest of the town of Florence. Public access from the east is principally from the Newlin and Lewis Creek trailheads, and from the west by NFSR 274 and NFSR 336. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations rise from 7,000 feet along the lower eastern boundary to 9,800 feet on Mock Hill. The dominant landscape feature is the broad Highline ridge and forested slopes dropping steeply to the plains on the eastern flank of this CRA. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, and Gambel oak fields on south-facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most of landscapes. There are stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine, and Gambel oak on south-facing aspects and along the lower fringes of the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Mexican spotted owls have been sighted and suitable nesting and roosting habitat is found throughout the CRA. The southern half of the CRA provides suitable lynx denning habitat. Peregrine falcon nesting sites are found in this CRA. Bighorn sheep, black bear, elk, mountain lion, mule deer, and wild turkey are found here. Bighorn sheep lambing areas are in the southern foothills of this CRA. Degener beardtongue (*Penstemon degeneri*), a Forest Service sensitive plant is found in and near this CRA. Newlin Creek has been determined to be suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*).

There are a few signs of historic (late nineteenth and early twentieth century) logging and prospecting activities along the lower perimeters of this CRA. The remains of a Civil Conservation Corp (CCC) camp may be seen near the Rudolf Mountain trailhead, otherwise there is very little evidence of human activities or disturbance. Approximately 4.5 miles of NFST 1331 (Lewis Creek Trail) passes through the southern portion of this CRA. Pedestrian, horse, mountain bike, and motorized trail bike travel are authorized on this trail. The trail is not wide enough for ATV travel. The popular NFST 1335 (Newlin Creek Trail), extends roughly three miles from the Florence Mountain Park to the Herrick sawmill site, providing pedestrian and horse access to the northern part of the CRA. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use of the CRA.

There is limited public access to much of the eastern flank of the CRA. Historic trails on Mineral and Four-mile Creeks originated on adjacent private lands. Public access across these lands to access the trails has become increasingly restricted by private residential developments over the past two decades; as a result the trails have fallen into disuse. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Most of this CRA is included in the municipal watershed for the City of Florence. The headwaters of Newlin Creek, Mineral Creek, and Adobe Creek are part of this municipal watershed. Three small municipal water diversion structures are located along the eastern perimeter of this CRA. The Herrick sawmill site along Newlin creek dates from 1887. The site has several historic features still intact and includes an interpretive display for hikers.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is one vacant cattle allotment (Newlin livestock grazing allotment) within the northern perimeter of this CRA. Leases for oil and gas exploration were issued for the eastern flank of this CRA in the 1980s and 1990s. However, there are currently no active leases for oil and gas exploration or development. Approximately 5,160 acres or 42% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting along the western perimeter. Approximately 9,200 acres or 75% of the CRA are within the WUI that surrounds the community of Wetmore and nearby residential developments. Low-density residential developments are expanding along the eastern and boundaries.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 338 Rare 2 – 12,300 | 12,400 | Acres modified to reflect timber harvesting activities/ logging access roads; to exclude the small dams and diversion structures on Newlin and Mineral Creeks that are under permit to the town of Florence; and to incorporate adjoining lands with CRA characteristics in the Newlin and Mineral Creek drainages. |

Holy Cross #32 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

The Holy Cross CRA is contiguous with Holy Cross wilderness and extends east to the Forest boundary near Leadville. It is in Lake County on the Leadville Ranger District. Access is by Highway 24 and NFSR 45 (Slide Lake Road). Several roads and old mining scars are present; the CRA is part of the Camp Hale training area from the World War II era. Past mining activity is present just to the south of this CRA in the St. Kevin drainage. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Plant communities are almost entirely of forested habitats with spruce/fir and lodgepole pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides good lynx habitat and also part of a large lynx linkage from Holy Cross wilderness east to Chicago Ridge. The CRA provides habitat for wildlife species including, but not limited to, bighorn sheep, black bear, elk, mule deer, and ptarmigan. This CRA has exceptional scenic integrity values. Ski Cooper is located east of the CRA across highway 24. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail go through the CRA. Along the Colorado Trail are many recreation opportunities associated with Uncle Bud's Cabin in the south and the Tenth Mountain Division Hut in the north. Other huts are in nearby areas (outside of the CRA). There's also recreation opportunities associated with other trails into Holy Cross Wilderness. Recreation opportunities have been classified as semi-primitive motorized. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits are issued for year round outfitters-guides and recreation events. Approximately 1,400 acres or 23% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. The suitable timber land is near the center of the area and 300 acres of timber management were accomplished in the past. Approximately 2,800 acres or 46% of this CRA lie within the WUI. Fuel treatments are planned outside of the CRA in the area of the Home Stake Trout Club.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 170 Rare 2 – 6,400 | 6,000 | Improved mapping capabilities. Acres were not included in CRA that were within the Copper Ski Area. |

Jefferson #41 (10,700 acres)

1. Description

The Jefferson CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District and the South Platte Ranger District, in Park County. It rises from the edge of South Park, northwest of the town of Jefferson, to the Continental Divide, between Michigan Creek and the North Fork of the South Platte River. The predominant access points are through the Jefferson Lake Recreation Area on NFSR 37 and NFSR 54 (Michigan Creek Road) and Park County Road 54. NFST 1776 (Colorado Trail) and NFST 643 (West Jefferson Trail) both cross the area between Kenosha Pass and Georgia Pass and can be accessed off County Road 37. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,100 to 13,000 feet. Vegetation is primarily subalpine forest dominated by spruce/fir. Riparian communities exist along the margins of Gibson, Jefferson, and Jefferson Lake Creeks, in Deadman and Guernsey Gulch, and adjacent to the shoreline of Jefferson Lake. Above the tree line, an expanse of alpine tundra extends to the Continental Divide. Stands of lodgepole and bristlecone pine are also found within the southern portion of the CRA. There are small lakes in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides suitable winter, denning and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. It is within the Georgia Pass linkage area of the Kenosha Pass LAU. This linkage is one of the best forested and undeveloped habitat connections that provide for north-south movements of lynx from South Park across the Continental Divide to Summit County. There are 1,280 acres of lynx linkage and 2,530 acres of lynx habitat. A portion of the CRA is in a concentration area for moose. The southern and southeastern portions of the CRA have mule deer and elk severe winter areas, respectively. A mule deer winter concentration area is also located within the southern portion of the CRA; an elk summer concentration area is in the northern portion. The CRA also contains mountain goats, bighorn sheep and ptarmigan. It has habitat for black bear and mountain lion, while the western and central portions of the CRA are in the range of bighorn sheep, and the southern portion of the CRA is within the range of wild turkey. There is habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan above 11,200 feet. One Forest Service sensitive plant occurs in the area.

The CRA provides intact natural landscape of tundra and forest covered mountains. Human activity and disturbed areas are minimal. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program identified the Jefferson Hill Potential Conservation Area as the largest bristlecone

stand ever documented (3,630 ac). Recreation opportunities are primarily semi-primitive non-motorized and include backpacking, camping, hiking, and horseback riding. Non-motorized recreation along the Colorado Trail and the West Jefferson Trail is popular for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Motorized and non-motorized watercraft use is popular on Jefferson Lake, which is surrounded by the CRA. Jefferson Lake is a popular recreation fee area, containing developed campgrounds and picnic areas, reached by a long cherry-stemmed road (NFSR 37).

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area. Jefferson Lake serves as drinking water storage and a domestic water supply for the City of Aurora. Jefferson Lake is located at the center of the CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a large amount of permitted recreational special use for outfitters-guides along the Colorado Trail for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The CRA contains a portion of the Kenosha livestock grazing allotment. Approximately 2,000 acres or 19% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The last timber harvesting in this area occurred in the 1980s. Treatments for mountain pine beetle infestations are planned in areas outside the southeast corner of the CRA. Approximately 2,000 acres or 19% of the CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that surrounds the private residences in Hall Valley.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 143 Rare 2 – 7,100 | | |
| 1,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | |
| Total – 8,500 | 10,700 | Acres excluded because of previous timber harvesting and existing roads. |

Kreutzer-Princeton #26 (40,900 acres)

Description

The Kreutzer-Princeton CRA is approximately 10 miles west of the town of Nathrop, in Chaffee County. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. It is within a horseshoe-shaped configuration, with Mount Kreutzer along the Continental Divide and Gladstone Ridge on the north arm, and Mount Princeton and its western ridges on the south arm. Between these two high alpine ridges, South Cottonwood Creek forms a deep forested basin. Reference landscapes include Continental Divide, the south end of Collegiate Peaks, and the south end of the Sawatch Range. The CRA provides spectacular views of the Upper Arkansas Valley, the Buffalo Peaks across the valley, Mount Princeton, Mount Harvard and the Continental Divide. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, and Douglas-fir, and riparian species along the streams. High elevation timber in the western portion is Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Other areas include lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine in the lower elevations. The Princeton chalk cliffs, and the Princeton Creek and Cottonwood Creek hot springs are well known throughout the region. Approximately 31% is alpine tundra, 27% spruce-fir, 12% rock and bare soil, 11% aspen, and 5% mixed conifer forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is within the Canada lynx Cottonwood Pass LAU and provides potential habitat for this federally listed species. The Cottonwood Linkage Area in the CRA is one of the few movement corridors in the state for lynx across the Continental Divide. Lynx presence has been frequently documented in the CRA which is part of the second lynx denning and concentration core area in Colorado. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species) breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages; limited surveys to determine presence have been completed throughout this area. The CRA provides winter, summer and production areas for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer within the major drainages. In addition, elk and mule deer winter concentration areas and severe winter range are also present. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including Northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species), golden eagle, peregrine falcon (Forest Service sensitive species), prairie falcons, owls, and hawks as well as many neotropical migrant birds and various woodpeckers can be found. Mountain lion, black bear, mountain goat, and other wildlife species are also found there. A number of rare plant species are located here.

Three major drainages in or adjacent to the CRA provide water to Buena Vista. There is minor soil disturbance from motorized travelways in areas like the Poplar Gulch Trail or because of private property access. There are limited prehistoric Native American sites within the CRA. Mining and prospecting activities were prevalent in Mineral Basin and scattered along the South Cottonwood drainage. Historic logging and timber removal uses in the South Cottonwood area. The townsite of St. Elmo and associated Chalk Creek mining district along with the Denver, South Park and Pacific railroad grade are highly visible features. The area provides primarily

semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation with some roaded natural area along the north side of the CRA (Jones Creek, Ptarmigan Creek, and Grassy Gulch drainages). The Colorado Trail is on the eastern boundary. The Poplar Gulch Trail is semi-primitive, motorized trail connecting Chalk Creek with South Cottonwood Creek. There are many recreation opportunities including camping and fishing at Cottonwood Lake, hiking various trails, and scenic drives to Cottonwood Pass and the St. Elmo area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Cottonwood Creek contributes to the Buena Vista municipal water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is heavy development along the eastern boundary (many new homes and subdivisions). The Chalk Creek drainage on the south side of the CRA has many private residences. There are some inholdings east of Mount Princeton, north of St. Elmo, and along South Cottonwood Creek. There are several recreational outfitter-guide permits issued for snowmobiling, hunting, horseback riding, and hiking. There are no known active mining claims. There is some geothermal source development associated with both Mount Princeton Hot Springs and Cottonwood Hot Springs. Roughly 2,800 acres or 7% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. The eastern edge has opportunities for fuels management in the WUI. There has been past harvesting in the Jones Creek and Ptarmigan Creek drainages. Approximately 16,800 acres or 41% of this CRA lie within the WUI. Because the north, east, and south edges are bordered by developed private ownership, the only part of the CRA not in a WUI is the western edge along the Continental Divide.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 205 Rare 2 – 29,000 | | |
| 2,500 acres of 3a | | |
| 7,600 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | |
| Total – 39,100 | 40,900 | Acres eliminated due to timber activity, and presence of roads. Acres with CRA characteristics added. |

Lost Creek East #47 (14,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Park and Jefferson counties, next to the northwest border of Lost Creek Wilderness. Access is provided from NFSTs 606, 607, 603, 126, 211, 543, 558, 560, and County Road 64, and State Highway 285. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,800 to 12,000 feet. Cover includes subalpine and montane forest, grass, shrubs, aspen, Douglas-fir, limber pine, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine. The 2002 Hayman Fire burned 16% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Approximately 50% is considered suitable habitat, and/or part of linkage habitat. Lynx presence has been documented. There is one USFS sensitive plant within the CRA. The CRA is characterized as an intact natural landscape of forest and aspen covered mountain-sides. There are several tributaries degraded by excess sediment. The CRA primarily provides semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are several non-motorized trails that access the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Uses within the CRA include the Buffalo Creek/Craig Meadows grazing allotment and water/irrigation diversions on several tributaries. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 740 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Lost Creek East CRA. About 2,330 acres or 16% of this CRA is suitable for timber production. Between 1966 and 1999, there were 607 acres of timber management accomplished in this area. No timber or fuels reduction projects are planned. Approximately 12,400 acres or 87% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| 252 Rare 2 – 25,800 | Lost Creek East – 14,200 | |
| 2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 is part of Lost Creek South | Lost Creek West – 12,300 | |
| | Lost Creek South – 5,900 | |
| Total – 28,200 | Total – 32,400 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Lost Creek South #45 (5,900 acres)

1. Description

The Lost Creek South CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District in Park County. It borders the extreme south and southwestern boundary of the Lost Creek wilderness two miles north of Ute Creek to Pilot Peak in the south. The boundary follows the Forest boundary and the Tarryall River along the southwest and the Matakak Road (Park County Road 211) in the south. Access to this CRA is by the Tarryall Road (Park County Road 77) and the Matakak Road. Trail access is by three major routes that cross the CRA from three separate trailheads along the Tarryall Road into the Lost Creek wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The predominate landscape features range from lower elevation riparian areas and meadows adjacent to the Tarryall Creek (8,200 feet) to higher elevation forested and rocky environments in the Lost Creek Wilderness (10,624 feet). Vegetation is primarily a montane forest of ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas-fir, which extends to the boundary of the Lost Creek wilderness. Riparian communities exist along Ute and Sand Creeks; stands of limber pine are adjacent to Beaver Dam Creek. A minor component of bristlecone pine, aspen, and spruce/fir are in the CRA. Portions of the south end of the CRA were burned in the 2002 Haymen Fire.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA is in the Lost Creek LAU and provides suitable winter and movement habitat for Canada lynx. The central portion of the CRA contains a bighorn sheep lambing area, and a summer-winter concentration area. A bighorn sheep migration corridor is in the northern portion of the CRA. The CRA is in a summer concentration area for black bear; the southern portion of the CRA is within a fall concentration area. The CRA provides summer and winter range for elk, and mule deer. The northwest and southern portions provide mule deer severe winter and winter concentration areas, respectively. The southern portion of the CRA is within the range of wild turkey.

Recreational uses range from hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and mountain biking, to some dispersed OHV use in the southern portion. The dispersed recreation includes motorized and non-motorized uses. Non-motorized use occurs predominately on National Forest system trails crossing through the CRA into the Lost Creek Wilderness. NFST 629 (Ute Creek Trail) begins at the Ute Creek trailhead, crossing the CRA 1.2 miles before entering the wilderness; NFST 607 (Brookside-McCurdy Trail) begins at the Twin Eagles trailhead, crosses the CRA 4.5 miles before entering the wilderness; and NFST 658 (Lizard Rock Trail) begins at the Spruce Grove trailhead, crosses the CRA 2.2 miles before entering the wilderness. Dispersed motorized recreation takes place in the southern portion on non-system routes beginning from the Matakak Road (Park County Road 211). Types of uses are predominately ATV and motorcycle riding. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Many recreation special use authorizations are permitted on National Forest system routes and non-system routes, ranging from hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing and mountain biking, ATV, and motorcycle riding. The southern portion of the CRA is in the Matakak pasture of the Wigwam C and H livestock grazing allotment, currently permitted. There is no active livestock grazing in the northern portion of CRA. The southern portion of the CRA is popular for crystal mining; several plans of operations and claims are established in and adjacent to the CRA. Approximately 1,060 acres or 18% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,100 acres or 88% of the CRA is within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--|--|--|
| 252 Rare 2 – 25,800 2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 is part of Lost Creek South | Lost Creek East – 14,200 Lost Creek West – 12,300 Lost Creek South – 5,900 | Acres with CRA characteristics were added (north of Ute Creek to the southern boundary); acres reduced due to timber treatment activities, previously roaded areas and permitted gemstone mining operations. |
| Total – 28,200 | Total – 32,400 | |

Lost Creek West #46 (12,300 acres)

1. Description

The Lost Creek West CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This 12,300 acre CRA features both montane and parklands ecosystems, following the Tarryall Mountains from Sugar Loaf Mountain in the south to North Tarryall Peak, to Kenosha Pass in the North. Dominate landscape features include, North Tarryall Peak at 11,902 feet, located in the northwestern end of the Tarryall Mountains. This CRA is split; the majority of it is separated by Park County Road 56 /NFSR 56 (Lost Park Road) from an area in the extreme north adjacent to the Lost Creek Wilderness, running from Kenosha Creek, south through the

Johnson Gulch drainage to Rock Creek. A small isolated area of 373 acres adjacent to the Lost Park Wilderness, just southeast of NFST 609 (Long Gulch) trailhead, is also included. On the southern end, the CRA includes Sugarloaf Mountain (9,951 feet) and is directly adjacent to the Lost Creek Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The vegetation is predominately Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir mixed with stands of bristlecone pine and limber pine. There are some areas of aspen and ponderosa pine mixed with Douglas-fir in the lower elevation areas to the southwest. Old House Creek and many other tributaries of Tarryall Creek have their headwaters in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is located within the Kenosha Pass and Lost Creek LAUs and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx. The far northern portion of the CRA is in the Kenosha Pass linkage area, which provides for north-south and east-west movements of lynx near Kenosha Pass. The CRA also has bighorn sheep and northern goshawk, and is located adjacent to sites of the plant Porter’s feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*). The CRA is in the summer and winter range of elk and mule deer, while the central and southern portions of the CRA are within the summer-winter range of bighorn sheep. The CRA is directly west of elk calving and bighorn sheep lambing areas in the Lost Creek Wilderness. A severe wintering area for mule deer and a bighorn sheep migration corridor are also in the far southern portion of the CRA. The CRA also contains habitat for black bear and mountain lion.

Dispersed camping is popular along NFSR 56 (Lost Park Road), particularly during fall big game hunting season, as well as off of old timber roads in the area northeast of North Tarryall Peak. Recreation opportunities exist for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking through the CRA along NFST 655 (Nate Stultz Trail), or along NFST 1776 (Colorado Trail) in the northeast corner. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is livestock grazing in the Lost Park and Craig Park C and H livestock grazing allotments. These allotments are run together under a single permit. Ten of the 15 pastures of these two allotments are in the CRA. Approximately 6,000 acres or 49% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production.. During the 1980s and 1990s, timber harvesting occurred within this CRA. Approximately 4,430 acres or 36% of the CRA is in the WUI that surrounds private land and residences along Park County Road 77.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| 252 Rare 2 – 25,800 | Lost Creek East – 14,200 | |
| 2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 is part of Lost Creek South | Lost Creek West – 12,300 | |
| | Lost Creek South – 5,900 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |
| Total – 28,200 | Total – 32,400 | |

Methodist Mountain #20 (7,000 acres)

1. Description

The Methodist Mountain CRA is at the northernmost end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, north and west of the summit of Methodist Mountain and east of Poncha Pass. The CRA is immediately south of Salida and very visible from town. It is in Chaffee County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. The CRA boundary extends to the Forest boundary on the north. On the east, the CRA is bounded by an unpaved road accessing the summit of Methodist Mountain; except for this road corridor, the CRA is essentially contiguous with the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. Reference landscapes include the north end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the south end of the Upper Arkansas valley. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevation ranges from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. This CRA has a rich diversity of lower, mid, and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation types range from pinyon-juniper at lower elevations to Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and Douglas-fir in the upper elevations. Approximately 26% is mixed conifer, 16% spruce-fir, 13% aspen, 13% ponderosa pine, 12% mountain shrub, 11% bristlecone/limber pine, and 7% pinyon-juniper forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) which is in the Canada lynx Sangre LAU. Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. Unsurveyed northern goshawk suitable habitat is found within this CRA. Gunnison sage grouse likely use portions of this CRA for summer and fall brood rearing in riparian and sagebrush habitats. This CRA is immediately adjacent in a Gunnison Sage grouse reintroduction site in the Poncha Pass area. Elk and mule deer winter concentration areas are present. An elk production area and an elk migration corridor pass just to the south of the area. The CRA provides a key migration corridor for lynx and other wildlife, connecting large areas of suitable habitat along the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains with even

larger areas in the Sawatch/Cochetopa Hills west of Poncha Pass. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, and hawks, as well as Neotropical birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, and other wildlife species are also found.

The CRA is naturally appearing throughout, without any significant or notable features. From the CRA’s ridgeline, the viewer enjoys extensive vistas southward into the San Luis Valley as far as the New Mexico border and to the north the viewer can see the Arkansas River Valley, framed by the snow-capped 14,000 foot peaks of the Sawatch Range. The CRA is designated semi-primitive, motorized. NFST 1336 (Rainbow Trail), a single track motorized trail, runs along the northern boundary of the CRA. Recreation includes hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. Historic mining and railroad activity have taken place along the western boundary of the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). NFSRs 106 and 124 are adjacent to the CRA and contribute a minor amount of sediment to Sand Gulch and Kings Gulch. Limited prehistoric Native American sites are within this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are special use permits issued for outfitter-guides. The CRA is bounded by private land along the northern edge. The top (south side) of Methodist Mountain has a large communications site on it. There is a mine adjacent to the CRA on the northwest edge. Poncha Hot Springs produces geothermal activity on the northwest edge of the CRA. Approximately 1,200 acres or 18% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,500 acres or 78% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 6,000 acres of 266 Rare 2 | 7,000 | Acreage changes were to tie the CRA boundary to the forest boundary. |

Mount Antero #24 (38,700 acres)

1. Description

Mount Antero CRA is located in Chaffee County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. It is between Chalk Creek and the South Arkansas River. It is dominated by Mount Antero (one of the 14,000 foot peaks) and includes a number of other high peaks, such as White Mountain, Jones Peak and Mount Shavano. These peaks are all visible as one looks west from the Arkansas River Valley. Reference landscapes include the south end of the Sawatch Range, Mount Antero to the east, and the Continental Divide to the west. The south and east boundaries of the area roughly follow NFSR 240 and the Colorado Trail. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is predominately alpine tundra, but there are areas of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, spruce-fir, and aspen. Approximately 30% is rock and bare soil, 26% alpine tundra, 20% spruce-fir, 9% lodgepole pine, 5% bristlecone/limber pine, 5% mixed conifer, and 4% aspen forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. It is part of the second lynx denning/concentration core area in the state and within portions of two Canada lynx LAUs (Monarch Pass and Cottonwood Pass). There is a population of the federally listed greenback cutthroat trout (threatened) in a watershed south of the North Fork of the South Arkansas River. The CRA also provides habitat for Forest Service sensitive species such as the Northern Goshawk and boreal toad. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages. Northern goshawks occur in the area. Some rare ferns, Colorado larkspur, and red columbine are among the rare plant species found in this CRA

Lower elevations provide abundant habitat for black bear, mountain lion, deer, and elk. The area provides severe winter range habitat for mule deer within the major drainages, and elk and mule deer winter concentration areas. There are several large elk production areas. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep are found across most of the CRA. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including golden eagles, peregrine falcon, owls, and hawks, as well as various Neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. The CRA provides high scenic values from the Arkansas Valley with numerous peaks over 13,000 feet. Most of the CRA is above timberline. When viewed in the foreground there is ample evidence of past mining or exploration with the highest concentrations near Mount Antero, Mount White, Hancock, Pomeroy Lakes, and St. Elmo. The CRA is known for gemstones. Some active mines nearby continue to produce gem stones such as aquamarine, smoky quartz and blue beryl. A cherry-stemmed road to the top of the mountain provides rock hounds with access to the best gem areas. Recreation use has been, and continues to be, a significant use of this area. Most of the CRA is semi-primitive non-motorized, with some semi-primitive motorized accessing Grizzly Lake and Pomeroy

Lakes. Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water draining from the CRA feeds both North Fork Reservoir and Boss Lake, part of the Salida water supply system.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is surrounded by other NFS lands but includes many patented mining claims as private inholdings. The Browns Creek, Chalk Creek and Arkansas livestock grazing allotments are included in the eastern parts of the CRA. There are many outfitter-guide special use permits issued for this CRA. There is active mining activity on Mount Antero and Mount White. There is geothermal development and exploration along Chalk Creek. Approximately 1,900 acres or 5% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Much of the accessible stands have been cut to support mining activities in the early 1900s. During the last decade significant salvage harvesting occurred in response to the mountain pine beetle infestation outside of the eastern boundary of the CRA. Approximately 6,900 acres or 18% of this CRA lie within the WUI from private development along Chalk Creek valley and the eastern forest boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 261 Rare 2 – 33,200 5,800 acres of 5 Rare 2 Total – 39,000 | 38,700 | Acreage removed due to roads to accommodate mining and recreation activities. Acreage added: unroaded area south of Mount Shavano; meets the CRA criteria. |

Mount Elbert #30 (23,800 acres)

1. Description

Mount Elbert CRA is in Lake County, and in the Leadville Ranger District. It is accessed by NFSR 110 and Highway 82. Mount Massive Wilderness is just the north of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Plant communities are primarily of alpine tundra, barren rock and wetlands, although there is lodgepole pine, bristlecone pine and limber pine, aspen, Douglas-fir, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir around the edges, especially in the eastern portion of the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Quality lynx habitat exists within the moist forested portions of the CRA. Wildlife includes bighorn sheep that can be found across the area and on the south facing slopes in winter, and there is a large lambing area on the south side. Animal communities include elk and mule deer summer and winter range. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists over a large portion of the CRA. There are 2,460 meters (1.5 miles) of Halfmoon Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River, within the Mount Elbert CRA. Tributaries are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. Mount Elbert CRA is most famous for its namesake, the highest peak in Colorado. At 14,433 feet, Mount Elbert is one of several fourteeners on the Sawatch Range southwest of Leadville. The CRA is managed for non-motorized recreation, although there is one “cherry-stemmed” jeep route that has been excluded from the CRA that follows South Half Moon Creek up to the Iron Mike mine high on the northwest side. There are several trailheads on the south and east of this CRA, with two leading to the summit of Mount Elbert. Campgrounds on three sides of the CRA and at Twin Lakes Reservoir serve the many hikers and climbers who visit. The trails are heavily used, but most of the CRA is inaccessible to anyone except the most dedicated bushwhacker. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is the potential for landowners to request motorized access in the southern portion of the CRA due to private inholdings. Current mining activities occur immediately adjacent to the southeast border of this CRA on private land. Approximately 1,300 acres or 6% along the eastern portion of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 9,000 acres or 38% of this CRA lie within the WUI. WUI treatments scheduled to begin in about three years will occur adjacent to private lands and will be limited to hand-treatments and pile burning.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| 260 Rare 2 – 2,500 18,800 acres of 3a Total – 21,300 | 23,800 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Mount Evans #50 (15,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Park County, Colorado, next to the southern part of the Mount Evans Wilderness. The CRA is accessed from NFST 603 (Rosalie), 604, or 636 and NFSR 102, 105, and 107. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,600 to 10,960 feet. Vegetation consist of subalpine and montane forests, including forbs, grass, rock, shrubs, mountain mahogany, willow, aspen, Douglas-fir, spruce, bristlecone , limber, lodgepole, and ponderosa pines.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (Colorado Natural Heritage Program) ranked two Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) very high or high biodiversity significance. The Geneva Park North PCA has a Bristlecone pine stand. The CRA contains lynx habitat (81%) or linkage areas (19%), deer and elk winter range habitat, boreal toad habitat and at least 7 Forest Service sensitive plants. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas within the CRA. The CRA has expansive intact natural landscape of forest and aspen covered mountains. The 2002 Black Mountain Fire burned <1% of this unit. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are no roads or motorized trails within this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver metropolitan area. The Elk Creek tributaries have been degraded by excess sediment.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Geneva, Crow Gulch, and Elk Creek grazing allotments are within the CRA. There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals such as topaz, quartz, and amazonite in the CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 760 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Mount Evans CRA. About 2,400 acres or 15% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Between 1948 and 1997, 1,330 acres of timber management were accomplished in this area. Approximately 10,900 acres or 71% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 145 Rare 2 – 14,000 | 15,400 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Mount Massive #31 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

The Mount Massive CRA is on the north side of the Mount Massive Wilderness and southwest of Turquoise Reservoir. It is in Lake County on the Leadville Ranger District. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Access is primarily from NFSR 105 (Hagerman Pass Road). It is bordered to the north by roads, Tri-State Power transmission lines, and diversion tunnels, and remains of the old Midland Railroad tracks. These are old railway lines that date back to the 1800s and ran from Leadville to Coaldale are still present to the west near Hagerman Pass. Turquoise Lake recreation area is located to the east of this CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. It is bordered to the south by high alpine mountains with the steep terrain of the Mt. Massive Wilderness. Plant communities are primarily spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, and alpine habitats.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Quality lynx habitat is found in the forested portions of the CRA. There is white-tailed ptarmigan habitat along the Continental Divide in the western portion of the CRA. Historic logging and wildfire scars are still evident in the eastern portion of the CRA. Recreation includes hiking, biking, horseback riding, and outside the CRA there are opportunities for fishing and boating on Turquoise Lake, historic interpretation, and developed camping. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 300 acres or 22% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 259 Rare 2 – 1,000 | 1,400 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Pikes Peak East #58 (13,300 acres)

1. Description

The Pikes Peak East CRA is located on the eastern and northern slopes of Pikes Peak in El Paso County. It is administered by the Pikes Peak Ranger District. The CRA is located on the northern and eastern slope of Pikes Peak. The Pikes Peak East CRA is separated from the Pikes Peak West CRA by the Pikes Peak Highway and recreation corridor. Access by motor vehicle is by NFSR 334 (Pikes Peak Highway); by the privately-run Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway; and by hiking on NFST 620 (Barr Trail) NFST 661 (Severy Creek Trail) and a number of connecting trails. Pikes Peak, at an elevation of 14,115 feet, represents one of Colorado's most distinctive geographic features. Pikes Peak is a well known landmark to Native Americans. During the early settlement of the western United States it served as an important symbol to early pioneers of westward expansion and the Frontier. In present times, the importance of Pikes Peak is represented by its historic significance and its value as a unique recreational resource.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,500 feet to 13,900 feet in the CRA. Rising over 6,000 feet from the western edge of the Colorado plains, the CRA extends into three major life zones of montane, subalpine and alpine zones providing habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species. Pikes Peak begins at the foothills life zone with juniper, and shrubs species (mountain mahogany, Rocky Mountain maple, shrubby cinquefoil, and squawbush), and continues up through the montane life zone with quaking aspen, Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests. In the upper montane life zone, there are aspen, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and spruce/fir forests. At higher elevations, the subalpine life zone is predominantly limber pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Above timberline, from approximately 11,500 feet to the summit of Pikes Peak, is the alpine life zone. Forests near timberline are dwarfed and gnarled by strong winds and heavy snow forming what is known as Krummholz. The bristlecone pine in the south slope area of Pikes Peak is among the oldest living plants in Colorado; studies indicate the trees are approximately 1,200 to 2,400 years old.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The alpine area contains many low-growing, rapid seed-producing plants, including fairy primrose, alpine forget-me-nots, bistort, bluegrass and sedges. Bighorn sheep and isolated population of marmot, pika, and ptarmigan occur on Pikes Peak East and represent the extreme eastern extent of their occurrence on the Pike National Forest. The CRA has habitat suitable for bald eagle winter range and is designated critical habitat for the federally listed Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Other wildlife species in the CRA include black bear, elk, mule deer, and mountain lion. Severy Creek has one of the three remaining genetically pure strains of greenback cutthroat trout. The CRA also supports habitat for slender moonwort (*Botrychium lineare*) and also Rocky Mountain alpine parsley (*Oreoxis humilis*), an endemic species to the alpine tundra on Pikes Peak. The CRA has high scenic quality and can be viewed from various locations along the Pikes Peak Highway, the Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway, and from several hiking trails. Outside of the CRA as viewed from the east, the CRA and Pikes Peak massive represent the scenic backdrop of communities of the Colorado Front Range. Within the CRA are the historic Fremont Experimental Forest, very old Bristlecone pine specimens, and the Sachtett Mountain Botanical Area. A portion of the Hurricane Canyon Research Natural Area (487 acres) is located within the CRA and provides a remnant example of the original montane forests on the east slope of the Front Range.

The majority of the CRA is semi-primitive non-motorized; some areas along the southern boundary are classified as roaded natural, and along the western boundary as rural. Recreational access to the CRA is by motor vehicle on the Pikes Peak Toll Road, by train on the Cog Railway, and by hiking on NFST 664 (Crags Trail), 620 (Barr Trail), and a number of connecting trails. There is a moderate to high level of year-round recreation use within the CRA. Adjacent to the CRA, the summit of Pikes Peak above the 14,000 foot contour is designated a National Historic Landmark and a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Almost all of the NFS lands identified in this CRA, including the Pikes Peak watershed, were Congressionally Designated in 1913 as the watershed for Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. There are 31,060 meters (19 miles) of Fountain Creek and tributaries above Monument Creek, within Pikes Peak East CRA Tributaries identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 90% of the NFS lands identified in the Pikes Peak East CRA were reserved as "Municipal Water Supplies" by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture for the purposes of storing and conserving the water supply for the Town of Cascade, Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. Collectively the municipal watershed reserves are referred as 1913 and 1914 Municipal Watershed lands. Municipal watershed lands within the CRA are reserved from all forms of location or entry. Associated with the management of the municipal watershed are a wide range of special use permits for operation and maintenance of improvements for conveying water. Approximately 200 acres of non-federal lands (isolated parcels) in the CRA's boundary have been excluded. Livestock grazing in the CRA is prohibited.

Numerous recreation special use permits are issued annually for a variety of recreation activities. Approximately 3,500 service days are approved annually. Barr Camp is located adjacent to Barr Trail at an elevation of 10,200 feet. Barr Camp provides lodging and

assistance to Barr Trail hikers. Prior to reservation of the Forest Reserve in 1892 and proclamation of the National Forest in 1907, lands within the CRA lured prospectors and explorers in search of deposits of precious metals. These prospecting activities resulted in the gold rush “Pikes Peak or Bust” of the mid-1800’s. Significant deposits of precious metals were eventually located outside the CRA leading to the development of the Cripple Creek mining district. Remnants of over 2,000 mining claims within the CRA provide evidence throughout the CRA of this mining activity, including recorded historical elements of Oil Creek tunnel. The majority of the CRA is withdrawn from mineral entry. Approximately 8,100 acres or 61% of the CRA is in the WUI. An analysis of the fuels conditions within the CRA is underway and will consider treatment alternatives to minimize the impacts of wildfire to this congressionally designated watershed and the associated community water system infrastructure for Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 257 Rare 2 – 12,700 | 13,300 | Added acres met the CRA criteria. |

Pikes Peak West #57 (14,100 acres)

1. Description

The West Pikes Peak CRA is on the west and southwest slopes of Pikes Peak in Teller County and western portions of El Paso County 10 miles south of Woodland Park and 15 miles east of Colorado Springs. It is administered by the Pikes Peak Ranger District. This CRA provides challenging and varied recreational opportunities within a short distance of a major metropolitan area. Visitors can find solitude because of the limited number of trails and extreme topography and scenery amid spectacular rock formations. The CRA can be accessed from NFSR 383 and NFST 664 and 704. Pikes Peak, at an elevation of 14,115 feet, represents one of Colorado’s most distinctive geographic features. Pikes Peak a well known landmark to Native Americans and during the early settlement of the western United States it served as an important symbol to early pioneers of westward expansion and the Frontier. In present times, the importance of Pikes Peak is represented by its historic significance and its value as a unique recreational resource.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,400 feet to 13,580 feet. Vegetation includes alpine tundra, aspen, bristlecone and limber pine, spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, Gambel oak shrubland, montane grasslands, and riparian communities. Five life zones are in this elevation range, providing habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species. Pikes Peak massif begins at the foothills life zone with pinyon pine, juniper, and shrubs, and continues up through the montane life zone with aspen, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests. In the upper montane life zone, there are aspen, lodgepole pine and spruce/fir forests. At higher elevations, the subalpine life zone is predominantly Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Above timberline, from approximately 11,500 feet to the summit of Pikes Peak, is the alpine life zone. The area is drained by numerous streams including the headwaters of Catamount Creek, Fourmile Creek, and the West Fork of Beaver Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife in the area include bighorn sheep and their lambing and winter concentration areas, elk including calving areas, native trout, and peregrine falcons. Pikes Peak is home to the greenback cutthroat trout, a Federally Threatened fish species. It occurs in one drainage, on the east face of Pikes Peak. One of the south slope reservoirs adjacent to this proposed CRA was used for brood rearing for the Greenback cutthroat trout. The Rocky Mountain alpine parsley is a Forest Service sensitive species that is endemic to the alpine tundra on Pikes Peak. Topography has precluded active management of any type in the Pikes Peak Watershed, except for 13,000 acres of land owned by the City of Colorado Springs Utilities and managed by the State Forest Service. The summit of Pikes Peak and western slopes of the CRA dominate the scenic backdrop from Wilkerson Pass to the nearby surrounding communities. This CRA provides challenging and varied recreational opportunities within a short distance of a major metropolitan area. Visitors can find solitude because of the limited number of trails and extreme topography and scenery amid spectacular rock formations.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Almost all of the NFS lands identified in this CRA, including the Pikes Peak watershed, were congressionally designated in 1913 as the watershed for Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. The CRA lands protect slopes above major reservoirs that are sources for domestic water supply for these communities. There are 16,420 meters (10 miles) of Fountain Creek and tributaries above Monument Creek, within Pikes Peak West CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of NF in the CRA are management in accordance to watershed agreements between the Forest Service and City. Pikes Peak Watershed consists of nearly 13,000 acres owned by the city of Colorado Springs in parcels known as North Slope, South Slope, Longs Ranch, and Rosemont. National Forest System lands surround these city owned and managed inholdings. There are a wide range of Special Use Permits issued by the U.S. Forest Service to the City of Colorado Springs for management of the water system on National Forest System lands. The Four-Mile Livestock Grazing Allotment located in western and southern portions of the CRA is currently

grazed annually from August through September. Numerous recreation special use permits are issued annually for a variety of recreation activities. Approximately 3,000 recreation service days are approved annually. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 150 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Pikes Peak West CRA. About 550 acres or 4% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Approximately 11,600 acres or 82% of the CRA is in the WUI. An analysis of the fuels conditions within the CRA is underway. The analysis area encompasses approximately 122,000 acres on the Pikes Peak Ranger District, including the in-holdings held by Colorado Springs Utilities.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 258 Rare 2 – 9,700 | 14,100 | Added acres met the CRA criteria. |

Porphyry Peak #21 (3,900 acres)

1. Description

The Porphyry Peak CRA is at the southern end of the Sawatch Range west of Poncha Pass. The CRA is between Marshall Pass and Poncha Pass. It is located in Saguache County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. NFST 1407 (Silver Creek Trail) and 1336 (Rainbow Trail) are along the northern boundary. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This eco-section is characterized by steeply sloping to precipitous mountains dissected by many narrow stream valleys with steep gradients. Vegetation is mostly lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, with bristlecone pine, aspen and some spruce-fir forest on the western higher slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx have been frequently documented in this CRA, which is in the middle of the Poncha Pass to Monarch Pass lynx linkage, and in the Monarch Pass LAU. There is suitable boreal toad breeding habitat. Northern goshawks are found in this CRA. Gunnison sage grouse use this area for summer and fall brood-rearing. The CRA is adjacent to the reintroduction area for Gunnison sage grouse, and is used by the grouse for rearing broods. Along the north side, the riparian areas of Silver Creek and its tributaries provide excellent wildlife habitat. Bighorn sheep can be found in the upper elevations in the summer. The CRA provides elk, and mule deer severe winter range habitat areas and winter concentration areas. There is a new and expanding population of moose. Several raptors, including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found in this CRA. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, and other wildlife species are also found.

The landscape is natural in appearance, but the scenic quality is about average. This area has had extensive livestock grazing, especially at the lower elevations. Timber harvesting has occurred adjacent to this area for many decades and mineral exploration has occurred throughout the area. Most of the CRA is semi-primitive motorized, and the southern edge is semi-primitive, non-motorized. Mountain bikers coming down NFST 11407 can connect to NFST 1336 along the northern boundary and journey over to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. NFST 1336 (Rainbow Trail), a motorized trail, runs through the CRA and is open to motorized use along the edge of the CRA, or one can travel up the very rough NFSR 8692 (Toll Road Gulch road) to the ridge line. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There is one developed spring that provides water to Silver Lakes Estates. Several active streams feed into Silver Creek from the CRA. They produce good quality water. Within the CRA the soils are in their natural state.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Silver Lakes Estates is adjacent to the CRA on the north. The Little Cochetopa Grazing Allotment covers part of the CRA. There are outfitter-guide permits for hiking, biking, and hunting. There are no active mines, only isolated exploration pits. Roughly 1,400 acres or 35% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule, there were a few small sales on the west end of the CRA. Approximately 2,600 acres or 66% of this CRA lie within the Silver Lakes Estates wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 265 Rare 2 – 3,400 | 3,900 | Only minor additions due to mapping adjustments. |

Puma Hills #43 (8,500 acres)

1. Description

Puma Hills CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This CRA, within the Puma Hills south of State Highway 24, forms the wooded edge of the high montane valley between South Park and the Tarryall Creek drainage, running from Wilkerson Pass south to Park County Road 92. The western boundary of the CRA corresponds to the National Forest boundary. Access to the CRA is by State Highway 24 or Park County Road 92. There are no system trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The vegetation is predominately Douglas-fir mixed with some areas of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine in the lower elevation areas and a small area of mountain grasslands and meadows in the west. Boyer Gulch and Caylor Gulch both originate in this CRA and drain to Elevenmile Reservoir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains mule deer and pronghorn severe winter and winter concentration areas, and a black bear summer concentration area. A black bear fall concentration area is also located within the eastern portion of the CRA. The CRA is in the summer range of bighorn sheep, and the summer and winter range of elk and mule deer; the western edge is in the winter range of pronghorn. The CRA provides habitat for mountain lion. Dominant landscape features include Pulver Mountain and Stoll Mountain. Recreational opportunities include off-trail hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, and solitude seeking. There are no system trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The western slope of the CRA drains into Elevenmile Reservoir, which provides drinking water to Denver.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA has not been authorized for domestic livestock grazing since 1979, but trespass livestock are occasionally discovered. Approximately 2,700 acres or 32% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. About 15 acres received timber management in the past. This CRA is 100% in the WUI that surrounds private land and residences along Park County Road 92. Elevenmile and Spinney Mountain Reservoirs, part of Denver Water's water system, are west and southwest of the CRA, providing excellent fishing, boating, and camping near the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 344 Rare 2 – 8,500 | 8,500 | No change. |

Purgatoire #11 (16,000 acres)

1. Description

The Purgatoire CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Las Animas County, in the Culebra Range west of Colorado Highway 12 and south of NFSR 422 and NFSR 436 (Blue Lakes Road -Trinchera Peak Road). A cherry-stemmed exclusion containing NFSR 34 (North Fork Road), Purgatoire Campground and the North Lake State Wildlife Area lies inside the southeast corner of this CRA. Access to the north side of this CRA is available on NFSR 422, and 436; this road separates the Purgatoire CRA from the Cuchara South CRA immediately to north. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The dominant landscape feature is the broad valley formed by the North Fork of the Purgatoire River. Elevations rise from 9,000 feet along the Purgatoire River to over 13,000 feet on the main ridgeline of the Culebra Range. The vegetation transitions from alpine tundra along the spine of the Culebra Range to Engelmann spruce, aspen and white fir forests moving towards the east. Spruce and fir forests dominate the majority of this CRA; however there are continuous grassland parks and persistent aspen stands topping the broad ridge east and north of the Purgatoire River.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Lynx habitat is found in all but the highest alpine areas. Boreal owl habitat is present within the area. Suitable habitat for endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly exists on Trinchera Peak. Wildlife values include summer and fall concentrations of black bears from the east side of the CRA over to Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area. Bighorn sheep frequent the area in summer and winter, and there are two large lambing areas. Elk have summer range across the whole area, with winter range and production areas on the east side. The visual character of the landscape within this CRA is moderately distinctive for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The vegetation pattern offers visual interest and high contrast between alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and large subalpine parks. Contrasting vegetative patterns, the Purgatoire River, and the skyline of the Culebra Range are the dominant scenic features. There are only a few signs of historic logging activities near the private inholdings; otherwise this CRA offers very little evidence of human activities or disturbance.

NFST 1309 (North Fork Trail) runs for four miles through the center of the CRA, connecting the Trinchera Peak jeep road with the Purgatoire Campground. NFST 1312 and 1394 (Wildcat and Coal Creek Trails) traverse the broad ridge east of the Purgatoire River leading to private property east of the National Forest boundary. There is no longer public access from Highway 12 across these private lands, so the Wildcat and Coal Creek Trails have fallen into disuse. The trail clearing and tread-way has almost disappeared in many places along these trails. The trails within this CRA are only open for foot and horseback travel, and are not authorized for motorized trail travel. Hunting and day-trip hiking are the most popular recreation uses of this CRA.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Most of the Purgatoire CRA lies within the formally recognized municipal watershed for the City of Trinidad. There are 2,060 meters (1.2 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Purgatoire CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 320 acres of private property are isolated in the center of this CRA. The only surface access to this private inholding is via the North Fork Trail. The North Fork livestock grazing allotment, which encompasses most of this CRA, has been vacant for at least 30 years. This allotment is currently proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. A jeep road (NFSR 437) leads to an abandoned mining site. The jeep road and mining location are within the cherry-stemmed exclusion that includes the North Fork Road. There are no current mining claims within the CRA. Approximately 2,200 acres or 14% of this CRA were identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,700 acres or 23% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that flanks the southern edge of the Cuchara community.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 272 Rare 2 – 13,200 | 16,000 | Acres added to encompass areas south from the North Fork Road with CRA characteristics. |

Rampart East #56 (23,600 acres)

1. Description

The Rampart East CRA is located on the South Platte and Pikes Peak Ranger District’s and lies along the eastern side of the Rampart Range north of Monument Hill. The Rampart East CRA lies along the eastern side of the Rampart Range northwest of Monument Hill, and is located in Douglas and El Paso counties, nine miles north of Woodland Park, Colorado. The CRA can be accessed from NFSRs 300 (Rampart Range Road), 324, 325, 327, and 563 (Dakan Road). This CRA is adjacent to private lands and NFS lands with a highly used motorized trail (primarily ATV and motorcycle) in addition to 4-wheel drive road areas, private road easements, and county roads. The integrity of the wildlife habitat within this CRA is very important due to the use of adjoining areas. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The physiography of the CRA is varied and consists of ridgetops and incised canyons and valley bottoms, including Bear Creek, Stark Creek and Starr Canyon on the north, Gove Creek and Metz Canyon in the middle, and East Plum Creek/Stone Canyon, and Butler Canyon to the south. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet at the mouth of Starr Canyon to 9,200 feet at Storm Peak. Bear Creek subwatershed is a reference landscape. It is a near-pristine example of a Colorado front range transition zone between montane and plains ecosystems. The majority of the CRA is typified by mixed montane coniferous forest. Because of the variation in topography, there is variation in plant and animal communities as well. Vegetation is predominantly lodgepole pine, with Douglas-fir in the southeastern portion; there are large areas of ponderosa pine on drier slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

It is the largest and least human-impacted area remaining in the Rampart Range, and forms both a critical core area for wildlife at the edge of the rapidly growing Interstate 25 (I-25) urban corridor and a critical connecting link between plains and mountain ecosystems. The area is an important wildlife linkage for numerous migrating species, including elk and mountain lion. The areas encompass about 26,400 acres of important wildlife habitat for four big game species, over 100 passerine bird species, 35 small mammal species, seven raptor species, six reptile species, three amphibian species, and multiple state and federally listed threatened and endangered species. Riparian areas along Colorado’s Front Range are the habitats that contain the state’s greatest diversity of wildlife species. The riparian areas in these modules are further enhanced by rock outcrops suitable as raptor roosts and reproduction areas. This area is also known to be important habitat for mountain lion because of the concentrations of big game animals and abundant small mammals, and for black bear due to the availability of Gambel’s oak and other forage plants within the riparian corridors.

Thirty-nine rare or imperiled species and twelve natural communities are known from the Monument Creek watershed area (Colorado Natural Heritage Program, 2001). Distribution among the taxonomic groups include the following: birds - four species, mammals - three species, insects - five species, plants - 27 species and twelve natural community types. The CRA provides occupied

habitat or potential habitat for three federally listed species: Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (threatened) occurs along drainages in and near this CRA; Mexican spotted owl (threatened), and mountain plover (candidate). The numerous riparian areas and the elevations found within this CRA support large quantities of habitat for threatened and endangered species, and is considered critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl. Drainages provide important wildlife pathways between montane and plains ecosystems. Several additional species are listed as Forest Service sensitive species. There are eight distinct soil types within the CRA, all very erosive. There is minimal evidence of human activity and disturbed areas. The interior portion of the CRA offers expansive intact natural views of steep sided valleys covered with prominent granite outcrops and conifer forest. The CRA offers a unique opportunity for visitors to experience solitude and a low-elevation ecosystem largely devoid of human impacts. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. NFSR 327 bisects the CRA, although it does dead end halfway between Rampart Range Road and the Forest boundary.

This CRA is also an important watershed for Front Range communities. This CRA encompasses the Monument Creek watershed located in northwestern El Paso County, Colorado. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet at the mouth of Starr Canyon to 9,200 feet at Storm Peak. The Monument Creek watershed is part of the Arkansas River drainage. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for the Denver Metro area. Portions of the CRA south of Cook Creek are designated and managed as Palmer Lake Watershed. In 1916 the Secretary of Agriculture established an agreement with the Town of Palmer Lake for protection of approximately 10,425 acres for preserving and protecting the water supply. “Monument Creek Watershed region was inhabited seasonally by several indigenous people groups, including the Utes, Comanches, Kiowas, Cheyenne, Arapahoes, and Sioux. Present-day Highway 24 occupies what was known as the Ute Trail, the natural pass that provided access to the rich hunting grounds of South Park. In 1892 the Pikes Peak and Plum Creek Timber Reserves were established that included 184,320 acres and 179,000 acres respectively. The Reserves were consolidated to form the Pike National Forest in 1907.” (Excerpts taken from the *Monument Creek Watershed Landscape Assessment*, 2002.)

3. Current Conditions and Uses

NFS lands are bounded by private developments north and east of the CRA and are strongly influenced by this land ownership pattern. NFS lands occur south and west of the CRA and are subject to heavy public uses. There are no grazing allotments within the CRA. Privately owned lands within the CRA are limited to less than 120 acres. Long term non-recreation special use permits include military training and access roads and telephone and or communication cables. Several recreation special use permits are issued annually for less than 100 service days. Although rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite, may be found in the area, mining activity is currently limited to the Chimney Peak area in Southern portions of the CRA. There are seven existing oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 7,500 acres issued prior to January 12, 2001. There is one existing oil and gas lease that touches on the boundary of the CRA that was issued after January 12, 2001.

About 2,000 acres or 9% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. In 1991, about five acres of timber stand improvement thinning was accomplished. Under the requirements of the 2001 Roadless Rule, the Perry Park Vegetation Treatment Project was approved in January 2004 and included thinning of 82 acres of dense forest within the CRA. Approximately 11,600 acres or 49% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 256 Rare 2 – 25,600 | 23,600 | Acres dropped involve past management activities and associated roads. |

Rampart West #55 (24,200 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Douglas County, one mile east of Deckers. The area is accessed from NFST’s 649, 650, 653, 657, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, and 690 off County Road 67 and NFSR 300 (Rampart Range Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 6,600 to 9,000 feet. Vegetation cover includes forbs, grass, rushes, sedges, rock, shrubs, mountain mahogany, aspen, blue spruce, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and spruce. The 2002 Hayman and Schoonover fires burned 21% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Colorado Natural Heritage Program (Colorado Natural Heritage Program) ranked a small area the Pine Creek at South Platte a Potential Conservation Area (Potential Conservation Area) for its high biodiversity significance. It is also considered a reference landscape. The CRA has habitat for Preble’s mouse (14% non-critical and 3% critical), Pawnee montane skipper (3%), critical and restricted Mexican spotted owl habitat, and important habitat for mountain lions and black bears. Most areas have intact natural views of granite mountain terrain covered with conifer forests. Areas where motorized trails and OHV use is concentrated have semi-natural views. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive motorized or non-motorized. The CRA covers part of the Rampart Range Motorized Area,

a very popular motorized trail network. Approximately 49 miles of motorized trail work has been approved under the Rampart Range Recreation Area Motorized Roads and Trail Decision Notice. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite, within the CRA. About 3,850 acres or 16% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Between 1969 and 1999, 1,180 acres of timber management were accomplished in this area. Approximately 13,000 acres or 54% of the CRA is in the WUI. Under the Upper South Platte Watershed Restoration and Protection Project, 1450 acres of the CRA is approved for watershed restoration and fuels treatment. This project was approved prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule designation, with implementation continuing in the area under the requirements of the 2001 Roadless Rule. Trout Creek and tributaries are on are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. Pine and Sugar creeks are on the monitoring and evaluation list.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 255 Rare 2 – 23,700 | 24,200 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Romley #25 (7,700 acres)

1. Description

The Romley CRA lies between the Kreuzer-Princeton and Mount Antero CRAs and south of the historic town of St. Elmo. It is in Chaffee County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. The CRA is part of the Sawatch Range, along the Continental Divide which forms the western and part of the southern boundary. The headwaters of the North Fork of Chalk Creek are located on the north boundary and Chalk Creek on the east boundary. Tincup Pass is the northern limit of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This CRA contains a rich diversity of high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation includes alpine tundra (47%), alpine wetlands, spruce-fir (36%), aspen, rock (12%) and bare soil.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been frequently documented using this area and it is part of the second lynx denning/concentration core area in the state. It is within the Canada lynx Cottonwood Pass LAU. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad (Forest Service Sensitive Species) breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages; limited surveys to determine presence have been completed throughout this area. Northern goshawk (Forest Service Sensitive Species) is also found within this CRA. This area provides summer range for elk and mule deer. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, mountain goat, and other wildlife species are also found.

Most of the area has been classified for semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation. Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. The CRA includes the headwaters of Chalk Creek, a reference landscape. It is also within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

Mining and railroad was the predominant activity with numerous historic structure and features scattered throughout the area. The DSP&P, the Mary Murphy Mine and the town site of St. Elmo, Romley and Hancock define the history of this area. The town site of St. Elmo is on the National Register of Historic Places. A visit to St. Elmo will reveal one of the better preserved ghost towns left from the gold and silver days of the 1880s. St. Elmo was serviced by a branch of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad, as were many other mining towns in central Colorado. The Alpine Tunnel proved an engineering feat for the railroad builders. Pomeroy Gulch, outside the eastern boundary, has been heavily mined. The Morley Bridge is designated as one of the oldest railroad bridges in Colorado. There is limited prehistoric Native American activity.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is surrounded by NFS lands. There are outfitter-guide special use permits issued for recreational use in the CRA. Roughly 1,700 acres or 22% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,400 acres or 44% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 206 Rare 2 – 6,900 | 7,700 | Although some of the additional acreage includes patented mining claims, the area meets the CRA criteria. |

Saint Charles Peak #5 (11,100 acres)

1. Description

The Saint Charles Peak CRA is located about 10 miles northwest of the town of Rye along the west side of State Highway 165. The CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo County. Public access into this CRA from the east is via trailheads located along Highway 165 for NFST 1318 (Snowslide), NFST 1314 (Cisneros) and NFST 1326 (Saint Charles trail). Public access from the west is via trailheads located along NFSR 369 (Greenhorn Road) for these same trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations rise from 9,000 feet along the eastern border to over 11,500 feet along the ridgetops near the western border. The dominant landscape feature is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Wet Mountains. The landscape drops off very steeply from this relatively flat and broad ridge down to the Saint Charles Creek, Willis Creek and Ophir Creek valleys on the south, east and north flanks respectively of this CRA. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and grasslands. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate most of the CRA. Extensive wetland riparian areas are located along the gentler stream courses in the western part of this CRA. White fir, Douglas fir and aspen forests can be found at lower elevations and on south facing aspects. There are many stands of large old-growth spruce and fir within this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides extensive habitat for lynx denning and winter foraging. This CRA provides summer ranges for elk, deer, bear, mountain lion and wild turkey. There are several small elk calving areas within this CRA. There are nearly 10.5 miles of trails this CRA. NFST 1326 and 1314 provide good access to most parts of this CRA. NFST 1318 skirts the southern boundary of the area. Foot, horse, mountain bike, and motorized trail bike travel is authorized on these trails. The Cisneros Trail is currently being rebuilt to allow ATV travel between the Lake Isabel Recreation Area and the Greenhorn Road. In the wintertime, about 10 miles of marked and groomed snowmobile trails traverses the western part of this CRA.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 25,270 meters (15.6 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, source to CF & I diversion, within the Saint Charles Peak CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. The Marion mine, ore crusher, sawmill, and reservoir operated in the central part of this CRA from about 1885 through 1915 and intermittently thereafter until the mid-1930s. Wagon roads were built to access these early industrial facilities. The decaying tie-and-timber dam (about 12 feet high and over 100 feet in length) still holds back a small pond of water. The dam was built to supply a constant flow of water to machinery at the ore crusher, which was located about 1.5 miles southwest of the reservoir. The Marion mine and crusher are located on a private tract. This area was fairly heavily used for grazing, mining, and limited timber harvesting during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Williams Creek and Ophir livestock grazing allotments are within the CRA. There are two private inholdings within this CRA on patented mining claims near the Marion mine, totaling about 100 acres. The landowner is currently permitted to use a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) on the Saint Charles Trail from the Lake Isabel Recreation area to access to these private tracts. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 600 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the St. Charles Peak CRA. Roughly 4,700 acres or 42% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,900 acres or 53% of this CRA are in the WUI that surrounds the residential developments along State Highway 165 and the community of San Isabel.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 340 Rare 2 – 11,600 | 11,100 | Acres reduced due to timber harvesting activities and logging access roads (1960s and 1970s) and to exclude the electronic site on Saint Charles Peak. |

Sangre de Cristo: Alvarado Campground to Music Pass #16 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

Sangre de Cristo: Alvarado Campground to Music Pass CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Custer County and is contiguous with the central part of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, from Cloverdale Basin and the Lake Creek drainage south to Hermit Pass and the Middle Taylor drainage. This CRA is located about 10 miles southwest of the town of Westcliffe. Public access to this area is via County Road 140 to the Alvarado Campground and NFST1345 and 1347 (Comanche-Venable trailheads), County Road 130 to NFST 1342 (Horn Creek trailhead), County Road 120 to NFST 1339 (lower South Colony trailhead), and County Road 119 leading to NFST 1337 (Music Pass trailhead).

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The CRA includes the landscapes below the boundary of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and above the Rainbow Trail. Elevations range from 9,400 along the Rainbow Trail to 11,400 at Music Pass. The visual character of the landscape in the central sections of the CRA, which incorporate the lower forested slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains below the wilderness boundary, is common for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. It includes, from north to south, the lower slopes of the Cottonwood, Dry, Horn, Macey, Hudson, Music and Grape Creek valleys. The slopes in this CRA are covered by dense forests of Douglas-fir and white fir, transitioning to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. Limber and bristlecone pines are found along most of the ridgelines. Several of the drainages contain sizeable stands of aspen. The vegetation pattern offers a moderate to high contrast between the dominant conifer forests, large stands of aspen and Gambel oak shrublands on south facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains bighorn sheep summer and winter ranges, including important lambing areas near Music Pass. Habitat for lynx denning and foraging is found throughout the forested areas of this CRA. Habitat and nesting sites for northern goshawks are also found throughout the forested areas. Cottonwood Creek has been determined to be a suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. However, past reintroduction efforts in Cottonwood Creek have produced less than pure genetic strains of this rare native fish. Potential black swift habitat exists at Crystal Falls, Macey Falls, and Dry Creek Falls. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall.

Recreation opportunities include day hiking, horseback riding, camping, and fishing, particularly in the Dry Creek Lakes, Horn Lakes, and Macey Creek drainages. The Comanche-Venable, Horn Creek, and Music Pass trailheads are major visitor access points for the Rainbow Trail and several other trails leading into the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. There are roughly 12 miles of trails within this CRA including, from north to south, the lower portions of NFST 1344 (Cottonwood Creek Trail), 1362 (Horn Peak Trail), 1343 (Dry Creek Trail), 1342 (Horn Creek Trail), 1341 (Macey Creek Trail), 1338 (Marble Mountain Trail), and 1337 (Music Pass Trail). Only foot and horse travel is authorized on these trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Parts of this CRA were used for livestock grazing, mining, and limited timber harvesting during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Prospecting pits and small mines are scattered throughout the CRA. However, none of these mines produced an economically viable amount of minerals and all were abandoned by the second half of the twentieth century. Several of the wagon roads built to access these early prospecting and timbering operations evolved into the recreational trails of today.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Roughly 1,100 acres or 14% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,100 acres or 55% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that borders several residential developments along the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 6,500 acres of 266 Rare 2 | 7,400 | Acres removed to exclude the Lorton ditch in the South Colony drainage and allow for expansion of the Grape Creek Trailhead. Acres added to include adjoining lands (Music Pass) with CRA characteristics. |

Sangre de Cristo: Blanca Peak to Slide Mountain #14 (3,900 acres)

1. Description

Sangre de Cristo: Blanca Peak to Slide Mountain CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is contiguous with the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, encompassing the northern flank of the Blanca Peak massif and the north and east facing slopes of Slide Mountain. This CRA is located about 20 miles southwest of the community of Gardner.

This CRA contains two peaks that exceed 14,000 feet in elevation, Blanca Peak and Ellingwood Point. Blanca Peak is the fourth highest summit in Colorado. The north face of Blanca Peak holds what is reputed to be the southernmost glacier in the United States. Two alpine lakes, Lily Lake and Upper Lily Lake, are located within this CRA. The visual character of the landscape within this CRA is exceptionally distinctive for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The scenic vistas from the summits of Blanca Peak and Ellingwood Point towards the rest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Upper Huerfano valley, and the San Luis valley are truly inspiring. Public access to Blanca Peak area is via NFSR 580 (Upper Huerfano Road), which leads to trailheads for NFST 1301 (Huerfano), 853 (Zapata), and 1308 (Lily Lake). Public access to the Slide Mountain area starts at the Huerfano State Wildlife Area trailhead and then passes through lands acquired by the BLM in 2004 along Stanley Creek.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,000 feet on the slopes of Slide Mountain to over 14,000 feet on Blanca Peak. The terrain is highly varied between alternating alpine peaks and saddles along the Blanca Peak massif skyline, with deeply incised valleys below. The vegetation pattern offers very high contrast between massive rock faces, alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and several large subalpine parks. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and/or shape. The roadless tract immediately north of Blanca Peak is a glaciated landscape with precipitous rock cliffs, spire-like peaks and a deep U-shaped valley. The majority of this tract lies well above timberline. Rock and alpine tundra cover most of the higher elevations. The valley floor is a mixture of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests intermixed with aspen stands and riparian wetlands. The roadless tract on the northeast flank of Slide Mountain is comprised of long and relatively symmetrical slopes radiating from the cone-like summit. These slopes are almost uniformly covered by dense forests of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, transitioning to Douglas fir and white fir at the lower fringes of the area. The roadless tract encompassing Loco Flats is large and gently sloping sub-alpine grassland comprised of mostly Arizona and Thurber fescues, with scattered groups of Engelmann spruce and bristlecone pine. The roadless tract above Montez reservoir is a diverse mixture of aspen stands, sub-alpine grasslands, spruce and bristlecone pine forests on a very steep east-facing slope.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Habitat for lynx denning and foraging is found throughout the forested areas of this CRA. Habitat and nesting sites for northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) are also found throughout the forested areas. The headwaters of the Huerfano River, Strawberry Creek, Dutch Creek, and Cascade Creek are suitable streams for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout (federally threatened). However, past reintroduction efforts in Cascade Creek have produced less than pure genetic strains of this rare native fish. Gray's whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*) is a rare plant found in this CRA. This CRA contains bighorn sheep summer and winter ranges, as well as important lambing areas. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall.

This CRA provides opportunities for solitude, nature observation, and scenic vistas. Recreational activities include backcountry camping, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, mountaineering, hunting, fishing, landscape photography, and heritage tourism. The roadless tract immediately north of Blanca Peak is one of the most popular valleys for recreational activities in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Conversely, the Slide Mountain, Loco Flats and Montez roadless tracts receive very little recreational visitation outside of the fall hunting seasons. Segments of NFST 853, 1301 and 1308 pass through the CRA. These segments total roughly seven miles of trail. Only foot and horse travel is authorized on these trails.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The upper Huerfano Valley was the site of an active mining district during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. There is ample evidence of abandoned mine shafts, ore crushing equipment, derelict cabins and an old road leading to the precipitous north face of Blanca Peak. Many of these mining claims proceeded through the patent process to become private property. Over the past 10 years, the Forest Service has acquired most of these patented mining claims. However, about 100 acres of private inholdings still remain in the center of the roadless tract below the north face of Blanca Peak. The entire Blanca Peak massif is a considered to be a sacred landscape by several Native American tribal groups.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Two parcels of private property, totaling about 100 acres, are isolated in the center of the roadless tract below the north face of Blanca Peak. Access to these parcels is via the Lily Lake Trail and the abandoned mining road along the valley floor. Both of these routes are currently authorized for foot and horse travel only. The three roadless tracts on the north flank of the Blanca Peak massif lie within the Huerfano livestock grazing allotment. Approximately 200 head of cattle are permitted to graze here from early July through mid September. The roadless tract on the north and east slopes of Slide Mountain is within the Slide Mountain livestock grazing allotment. This allotment has been vacant for over five years; however, there is the possibility of it being restocked after an environmental analysis and new grazing management plan are completed in 2009. Approximately 2,200 acres or 57% of the CRA are within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 500 acres of 266 Rare 2 | 3,900 | Acres removed to exclude the Montez Reservoir and ditch, the Wooten ditch near Loco Flats, and two administrative access roads near Slide Mountain. |
| 1,000 acres of 3a | | |
| 267 Rare 2 – 2,800 | | Forest Service acquired approximately 400 acres of patented mining claims on the north face of Blanca Peak. |
| Total – 4,300 | | |

Sangre de Cristo: Lake Creek to Hermit Creek #17 (11,000 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: Lake Creek to Hermit Creek CRA is located about seven miles west of the town of Westcliffe, administered by the Salida and San Carlos Ranger Districts in Custer and Fremont Counties. It is contiguous with the central part of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, from Cloverdale Basin and the Lake Creek drainage south to Hermit Pass and the Middle Taylor drainage. This area serves as a buffer between the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and the private land along the bottom of the slope. The scenic vistas from the summits of Eagle, Cottonwood and Hermit peaks towards the rest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Wet Mountain valley, and the San Luis valley are inspiring. The focal points of the northern and southern sections are the four alpine basins (Silver, Horseshoe, Hermit and Eureka lakes) at the head of Lake Creek and Middle Taylor Creek respectively. This CRA also holds three summits exceeding 13,000 in elevation; Eagle, Cottonwood and Hermit peaks. This CRA Public access to this area is by NFSR 198 (Lake Creek Road), NFSR 173 (North Taylor Road) and NFSR 160 (Hermit Pass Road).

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) Elevations range from 9,000 feet along the eastern perimeter to over 13,000 feet on Cloverdale and Hermit passes. Rock and alpine tundra cover sizeable areas at the highest elevations. The terrain is highly varied between alpine peaks and saddles along the main Sangre de Cristo ridgeline, with deeply incised valleys below. The vegetation pattern offers very high contrast between rock faces, alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and several large subalpine parks. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and/or shape. The central sections of the CRA incorporate the lower forested slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains below the wilderness boundary. The slopes are almost uniformly covered by dense forests of Douglas fir and white fir, transitioning to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. The dominant conifer forests, transition with scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak shrublands on south facing slopes. The Lake Creek and Middle Taylor Creek valleys are a mixture of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests intermixed with aspen stands and riparian wetlands. There are large stands of lodgepole pine throughout the mid elevations of the Lake Creek drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Habitat for lynx denning and foraging is found throughout the forested areas of this CRA. Habitat and nesting sites for northern goshawk are also found throughout the forested areas. North Taylor Creek is a suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. However, past reintroduction efforts in North Taylor Creek have produced less than pure genetic strains of this rare native fish. This CRA contains bighorn sheep summer and winter ranges. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall. The Lake Creek and Middle Taylor Creek drainages both contain a long cherry-stemmed road corridor, through the center of both the north and south sections of this CRA. Anglers and backcountry motorized campers heavily use the four-wheel drive roads and the surrounding lakes and peaks within this CRA. The South Lake Creek drainage does not have a NFS road or trail. A non-system trail used mostly by hunters leads to a rocky, seldom-visited valley below Eagle Peak. Lack of direct public access across private land to the east of the National Forest boundary between the Gibson Creek trailhead and the Brush Creek trailhead makes the central section of this CRA a relatively less visited area compared with others on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. There are roughly nine miles of trails within this CRA, including NFST 1354 (Silver Lake Trail), 752 (Cloverdale Basin Trail), 1353 (Hermit Lake Trail), and the lower portions of 1355 (South Brush Trail) and 1350 (Texas Creek Trail). Foot and horse travel is authorized on all of these trails. In addition, mountain bikes are allowed on NFST 1354 and 1353.

This area produces high quality water from the four alpine lakes. The soil is only disturbed in those few areas where mining or timber harvesting have occurred. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Parts of this CRA were heavily used for livestock grazing, mining, and limited timber harvesting during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Cloverdale mine operated in the northern part of this CRA during the late 1800s and then intermittently until the mid-1990s. The Rito Alto mine on the west side of Hermit Pass has a similar history. The wagon roads built to access these early mining facilities eventually became the four-wheel drive roads of today.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are half a dozen current mining claims within this CRA near the Cloverdale mine. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 10 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the CRA. Roughly 1,900 acres or 17%

of this CRA are identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 9,400 acres or 86% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that borders several residential developments along the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 3,900 acres of 266 Rare 2 4,000 acres of 3a Total – 7,900 | 11,000 | Acres removed to exclude Hatley and Lake Creek Association ditches, timber harvesting areas/ logging access roads in the Stover Gulch area, NFSR 173 and old Conquistador / Mountain Cliffe Ski Area; Acres added from consolidation of small blocks into one designated area, and to include adjoining lands with CRA characteristics (Hermit Pass and Big Cottonwood Creek). |

Sangre de Cristo: Medano Pass to Carbonate Mountain #15 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: Medano Pass to Carbonate Mountain CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is contiguous with the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, from Medano Pass south to Mount Zwischen, Mosca Pass and Carbonate Mountain. This CRA is located about 15 miles west of the community of Gardner. Public access to this area is via NFSR 559 (Medano Pass Road) and NFSR 583 (Mosca Pass Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. The dominant landscape feature in this CRA is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The forested slopes drop steeply to the rolling grasslands below. Elevations range from 9,000 along the eastern border to over 12,000 feet on Mount Zwischen and Carbonate Mountain. Vegetation includes a broad mix of forest types including bristlecone and limber pines, Engelmann spruce, subalpine, white and Douglas firs, and large contiguous stands of aspen on the flanks of Carbonate Mountain. There are several stands of large old-growth bristlecone and limber pines within this CRA, most notably in the Mount Zwischen and Dry Lakes areas.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Lynx denning and wintering habitat is somewhat scattered along the narrow band of forest that runs the length of this CRA. However, the whole area has been identified as an important linkage between lynx habitat on the west side of the San Luis Valley and habitat in the Wet Mountains to the east. Because of the relatively low elevation of the Sangre de Cristo crest in this area, it forms a natural wildlife migration corridor between the Upper Huerfano Valley and the San Luis Valley. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall. The foothills and grasslands to the east of this CRA provide an important elk wintering range and a pronghorn migration route. There are no NFS trails within the roadless tracts identified with this CRA. However, several non-system trails provide access for hunters and livestock grazing. Some of these well-established trails lead from NFSR 559 to Dry Lake, from Poison Creek to Pantleon Creek, and from Mosca Pass to the summit of Carbonate Mountain. The lack of public easements through the private lands along the eastern flanks of this CRA greatly restricts public access to much of the CRA. Except for big game hunting during the late summer and fall, recreation use of this CRA is light to non-existent. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Both Medano and Mosca Passes were key routes for Native American tribes and early European explorers.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

One parcel of private property (about 30 acres) is isolated in the center of the CRA just to the east of Carbonate Mountain. There is currently no road or trail access leading to this private property. The Muddy Creek livestock grazing allotment encompasses the northern part of this CRA near Medano Pass. This allotment has been vacant for over 20 years; it is proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. The Pantleon livestock grazing allotment encompasses the central part of this CRA to the north of Mosca Pass. A portion of the Huerfano livestock grazing allotment is included within the southern part of this CRA near Carbonate Mountain. Roughly 2,100 acres or 27% of this CRA is identified as being suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 2,600 acres or 34% of the CRA is within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 4,700 acres of 266 Rare 2 2,100 acres of 5 Rare 2 Total – 6,800 | 7,600 | Acres removed to exclude the service road for the Hudson ditch, which is located just north of Medano Pass. Acres added to include adjoining lands with CRA characteristics (Medano Pass). |

Sangre de Cristo: Silverheels Gulch to Hunts Creek #19 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: Silverheels Gulch to Hunts Creek CRA lies at the north end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Custer and Fremont Counties. Its southern boundary is contiguous with the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the backdrop for this area. Located between five and eight miles southeast of Salida, there is good access into the area from the Bear Creek Road and the Rainbow Trail. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. The dominant landscape feature in this CRA is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The forested slopes drop steeply to the rolling grasslands below. Elevations range from 9,000 along the eastern border to over 12,000 feet. Most of the area is forested, with ponderosa pine in the lower elevations and fir along the wilderness border. Mixed in with the evergreens are many stands of aspen and some small open meadows. Approximately 30% is mixed conifer, 21% piñon-juniper, 10% mountain shrub, 10% lodgepole pine, 9% aspen, 7% mountain grassland, 6% ponderosa pine, and 4% spruce-fir forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been documented using this area. This area is within the Canada lynx Sangre's LAU. Not surveyed northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) suitable habitat is found within this CRA. This CRA contains a rich diversity of lower, mid, and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Elk and deer are common in this area. The CRA provides winter concentration areas and severe winter range for elk and mule deer. Several raptors including bald eagles (Forest Service sensitive species), golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk (Forest Service sensitive species), Townsend's big-eared bat (Forest Service sensitive species), turkeys, and other wildlife species are also found.

The CRA is classified as semi-primitive motorized throughout. The Rainbow Trail, a motorized single-track trail, runs through the CRA. Recreation use includes hiking, biking, and riding along the Rainbow Trail. The area also gets moderate hunting use during elk and deer hunting seasons. Generally there are no soil movement problems within the CRA, and the streams provide good water to the Arkansas River. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There is evidence of scattered prehistoric Native American activity, historic logging and livestock grazing within this CRA. Mining and prospecting were limited with some quarrying activity taking place.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Bear Creek livestock grazing allotment covers part of the north end of this CRA. There are recreational outfitter-guide permits issued for this area. Roughly 900 acres or 15% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,800 acres or 79% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface. This CRA is made up of small fragments that buffer the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness from the forest boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1,700 acres of 266 Rare 2 | 6,000 | Acreage added: Adjustments made were to connect the CRA to the |
| 800 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | Wilderness boundary or Forest boundary. Acreage removed: Areas do not |
| Total – 2,500 | | meet the CRA criteria. |

Sangre de Cristo: West Creek to Big Cottonwood # 18 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: West Creek to Big Cottonwood CRA is located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Westcliffe in Custer County. It is administered by the San Carlos Ranger District. The CRA fills the narrow strip of NFS lands between the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness on the west, the forest boundary on the east, the Hayden Creek Road on the south, and West Creek on the north. The CRA is an extension of the wilderness area out to the forest boundary. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the backdrop for this area. Hamilton Baldy is in the center of the CRA. Cherry, Hamilton and Hayden Creeks drain this CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations range from 9,000 along the eastern border to over 12,000 feet. This area is located on the lower to mid-slope of the east side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This CRA contains a rich diversity of lower, mid, and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation in lower elevations consists of pinyon pine, ponderosa pine, and oak; fir is found in higher elevations along the wilderness boundary; aspen is mixed throughout. Approximately 40% is mixed conifer, 34% mountain shrub, 16% pinyon-juniper, and 4% aspen forests. There are many open parks in this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been documented using this CRA. This area is within the Canada lynx Sangre's LAU. There is a genetically pure greenback cutthroat trout (federally threatened) population in South Prong Hayden Creek. Not surveyed northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) suitable habitat is found within this CRA. This area contains important habitats for elk and mule deer, including severe winter range habitat areas for mule deer. In addition, elk and mule deer winter concentration areas are also present. Several raptors including bald eagles (Forest Service sensitive species), golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk (Forest Service sensitive species), Townsend's big-eared bat (Forest Service sensitive species), turkeys, and other wildlife species are also found.

The CRA is classified as semi-primitive motorized. It includes part of the Rainbow Trail. Recreation access is limited to the four-wheel drive Kerr Gulch Road, the Hayden Creek Road and the Rainbow Trail. Hiking and riding along the Rainbow Trail are the primary uses of this area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The Kerr Gulch Road, Hayden Creek Road, and the Rainbow Trail all provide a small amount of soil disturbance. These streams generally run clear and drain into the Arkansas River. This area has historically been used for hunting and providing wood for local residents. There has been limited mineral exploration throughout the area. There is evidence of limited prehistoric Native American sites within this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA forms a buffer between the private land on the east and the wilderness on the west. There are outfitter-guide special use permits issued for use within the CRA. Approximately 5,700 acres or 77% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,200 acres of 266 Rare 2 | 7,400 | Acreage added: Adjustments made were to connect the CRA to the |
| 200 acres of 8b | | Wilderness boundary or Forest boundary. Acreage removed: Areas do not |
| Total – 6,400 | | meet the CRA criteria. |

Scraggy Peaks #4 (15,500 acres)

1. Description

The Scraggy Peaks CRA is located on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo and Custer Counties, in the central part of the Wet Mountains, and west of the community of Beulah and east of State Highway 165. The primary public access points to this CRA from the east are from the South Creek and Squirrel Creek trailheads near Pueblo Mountain Park, and from State Highway 165 on the west via the South Creek, Davenport Campground, and Silver Circle trailheads.

The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between extensive forested slopes and ridges. The dominant landscape features in the CRA are the large and deep canyons cutting down through granite bedrock. Middle Creek, Squirrel Creek, and South Creek flow through three largest canyons. The intervening ridges are typically rugged and capped by scraggy rock formations. Elevations range from 7,000 feet along the eastern border, to 9,000 and 10,000 feet on the higher ridges near the western border. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak fields on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas fir forests dominate most of landscapes across this CRA. Stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine and Gambel oak occur on south facing aspects and the lower elevations of this area. Stands of aspen and spruce are present at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

There are patches of lynx denning habitat along the western edge of this CRA. Mexican spotted owls (federally threatened) have not been recorded in this CRA, but suitable nesting and roosting habitat is found throughout the area. Black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, elk and mule deer find year-round habitat here, especially in the lower areas.

The challenging terrain of this CRA makes for excellent backcountry recreation from spring through the fall. There is an extensive system of popular motorized trails throughout. Foot, horse, mountain bike, ATV and motorized trail bike travel is authorized on over 25 miles of trail, although several trail sections are too narrow for ATV use. Travel is restricted to foot and horse travel only on the easternmost 1.5 miles of NFST 1384 (Squirrel Creek Trail) and the connecting trail link to Pueblo Mountain Park. Several historic trails traversed the width of the CRA, linking State Highway 165 with NFSR 387 (North Creek Road) and the community of Beulah. The easternmost sections of these old trails originated or terminated on adjacent private lands. There are no public easements across these private lands. While the westernmost sections of these trails are still used by the public, the easternmost sections have fallen into disuse as public access from the east has become increasingly restricted over the past two decades.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 49,900 meters (30 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, source to CF&I diversion, within the Scraggy Peaks CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA was heavily used for livestock grazing, developed recreation facilities, and limited timber harvesting during the first half of the twentieth century. The old state highway linking Pueblo to the Wet Mountains traversed the width of this CRA until 1947, when Squirrel Creek flooded out major segments of the roadway. The road was rebuilt south of the current CRA, and the old state highway eventually became today's Squirrel Creek Trail. The Squirrel Creek National Historic District traverses the width of this roadless area. In 1919, Squirrel Creek was the location of the first professionally designed recreation sites in the National Forest System. There are many historic features still intact within the CRA, including a restored picnic pavilion, restored historic campsites and interpretive displays for hikers.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Beulah livestock grazing allotment once covered most of this CRA, but it was incrementally reduced over the past 40 years to only the most productive meadows near the Mingus homestead. The allotment has been vacant in recent years; it is proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. Roughly 6,500 acres or 42% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. About 65 acres of timber management was accomplished before 2001. Approximately 13,300 acres or 86% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interfaces (WUI) that border the community of Beulah and the residential developments along State Highway 165.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 269 Rare 2 – 8,200 | 15,500 | Acres removed to exclude timber harvesting activities/ logging access roads. |
| 2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | Acres added to the CRA boundaries include adjoining roadless lands to the south and east of the original boundaries. |
| Total – 10,600 | | |

Sheep Rock #52 (7,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Jefferson and Douglas counties west of Cheesman Reservoir. The area is accessed from NFSR 205 or 211. The eastern boundary of the CRA is private lands (Cheesman Reservoir), the remaining boundaries are Forest Service lands managed for timber, grazing and other forest activities. Forest lands adjacent to the southern boundary are managed for big game winter range, management indicator species and semi-primitive motorized recreation. The CRA has expansive landscapes with views of open montane shrubland that resulted from the Hayman Fire. Sheep Rock is a spectacular granite dome that can be seen from many viewpoints. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 6,900 to 7,670 feet. The 2002 Hayman Fire burned 100% of this area and changed the vegetation from montane forest to montane shrubland. Riparian habitat along the South Platte River is covered with grasses forbs and shrubs.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA has habitat for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (19%) and Pawnee montane skipper (3%). Colorado Natural Heritage Program ranked the South Platte River corridor an area of general biodiversity interest and as part of a Potential Conservation Area, is ranked as very high biodiversity significance. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. A unique feature of the CRA includes the Sheep Rock climbing area. The CRA borders Denver Water's Cheesman Reservoir and property that is mostly roadless. It contains a high quality fishery. There is minimal human activity within the CRA, but substantial erosion caused by wildfires. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA contains possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite. About 350 acres or 5% of this CRA was identified as suitable for timber production. Much of the area has been burned by wildfire. Approximately 3,000 acres or 42% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 346 Rare 2 – 2,300 | 7,100 | Added acres met the CRA criteria. |

Silverheels #39 (7,500 acres)

1. Description

The Silverheels CRA is located in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This CRA is located north of the Town of Fairplay, on the east side of Hoosier Ridge and the Continental Divide. The dominate landscape features are Mount Silverheels (13,822 feet) rising from the center of the CRA, and Palmer Peak (12,517 feet) in the southeast corner. The western boundary follows the east side of the Beaver Creek drainage and Beaver Creek, as well as the boundary of a parcel of private land. The southern boundary stretches east from Beaver Creek above old timber harvest units and roads within the Crooked Creek drainage, to Trout Creek. The eastern boundary follows Trout Creek and NFSR 194 north to a private land boundary in the headwaters of Tarryall Creek. The entire northern boundary follows adjacent private land consisting of many patented mining claims, within Montgomery Gulch. Access to the CRA is possible via NFSR 659 (Beaver Creek Road) to the east or NFSR 194 (Trout Creek Road) to the west.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations rise from roughly 10,500 feet in the southeast corner to 13,822 feet at the top of Mount Silverheels. Vegetation in the northwest is alpine tundra in the higher elevations; more moderate elevations across the south support spruce-fir, lodgepole and bristlecone pine, and aspen. Wetlands include examples of montane and subalpine riparian areas and willow carrs.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is located within the Kenosha Pass LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx. The federally threatened plant Penland eutrema (*Eutrema penlandii*) is also found within the CRA. The CRA also contains bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, and the Porter's feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*), which are listed as Forest Service sensitive species within the Rocky Mountain Region. The CRA is within the summer range of bighorn sheep, moose, and mountain goat, and the summer and winter range of elk and mule deer. Habitat for black bear, mountain lion, and ptarmigan is also located within the CRA. An elk calving area is located within the eastern portion of the CRA. The western portion of the CRA is within a severe winter area for mule deer, while the central portion is within a winter concentration area of this species. The CRA also contains a bighorn sheep summer concentration area.

The diverse mountain terrain provides a variety of recreation experiences from gold panning on the boundary in Beaver Creek to hunting, fishing and hiking. Motorized recreation, including ATV, motorcycle and snowmobile travel, takes place on roads, trails and old logging roads surrounding the CRA. Mount Silverheels is becoming a popular high 13,000 foot peak for climbers and is accessed on non-system and cross-country routes from Hoosier Pass, NFSR 659 (Beaver Creek Road) and NFSR 669 (Crooked Creek Road). The CRA provides a multitude of recreation opportunities including off trail hiking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing and opportunities for solitude. Many recreationists travel cross country to climb Mount Silverheels. There are no system trails within this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Beaver Creek supplies municipal water for the town of Fairplay.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreational special use permit holders are authorized to climb Mount Silverheels via several cross-country routes. The Silverheels C and H livestock grazing allotment is included in the lower elevation portions of the CRA. There are mining activities permitted within the Beaver Creek drainage, adjacent to the CRA. Approximately 1,500 acres or 20% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. No timber harvesting has occurred within the CRA since the turn of the century when it was mostly cut for mining purposes. Approximately 4,000 acres or 54% of the CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that surrounds the town of Alma to the west and Como to the northeast.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 248 Rare 2 – 6,600 | 7,500 | |
| 600 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | |
| Total – 7,200 | | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Spanish Peaks #10 (6,300 acres)

1. Description

The Spanish Peaks CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties and consists of scattered roadless tracts that surround and that are contiguous to the Spanish Peaks Wilderness. These tracts radiate outward from the wilderness area to the National Forest boundary. Public access across adjacent private lands to most of the CRA is extremely limited. County Road 360 heading southeast from the town of La Veta to NFST 1304 (Wahatoya Trailhead) leads to the only access point with a public right-of-

way. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. This CRA complex is aligned with the lower forested slopes of the Spanish Peaks twin massif. Elevations range from 8,400 feet to 10,400 feet. The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied and covered with vegetated slopes. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak fields on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most of this CRA complex. The most interesting features within the CRA are the dikes that radiate out from the Spanish Peaks like spokes on a wheel. The dikes are made of intrusive igneous rocks that pushed into cracks created as the Spanish Peaks rose up under sedimentary rocks. Erosion removed the softer sedimentary rock leaving walls of hard igneous rock one foot to 100 feet wide, up to 100 feet high, and as long as 14 miles. While the most striking of these dikes are located on private lands below the CRA, there are numerous dikes and dike segments within the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A variety of wildlife can be found including mountain lion, elk, mule deer, wild turkey and black bear. The west end tracts contain suitable lynx habitat and are included in a lynx linkage zone. There are 11,520 meters (7 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Spanish Peaks CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. All but the westernmost tracts of this CRA are located within the Spanish Peaks National Natural Landmark. The landmark was designated by the Secretary of Interior in 1976 to recognize and protect the many igneous dike formations. Historic foot and horse trails traverse a few of the tracts within the CRA. All of these old trails originated or terminated on adjacent private lands. There are no public easements across these private lands, and these trails have fallen into disuse as public access has become increasingly restricted by private residential developments over the past two decades. Recreational opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. Recreational use of this CRA is light to non-existent depending on the season. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The entire Spanish Peaks twin massif is considered to be a sacred landscape by several Native American tribal groups.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A portion of the West Peak livestock grazing allotment lies within the CRA. There are 27 head of cattle permitted in the White Creek and Chaparral drainages from mid-June through mid-October. The East Peak livestock grazing allotment has been vacant for over 10 years; it is proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. The northeast corner of this CRA is believed to overlay a portion of the surrounding Raton Basin methane gas field. Commercial development of this methane gas field is currently proceeding on many of the adjacent private lands east and south of the CRA. Only 60 acres or 1% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,800 acres or 92% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that flanks the eastern edge of the Cuchara community. Low-density residential developments are expanding along both the northern and southern boundaries of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 271 Rare 2 – 5,700 | 6,300 | Acres removed to exclude NFSR 442 and NFST 360) to the Wahatoya trailhead and Wahatoya Camp, exclude tracts near NFSR 46 that contain roads permitted under special use permit to adjacent rural subdivisions, and a potential reservoir site. |
| Proposed Spanish Peak – 1,300 | | |
| 1,700 acres of 3a | | |
| Total – 8,700 | | |

Square Top Mountain #49 (6,300 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Park County, 8.5 miles NW of Grant. The CRA is near Guanella Pass. It offers expansive views of alpine mountain terrain covered with tundra and conifer and aspen forests. The Square Tops Mountain is one of Colorado's 13,000 foot peaks and is a popular hiking destination. The CRA is accessed from NFST 600 and 634 off County Road 62 or NFSR 119. The Access road leads to the abandoned Geneva Ski area and a cabin in this unit. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 10,220 to 13,490 feet. Alpine tundra and subalpine forest are found within the CRA. Cover includes grasses, forbs, sedges, rushes, rock, willow, aspen, spruce, Douglas-fir, and bristle cone and lodgepole pines.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Approximately 27% of the CRA provides potential habitat for the Canada lynx (federally threatened) and 11% is considered part of lynx linkage habitats. The area also provides year round habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan (Forest Service sensitive species), and habitat for the boreal toads (Forest Service sensitive species) and at least seven Forest Service sensitive plant species. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program ranked the Guanella Pass Potential Conservation Area as having moderate biodiversity significance. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas within the CRA. The area is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area. Geneva Creek tributary is on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality due to metal contamination.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Geneva grazing allotment is within the CRA. There are possible base and precious metal deposits in NW part of the area. None of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. In 1963, 297 acres within the CRA were commercially thinned. Approximately 3,700 acres or 59% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 144 Rare 2 – 5,900 | 6,300 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Starvation Creek #22 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

The Starvation Creek CRA is at the southern end of the Sawatch Range west of Poncha Pass. The Continental Divide between Marshall Pass and Poncha Pass is the western boundary of this area. It is located in Saguache County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. It includes the bare ridges of Antora Peak and Sheep Mountain along the Continental Divide. Starvation Creek is at the heart of this CRA. With headwaters near the Continental Divide on the west, the stream drops through thick forest and joins Poncha Creek, the area’s northern boundary. Silver Creek flows through the southern basin of this CRA; Antora Peak is in the southwest part. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation is predominantly lodgepole pine and aspen, with some areas of ponderosa pine and riparian habitat in lower elevations and spruce-fir in the upper reaches near the Continental Divide. Approximately 31% is lodgepole pine, 29% spruce-fir, 11% aspen, 9% mountain grassland, 8% mixed conifer, and 7% alpine tundra.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been frequently documented using this area. This area is within the Monarch Pass LAU and Poncha Lynx Linkage Area for Canada lynx. Suitable boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species) breeding habitat is present in several of the higher elevation drainages; however, surveys to determine presence have yet to be completed. Northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) are found within this CRA. Gunnison sage grouse (Forest Service sensitive species) utilize this area for summer and fall brood rearing in riparian and sagebrush habitats. This CRA is immediately adjacent to a Gunnison sage grouse reintroduction site in the Poncha Pass area. This area contains important habitats for bighorn sheep (summer range), elk and mule deer including elk production areas, elk and mule deer summer/winter range, and winter concentration areas as well as severe winter range for mule deer. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk (Forest Service sensitive species), Townsend’s big-eared bat (Forest Service sensitive species), and other wildlife species are also found there.

The view is natural appearing, but contains no unique qualities. Mineral exploration has been light. Some timber harvesting has occurred through the years. There are some recreational impacts along Silver Creek and the Colorado Trail. The CRA is classified as mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are many opportunities for recreation along the foot trail in Starvation Creek, the Silver Creek mountain bike trail, the Continental Divide Trail on the west, and on a rough jeep road along Poncha Creek from Marshall Pass that nearly reaches Highway 285. Mountain bikers can descend from the Continental Divide Trail along Silver Creek, and make a loop via Marshall Pass, or even come from Monarch Pass. Others continue east to connect with the Rainbow Trail in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The headwaters of Poncha Creek serves as public drinking water for the town of Poncha Springs. There is evidence of limited prehistoric and historic Native American sites.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is surrounded by NFS lands. The Little Cochetopa grazing allotment covers the eastern end of the CRA. There are outfitter-guide recreational special use permits issued for this area. Roughly 1,400 acres or 19% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Most timber is spruce and fir with some lodgepole pine. Approximately 350 acres or 5% of this CRA lie within the Silver Lakes Estates wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 264 Rare 2 – 8,200 | 7,600 | Acreage removed: Activity layer shows roads on the west side of this CRA. |

Tanner Peak #1 (17,600 acres)

1. Description

Tanner Peak CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Freemont County and lies about ten miles south of Cañon City, at the extreme north end of the Wet Mountains. The CRA is contiguous to the 27,200 acres identified in the BLM-administered Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area. The scenic vistas from the summits of Tanner Peak and Curley Peak towards the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Wet Mountain valley, and Arkansas River valley are truly inspiring. The principal public access into this CRA is from three trailheads located along NFSR 143 (Oak Creek Grade Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. Viewed from the east, the shrub and forested ridges leading to the summits of Tanner Peak and Curley Peak are the dominant features of the landscape in this CRA. The west side of this CRA drops sharply into the rugged granite canyons and cliffs of the BLM-administered Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and/or shape. Elevations range from 6,300 feet to over 9,000 feet along the main ridge connecting Tanner Peak and Curley Peak. Vegetation ranges from pinyon and juniper woodlands and Gambel oak shrublands at the lower elevations and on south facing aspects, to ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and white fir, on the higher elevations and north facing aspects. Gambel oak shrublands are the most common vegetative community across this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Golden and bald eagles and numerous species of songbirds frequent the area. Several peregrine falcon nesting sites are located within this CRA. Mexican spotted owls (federally listed as threatened) have been sighted near this CRA and suitable nesting and roosting habitat is found throughout the CRA. Degener beardtongue (*Penstemon degeneri*), is found in several locations across this CRA. This plant species is on the Forest Service's list of sensitive plant species for the Rocky Mountain Region. Wildlife and wildlife values include both summer and winter range for elk, deer, and bighorn sheep. Mountain lion, wild turkey, black bear, and prairie rattlesnakes are also found.

Recreational activities include hiking, rock climbing, hunting, and horseback riding and motorized trail riding. A popular rock climbing area has recently developed near the East Bear Gulch trailhead. Approximately 20 miles of maintained trail provide good public access along the major ridges of this CRA. However, the steep and rugged topography of this area cause most of this CRA to be extremely difficult for off-trail travel. Foot, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on roughly 17.5 miles of trail in this CRA. Over the past decade, ATV riding has become the dominant mode of travel on these trails. Approximately 2.3 miles of trail are restricted to foot, horse and mountain bike travel modes only.

There are a few signs of late nineteenth and early twentieth century logging and mining activities near the summits of Tanner Peak and Curley Peak; otherwise this CRA offers very little evidence of human activities or disturbance beyond the trail systems. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A portion of the abandoned right-of-way for the late nineteenth century Grape Creek railroad passes through the western edge of this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A household spring development and waterline are permitted near Chandler Creek on the eastern perimeter of this CRA. No part of this CRA has been identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 8,100 acres or 46% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that flanks the southern edge of Cañon City. Low-density residential developments are expanding along both the northern and southern boundaries of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 268 Rare 2 – 17,800 | 17,600 | Acres excluded due to the power line that parallels the Oak Creek Road, old quartz mines/roads near the Forest boundary on the Oak Creek Road, and the BLM road that follows Bear Gulch down to the Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area. |

Thirtynine Mile Mountain #44 (10,900 acres)

1. Description

Thirtynine Mile Mountain CRA is located on the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This CRA is located on Thirtynine Mile Mountain which consists of a series of peaks (one at 11,549 feet and one at 10,841 feet) about five miles wide that is south of Elevenmile Reservoir on the southeastern edge of South Park. The CRA encompasses those peaks, straddling the divide between the South Platte River and Arkansas River basins. Great vistas are available from the high points, including Pikes Peak to the east. The southern boundary of the CRA is the National Forest boundary. Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir is north of the CRA and Colorado State Highway 9 and Current Creek Pass is to the east. Access to the CRA is via NFSR 270 off of Park County Road 116 off the northeast side of Current Creek Pass. No system trails exist within the CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The vegetation in the CRA is predominately Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir mixed with large stands of aspen. There are areas of ponderosa pine mixed with bristlecone pine and limber pine in the south and some mountain grasslands and meadows in the west. With elevations ranging between 9,500 feet to 11,550 feet, the CRA provides marked geographic and ecological changes from the lower elevations of South Park and the Arkansas River Valley. Running east-west, the Thirtynine Mile Mountain is the remnant north slope of the huge Guffey volcanic area, active over 30 million years ago.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The rare pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*) and bristlecone pine/gooseberry-currant (*Pinus aristata/Ribes montigenum*) upper montane woodlands are found here. An elk calving area is located throughout the CRA. The CRA is within the summer range of elk and mule deer, while the periphery of the CRA is within the severe winter range of these species. The northern and southern portions of the CRA are within winter concentration areas for mule deer and elk, respectively. The CRA is also within a summer concentration area for black bear. There are vast populations of Parry's oatgrass (*Danthonia parryi*) that are unrivaled in extent and vigor anywhere else in the South Park area. Riparian areas are extremely productive and in good condition. Habitat for mountain lion and pronghorn is also located within the CRA.

Isolated by private land, this area offers remote and varied backcountry experiences, many off-trail, for the hiker and deer and elk hunter. The CRA offers multiple opportunities for non-motorized dispersed recreation. There are no system trails that exist within the CRA. Users can access the CRA off-trail on foot or on horseback. Recreation opportunities include viewing wildlife, hunting, and exploring off trail. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA encompasses parts of both the Thirtynine Mile Mountain North and the Thirtynine Mile Mountain South C and H livestock grazing allotments. These cattle grazing permits have been active since the 1940s. The Forest Service has combined management on both of these allotments so that the permittee has merged separate north and south herds. The permittee now rotates his cattle through all ten pastures of the two allotments and spends at least a week less time in each. Two hundred cow/calf pairs run on these allotments from June 6 to October 2. Range conditions across the north and south sides of this expansive mountain are good to excellent. The only permitted recreation special use is for hunting outfitting and guiding. Approximately 5,450 acres or 50% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The last occurrence of timber harvesting in these area occurred in 1970s to 1980s. Approximately 5,700 acres or 52% of the CRA is within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 253 Rare 2 – 9,500 | 10,900 | Acres removed to exclude previous timber treatment areas/roads and |
| 1,300 acres of 5 Rare 2 | | decommissioned NFSR 267. Acres added due to a recent land purchase of |
| Total – 10,800 | | private land within the designate National Forest boundary. |

Thunder Butte #51 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Douglas County, 1.5 miles NW of West Creek. The CRA has expansive landscapes with views of open montane forest and shrubland that resulted from the Hayman Fire. The area can be accessed from NFSR 523. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The area contains Montane forest and shrubland. Cover includes grasses, sedges, rushes, rock, blue spruce, Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Elevations range from 6,500 to 9,700 feet. The 2002 Hayman and Schoonover fires burned almost 100% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA has habitat for Preble’s meadow jumping mouse and Mexican spotted owls, both federally listed species. The Thunder Butte Mexican spotted owl Protected Area Center is located within the CRA. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program ranked Thunder Butte Potential Conservation Area as moderate biodiversity significance within the CRA. The CRA shows minimal human activity, but has substantial erosion caused by wildfires. Some small tributaries are degraded by excess sediment. The area is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. The CRA has a popular unnamed rock climbing area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Malta–Waterton power line is within the CRA, along with the power line access road. There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals such as topaz, quartz and amazonite. About 2,700 acres or 36% of this CRA was identified as suitable for timber production. In 1988, 468 acres of commercial and precommercial thinning were accomplished within the CRA. 100% of the area has been burned by wildfire. Approximately 7,000 acres or 95% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 347 Rare 2 – 4,600 | 7,400 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

Weston Peak #33 (15,300 acres)

1. Description

The Weston Peak CRA is located in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County, and in the San Isabel National Forest, Leadville Ranger District, in Lake County. The area lies southwest of the town of Fairplay and just north of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. The southern boundary follows NFSR 174 and the power line that runs over Weston Pass. The western boundary lies adjacent to multiple parcels of private land and Gold Basin. The northern boundary stretches from just south of Horseshoe Mountain and the Leavick Tarn, to Lamb Mountain. The eastern boundary runs from Lamb Mountain south, along the base of the Mosquito Range, following the private land boundary in Watrous Gulch to the powerlines. Dominate features include multiple peaks over 13,000 feet on the Mosquito divide, as well as Weston Peak (13,572 ft), and Lamb Mountain (12,438 ft). There are scenic vistas of South Park, Pikes Peak, the Collegiate Peaks and upper Arkansas Valley, and the mountains of the Tarryall Range and the Sangre de Christos’. Access to the CRA is possible via the Weston Pass road (Park County Road 22), the Fourmile Road (Park County Road 18) and NFSR 175 (Breakneck Pass). Trail access for non-motorized access is possible via NFST 645 (Sheep Creek Trail) which skirts the eastern boundary of the CRA or NFST 684 (Twelvemile Lake Trail) which ends at Twelvemile Lake in the northeast central portion of the CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations in the CRA reach from 10,000 feet in the Twelvemile Creek valley, 13,572 feet on Weston Peak, to 13,900 feet on Horseshoe Mountain. This CRA consists of alpine and subalpine areas of the Mosquito Range that divide the upper Arkansas and South Platte Rivers. Vegetation includes alpine tundra, aspen, spruce-fir, lodgepole, bristlecone, and limber pines, and riparian wetlands. There are quite a few open parks and willow-dominated riparian stringers.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is located within the Tennessee Pass and Buffalo Peaks LAUs and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the Canada lynx (federally threatened). The CRA also contains Forest Service sensitive species bighorn sheep, and ptarmigan. The rare plant species Hoosier Pass ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis globularis*) and Gray’s draba (*Draba grayana*) are also found in the CRA. The CRA provides year round range for bighorn sheep at Weston Peak, summer range for elk, mule deer and mountain goat, winter range/severe winter range for mule deer on the South Park side of the CRA, and an elk calving area, located within the eastern portion of the CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs throughout the CRA. Habitat for moose, black bear, and mountain lion can also be found within the CRA. The area was last grazed by domestic sheep in the 1970s and by cattle in the 1980s. No timber harvesting has occurred within the CRA since the turn of the century when timber was cut mostly for mining purposes.

The CRA offers multiple opportunities for non-motorized dispersed recreation. Trail systems within the CRA include NFST 684 (Twelvemile Lake Trail) and 645 (Sheep Creek Trail). Users can also access the CRA off-trail on foot off or Weston Pass. Recreation opportunities include hiking, horse back riding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, hunting, exploring off trail and seeking solitude. For backcountry recreationists, the CRA has challenging alpine terrain with glacial cirques and cliffs. Peak climbing, fly-fishing, hunting, backcountry skiing, and backpacking are some of the many options. An extensive cave system exists within the CRA in the Cave Creek drainage. Public use is extremely limited due to the difficulty in locating the cave entrance. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits have been issued that authorize activities within this CRA. The main activity authorized is for hunting outfitter-guides, and traveling cross country via foot or horseback. No permits for overnight camps have been issued. The boundary of the Weston Peak CRA contains no active grazing allotments. Range conditions in the area vary from fair to excellent. The Union horse and cattle allotment is located in this CRA. Approximately 1,600 acres or 10% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The majority of this area is on slopes greater than 35% and would require roads to access for harvesting. Approximately 8,300 acres or 54% of this CRA lie within WUI. The extreme southeast corner and along the northern boundary of the CRA around private land and subdivisions lie within the wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 249 Rare 2 – 13,000 | 15,300 | Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA. |

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

Alamosa River, #R209Q3 (4,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in the Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest within Conejos County. The northern boundary is the Alamosa River and National Forest System Road (NFSR) 250 (Alamosa-Conejos River road). It is adjacent to the Willow Mountain CRA along the southwestern boundary. The western and eastern boundaries are National Forest Service lands. A section of the southern boundary is the La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife boundary. Two private land parcels are located along the northern and southern boundaries. General access to the CRA is provided by NFSR 250. Due to the steep terrain associated with the river canyon walls, suitable access routes from NFSR 250 are limited. Existing high-clearance, four-wheel drive roads provide closer access. These include NFSR 101 (Fox Creek Road), 240 (La Jara Creek Road) accessing Willow Mountain, 248 (Jim Creek Road) and 249 (Bancos) accessing the Fox Creek area, and 259 accessing the Alamosa River area. NFSR 260 (Silver Lakes Road) provides access to Willow Mountain on the area's north and west boundary. Both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities are provided on National Forest System Trails. There are currently two designated motorized trails within the CRA. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized by gentle to steep alpine slopes and ridges with stands of aspen, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. The forested areas are interspersed with fescue grassland and scrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

There is evidence of historical timber harvest and mining. With the exception of historical timber harvest, this CRA is relatively natural in appearance and has long term, intact and functioning ecological processes. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), Mexican spotted owl (threatened) and the southwestern willow flycatcher (endangered). The CRA also provides habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: Bighorn sheep, and American marten, both of which have documented occurrences in the CRA. The roadless character is important to these species. There is a population of native Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Rhodes Gulch. The area provides a variety of opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, viewing scenery, stream fishing, motorcycling, ATV, and mountain biking. Big game hunting occurs in the fall. Because of the close proximity of BLM and state lands, visitors tend to explore these unroaded adjacent areas. There are no roads in the CRA and approximately nine miles of motorized trails. This CRA is within a State defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards with the exception of the Alamosa River. The Alamosa River has been identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. It has been impaired by both natural contamination sources (hydro thermally altered geology/soils) and by historic mining. Air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Outfitters and Guide permits are authorized, primarily for fall use. Livestock Grazing is allowed, with cattle and sheep allotments. Range improvements include fences. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are no active claims, leases or nominations. The CRA has a medium to high potential for mineral development. Lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Some WUI (Intermix) exists on north boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 5,100 | 4,900 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Antora Meadows–Bear Creek, #R2093 (22,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in the northern part of the Rio Grande National Forest administered by the Saguache Ranger District in Saguache County. Its northern border is the Continental Divide shared with the Gunnison National Forest. The southern boundary is BLM mixed with some private lands, and the eastern and western boundaries are Forest Service lands. The CRA can be accessed by NFSR 860 (Indian Park), along its southwestern border. A portion of NFSR 880 passes through the southeast portion of this CRA. Antora Meadows road extends 4.5 miles to a private in-holding in the area. The following National Forest System non-motorized trails are located in the CRA: NFST 767 (East Middle Creek), 766 (Indian Creek), and 763 (Flagstaff Creek). The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The CRA is characterized by drainages running through steep narrow canyons. Some mountain parks can be found in the area. Antora Meadows is characterized by mostly north-south canyons; with some canyons running west to east. Vegetation is bunchgrass/ponderosa pine in lower elevations, some lodgepole pine

in mid-elevations, and spruce/fir at high elevations. There is some subalpine and alpine vegetation along the Continental Divide. Bear Creek encompasses the headwaters of Middle Creek and Indian Creek and a portion of Bear Creek. It is the largest roadless area in Game Management Unit 681.

2. Roadless Characteristics

There is historical timber harvest, patented mining claims and small-scale sawmills that operated in the late 1800s and early 1900s and homestead sites in the CRA. This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The area hosts an array of habitats, covering a range from sagebrush to alpine tundra. This CRA provides habitat or potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and the Mexican spotted owl. Although, it is a low use area for lynx, it does border or contribute to the Poncha Pass Lynx Linkage area and lynx have been known to pass through. The CRA also provides habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, bighorn sheep, wolverine (along the Continental Divide), and goshawk (nesting documented). Blue grouse have also been documented in the CRA. The CRA provides deer and elk winter habitat. In addition, this is one area of GMU 681 in which elk and deer take refuge from adjacent hunting pressure. The main trailhead leading into this area is a base camp for hunters seeking a backcountry hunting experience. Other game species present include black bear, and bighorn sheep. Lower to mid elevations of this CRA is important to the Trickle Mountain herd of bighorn sheep.

The upper reaches of East Middle Creek boast an introduced population of pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The streams in the area, including West Middle Creek, the main stem of Middle Creek, and Indian Creek, support sport fisheries of brook and brown trout in a network of beaver ponds. There is a sense of remoteness in the northwest portion of the CRA (Antero Peak) due to limited vehicle access. The area near Antora Meadows receives high use during hunting season. Traffic along the Middle Creek Road in the south end diminishes the sense of remoteness and solitude of the CRA. There are 17 miles of non-motorized trails in the CRA, and approximately 5.2 miles of motorized trails including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail/Colorado Trail (CDNST/CT). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Special use permits are held by several outfitters and guides for summer/fall backcountry activities and fall hunting. Livestock Grazing occurs within the CRA and range improvements include fences and water developments. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. Maintenance activities and motorized access are covered in Allotment Management Plans. Approximately 4.5 miles of a gas pipeline occurs in the CRA. The CRA has a low potential of mineral development. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. There are no WUIs or CWPPs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 22,900 | 22,800 | Mapping precision. |

Beartown, #R20961 (2,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is in the western part of the Rio Grande National Forest, adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness in San Juan County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. NFSR 506 (Bear Creek) separates this CRA from the Indian Ridge CRA just to the east. The CRA lies along the boundary of two forests, the Rio Grande National Forest lands on the north and the San Juan National Forest lands to the south. This CRA is located in the headwaters area of upper Rio Grande and borders the Continental Divide. Access to this area is by NFSR 520 (Rio Grande Road) and 506 (Beartown Road). There are no NFSTs within the CRA. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. It is characterized by east facing slopes, moderate to steep alpine and mountain slopes, ridges in the southern portion and toe slopes which fan into the valley bottoms. Kobresia and forbs are on the alpine ridges. The mountain slopes have subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce with Rocky Mountain whortleberry. Willow and sedges occur in the valley bottoms.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential quality, relatively un-fragmented habitat and denning potential for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The area also provides potential habitat for wolverine and American marten, a Forest Service sensitive species. Possible wolverine tracks have been noted nearby along the Continental Divide. Beaver, black bear, moose, ptarmigan have been documented. This area also provides summer range for elk and mule deer.

There are no motorized routes in the CRA, and because of this, there is a sense of remoteness and solitude. The area is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Approximately 2.7 miles of non-motorized trails occur in the area (CDNST/CT). This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Outfitters and guide have special use permits for summer backcountry activities. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for permit holders for range improvements. There are several private in-holdings in the CRA. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area is administratively unavailable for leasing. There are no designated WUI or CWPPs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2,400 | 2,400 | No change. |

Beaver Mountain, #R209DE (7,100 acres)

1. Description

Beaver Mountain CRA is located approximately three miles southeast of the town of South Fork, in Rio Grande Country. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. The northwestern boundary is the South Fork of the Rio Grande and US Highway 160 intermixed with private lands. The remaining boundaries are adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest Service lands managed for deer and elk winter range (northeast portion) and for dispersed recreation and general forest activities (east and southern portion). General access roads within close proximity of this area are US Highway 160 on its north and western boundary; NFSR 360 (Beaver Creek) on its southern boundary, and NFSR 350 (Willow Creek) on its eastern boundary. The area contains portions of two NFST motorized trails. It had an extensive road system associated with the old railroad tie cutting activity. The old road systems are now used as trails. The CRA is adjacent to the town of South Fork and several nearby subdivisions. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This eco-section is characterized by steeply sloping to precipitous mountains dissected by many narrow stream valleys with steep gradients. Upper mountain slopes and crests may be covered by snowfields and glaciers. High plateaus and steep walled canyons are common. The area is characterized as high elevation, mountainous terrain with Engelmann spruce/fir stands. Numerous secondary streams are within this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Historical mining is evident within the CRA. Timber harvest has occurred in the CRA and there are managed stands of timber along the CRA boundary. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl. The CRA also provides potential habitat for Forest Service sensitive species American marten and wolverine. Nesting goshawks have been documented near the northeast boundary. The CRA provides summer and winter range for deer, elk and moose, and actual use and potential reproduction areas for Merriam turkey. Black bear and mountain lion among other species also occupy the CRA. A portion of CRA was burned in the 2002 Million Fire; consequently there is an increase habitat for cavity nesting species. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Outfitters and guide have special use permits for summer backcountry activities. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water developments. Motorized access is allowed for permit holders for range improvements. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases at this time, however there are nominations. Lease stipulations for the area are no surface occupancy. Some WUI (Intermix) occurs on north boundary. There are currently no CWPPs.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7,100 | 7,100 | No change. |

Bennet Mountain–Blowout–Willow Creek–Lion Point–Greenie Mountain, #R209M2 (52,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located south of Del Norte, in Rio Grande County. It is administered by both the Divide and Conejos Peak Ranger Districts. Its southern boundary is the Alamosa River corridor and NFSR 250 which includes Forest Service and private land. The eastern boundary is the forest boundary with adjacent lands primarily BLM mixed with some private. Its western boundary is Rio Grande National Forest lands. Its northern boundary is private lands along Pinos Creek, intermixed with Forest Service lands. Forest Service lands to the east and north of the CRA are managed as deer and elk winter range, the remainder of the adjacent Forest Service lands are managed for recreation and general forest activities. The area is accessed from the east by NFSR 330 (Bennett Mountain road), 14 (Pinos Creek road), 328 (Burro Creek road), 267 (Bonafacio road) and from the north by NFSR 320 (Francisco Creek road) and 237 (Willow Creek road) and 250 (Alamosa-Conejos River road) from the south. NFSR 280 (Blowout Pass-Willow Creek road), 237 (Willow Creek road) and Spring Creek road are adjacent to the area’s eastern boundary. NFSR 271 (Cat Creek road, and Lion Point-Greenie Mountain), 271.2B (Deer Creek road), and 236 also provide access near this area. There is numerous Forest trails open to both motorized and non-motorized users.

The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The Bennett Mountain portion of the CRA traverses low elevation terrain (foothills) with pinyon-juniper and Ponderosa pine stands to mid-elevation mountainous terrain comprised of Douglas-fir and aspen stands to high elevation Engelmann spruce/fir stands interspersed with aspen. Several major drainages are within the area. The Blowout Pass-Willow Creek portion of the CRA is comprised of numerous steep-sided drainages with Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands with intermingled aspen stands. The Lion Point-Greenie Mountain portion of the CRA is comprised of low-elevation terrain with pinyon juniper stands and several deep canyons emanating from Greenie Mountain. The upper-elevations of Green Ridge and Lion Point have Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands interspersed with aspen.

2. Roadless Characteristics

In general, the area is natural appearing and the area’s long term ecological processes are intact and functioning. There is evidence of historic logging and fire occurrence. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican Spotted owl. Lynx have been documented in the CRA and it is considered a high use Lynx area. There is also the potential for lynx production (denning) in this CRA. The CRA provides habitat or potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep (winter/seasonal range), American marten, American three-toed woodpecker, wolverine, and boreal owl (nesting documented adjacent to this CRA). The Middle Fork of San Francisco from the headwaters to the Forest boundary has an introduced population of pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout. MIS likely to be found in the CRA include hermit thrush and brown creeper. The CRA contains year round mule deer and elk range and production. There are several major drainages with wildlife value. The CRA provides big game refuge and is popular with bow hunters.

There are approximately 44 miles of motorized trails and 28 miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. Once away from the existing trails, one can get a sense of seclusion because of the area’s size. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are private in-holdings within the CRA. Outfitters and guides have special use permits for summer/fall backcountry activities and fall hunting. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for permit holders for range improvements. Approximately one mile of overhead telephone line is located along the Pinos Creek area. There is a medium to high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases at this time; however there are nominations on the Bennett Portion of the CRA. Lease stipulations for the area are no surface occupancy. There are approximately 500 acres of land previously managed for timber production. There are no WUI or CWPPs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 53,000 | 52,100 | Mapping precision, minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, excluding an existing road, and mapping corrections to exclude timber harvested and roaded areas. |

Big Buck–Kitty–Ruby, #R20960 (9,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in located approximately 13 miles south of Lake City in Hindsdale County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District on the Rio Grande NF. It is adjacent to the Carson Peak CRA #45 (6,000 acres) on the Gunnison National Forest. The eastern and western boundaries are managed for recreation and general forest activities. Its southeastern boundary is private land (Pearl Lakes Trout Club). Access is by NFSR 516 (Mason Creek road) and 518 (Heart Lake road) which border the southern boundary of this area. There are several NFSTs within the area providing motorized uses. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by gentle to steep alpine slopes, ridges in the northern portion, and gentle to moderate slopes with floodplains, toe slopes, and fan in canyons and valley bottoms. The alpine ridges have kobresia and forbs with mountain slopes composed of subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry. Valley bottoms are composed of willow, sedges, Thurber, and Arizona fescues. Major drainages include Buck Creek, Kitty Creek, and Ruby Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

There is evidence of historical timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and the southwestern willow flycatcher (endangered). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. It is considered a high use area for lynx and it borders the Continental Divide where high use is connected to the San Juan NF. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: goshawk, American marten (documented occurrence), wolverine, American three-toed woodpecker, and ptarmigan. The CRA provides potential peregrine falcon nesting sites. The area is big game summer range, elk production and habitat for moose. This area is managed for semi-primitive motorized opportunities. Approximately three miles of the CDNST (non-motorized) occurs in the CRA. This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Once away from the trail system and because of the limited access to the area, one can get a sense of remoteness and seclusion when in the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Outfitters and guide have special use permits for fall/winter backcountry activities and fall hunting. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is permitted for range management. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 10 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Big Buck/Kitty/Ruby Colorado Roadless Area. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There are no WUI or CWPPs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 9,800 | 9,900 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Box–Road Canyon, #R20964 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is approximately 15 miles west and south of Creed, in Hindsdale County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness on the south boundary, private land along the Rio Grande corridor and National Forest lands along the north and western boundary managed for recreation and general forest activities. The only access is by NFSR 520 (Rio Grande road), which borders a portion of the northern boundary. There are no NFSTs within the area. The area is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. A small area in Box Canyon is managed, designated and eligible as a Scenic River. This CRA is managed mostly under a backcountry management prescription. There is also an area managed as dispersed recreation near the Box Canyon Homeowners Group. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This CRA is characterized by moderate to very steep canyon slopes with rocky, broken, highly dissected terrain on the northern exposures. The main plant associations are subalpine fir-Engelmann spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry, aspen and Thurber fescue.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It is within or adjacent to a high use area for lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn Sheep, goshawk (documented occurrence), and

American marten. Bald eagles have been observed using the CRA in winter. This CRA provides elk and mule deer summer and winter range; bighorn sheep summer, winter and production habitat and habitat for moose. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are administratively unavailable within the CRA. WUI (Intermix) currently is being developed on northeast boundary. There is currently no CWPP developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,500 | 1,400 | Mapping precision. |

Bristol Head, #R20975 (46,100 acres)

1. Description

Bristol Head CRA is a large roadless area located several miles west of Creede, in Mineral County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. The northern border is the Continental Divide, adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness in the GMUG National Forest. Its southwest boundary is Forest Service lands managed for wild and scenic recreation and bighorn sheep habitat. A small section along the middle of the eastern and western boundary is managed for deer and elk winter range, and the remainder of the boundaries are Forest Service lands managed for general forest activities. Access is by US Highway 149 along the upper western boundary; NFSR 532 (Bristol Head road) near the mid-western boundary, NFSR 509 (Santa Maria) and NFSR 508 (Shallow Creek road) at the southeast boundary, NFSR 507 (Miner Creek road) at the eastern boundary, and NFSR 505 (Rat Creek road) at the northeast boundary. There are extensive Forest trail miles within the area available to motorized and non-motorized users. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. This area is characterized by gentle alpine slopes from Bristol Head and Table Mountain to Snow Mesa, steep cliffs below and south of Bristol Head, gentle to moderate mountain slopes with flood plain, toe slopes and fans in canyons and valley bottoms. The gentle alpine slopes are composed of Kobresia and forbs. The moderate mountain slopes have subalpine fir-Engelmann spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry. Willows and sedges are in the valley bottoms.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area is relatively natural in appearance although there is evidence of historical mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: Bighorn sheep, American marten, and wolverine. Northern goshawk is documented in this CRA. This CRA provides elk and mule deer summer range and production areas. The south and east portions of this CRA are winter concentration areas. The area provides moose habitat and is adjacent to priority habitat for moose in North and South Clear Creeks. The Seepage Creek drainage and cliffs east of the Santa Maria Reservoir are a summer concentration area for bighorn sheep. An active bald eagle nesting site is adjacent to the boundary. There is potential peregrine falcon nesting sites. Vesper sparrow and lark sparrows have been documented in the CRA.

This area is managed for semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. There is approximately 18 miles of motorized trails including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and Colorado Trail and 13 miles of non-motorized trails. One can get a sense of a sense of remoteness and seclusion within the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are summer, fall and winter outfitter and guide activities. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water developments. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings. The area's eastern area has some potential for mineral activity and some prospective drilling has occurred in the McKenzie Mountain area. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are administratively unavailable within the CRA. There is no WUI or CWPP designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 46,400 | 46,100 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Butterfly, #R209C3 (1,900 acres)

1. Description

Butterfly CRA is located approximately 22 miles east of the town of Saguache, in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. This CRA is adjacent to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and serves as a buffer zone for the wilderness area. It is bordered along its northwestern side by NFSR 982 (Rock Creek). The Forest lands adjacent to the northern boundary are managed for deer and elk winter range. BLM and private land are located along the western boundary. There are no Forest trails in the CRA. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 feet. The area consists almost entirely of extremely steep terrain along the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, with open mountainous slopes and drainages sloping to the west. Vegetation ranges from oakbrush in the lower foothills to Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir intermingled with aspen in the higher elevations and a few grassy south-facing open slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. There is evidence of historical mining and timber harvest. The majority of the area appears natural with the exception of numerous historical mining sites. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for American marten, a Forest Service sensitive species. The few grassy south-facing open slopes provide good winter and summer range for deer and elk. The lower elevations are near the home range of the Poncha Pass Gunnison Sage Grouse population, and probably support the birds at some point during the year. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs. There are currently no range improvements. Motorized access is allowed for future range improvements. Patented mines are found in the vicinity of Rock Creek and prospect holes are common throughout the area. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing, with no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There is no WUI or CWPP designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1,900 | 1,900 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries and excluding an existing road. |

Chama Basin, #R20901 (21,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in both Conejos County Colorado, and Archuleta County, Colorado. It is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is adjacent to the South San Juan Wilderness area on its northeastern boundary. The southeastern boundary is Rio Grande National Forest lands prescribed for recreation and general forest activities. The remaining boundaries are private land (Tierra Amarilla Land Grant). The Chama Basin is a confined basin accessible by one road and inaccessible during winter months. NFSR 121 accesses the western portion of the Chama Basin Area from the south. A jeep route accesses the area from the Tierra Amarilla Grant (private land). There are three NFSTs, 740, 741, and 124, that provide both motorized and non-motorized opportunities. This area is managed for semi-primitive motorized opportunities with most trails open to motorized use. The various roads and trails provide good access to both areas. There are approximately 17 miles of motorized trails and 5 miles of non-motorized trails. The Continental Divide National Scenic trail attracts hikers and mountain bike users. The area provides good hunting opportunities in late summer and fall. Once away from the trails, one can get a feeling of remoteness. Chama Basin is characterized as moderate to steep forested mountain slopes with dissected drainages. Vegetation is mainly aspen and Engelmann spruce.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Most of the area is natural in appearance. There is some evidence of historical mining, timber harvest, and roads, and past fire activity in the CRA. More recent timber harvest occurred within the CRA (La Manga sale). This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), Mexican spotted owl (threatened) and southwestern willow flycatcher (endangered). This is a high use area for lynx. It functions as a corridor to New Mexico. Lynx have been reestablished in the South San Juan Mountains and have been documented utilizing nearby range. The Chama Basin could provide potential hunting and breeding areas. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, wolverine, boreal owl (documented records), and goshawk (documented nest sites). Other wildlife species include black bear, wild turkey, deer and elk. In the fall, elk migrate from higher elevations along the Continental Divide through the Chama Basin to lower elevations in Northern New Mexico. The Chama Basin is considered a higher quality elk hunting areas. Bald Eagles have been documented utilizing the Chama Basin in summer.

This CRA has an area with waterfalls and a rugged landscape expanding into a riparian system. This combination provides at least two black swift breeding sites, habitats for southwestern willow flycatchers, as well as other MIS such as Wilson's warbler, Lincoln's sparrow and others passerine species. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The mineral rights in Chama Basin are privately owned. There is interest to explore the area's mineral potential and if exploratory results are good, future development is likely to occur which would impact the areas natural landscape and primitive character. There are several cattle and sheep allotments. There is a permitted recreation event that occurs every three years. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. The mineral rights in Chama Basin are privately owned. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are currently no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are legally unavailable. There is no WUI or CWPP designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 21,600 | 21,600 | No change. |

Conejos River–Lake Fork, #R20911 (900 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Conejos County, Colorado and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is bounded by the South San Juan Wilderness to the south and west and the Conejos River to the north and east. General access to this area is from NFSR 250 (Conejos River Road) which parallels the eastern boundary. Steep hillsides are on either side of the Conejos River drainage limiting access to the CRA. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized as a long, narrow, and steep-sided canyon with the Conejos River traversing its entire length. The steep-sided canyons have stands of Engelmann spruce and alpine fir interspersed with aspen stands and meadows. Riparian and cottonwood are found by the river.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. There is evidence of historical mining and timber harvest within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The steep north-facing slopes and drainages are potential reproduction and hunting sites. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: goshawk (documented), American marten (documented), and Bighorn sheep (potential seasonal range). Other notable species include black bear, mule deer, and elk. Steep north-facing hillsides provide areas of cover and forage for elk; the area is migratory hunting grounds for peregrine falcon. There are peregrine falcon nests on adjacent cliffs to the east.

The area provides for non-motorized opportunities (1.5 miles of trail); fishing and horseback riding are the two main recreation activities. Because of the proximity of NFSR 250 (sight and sound), one does not get a feeling of remoteness. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Conejos Canyon and Bancos cattle allotments are within this CRA. There is five miles of an over-head telephone line. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. Currently there are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are controlled surface occupancy. There is no WUI or CWPP designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

Copper Mountain–Sulphur, #R20956 (5,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Mineral County, Colorado and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is located adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness area. The western border is Rio Grande National Forest lands prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities. Access is by NFSR 523 (Middle Creek) and NFSR 524 (Copper Creek) which borders the CRA's eastern boundary. There are several NFSTs available for non-motorized recreation use. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by gentle to steep mountain slopes, moderate to very steep glacial cirques, alpine ridges, talus slopes, and glacial basins. The main plant association in the conifer type is subalpine fir/Engelmann Spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry kobresia/forbs associated with the alpine slopes and ridges. Drainage bottom and openings have willow and sedges.

2. Roadless Characteristic

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. Vehicle access is permitted to the private in-holding. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This is a high use area for lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten (documented occurrence), wolverine (along the Continental Divide), American three-toed woodpecker and boreal toads. The CRA is adjacent to known boreal toad populations and the CRA itself may also contain boreal toad populations. The area provides mule deer and elk winter/summer range and production areas, and habitat for moose. There are high densities of American three-toed woodpeckers, hermit thrush, and other spruce/fir associated species.

The CRA has approximately 5 miles of non-motorized trails. Because of the close proximity of the access roads, one does not get a sense of remoteness (sight and sounds). This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are summer and fall outfitter and guide activities. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private in-holdings. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. No WUI or CWPP is designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 5,300 | 5,100 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Cotton Creek, #R209C5 (2,300 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in the eastern portion of the Rio Grande National Forest in Saguache County, administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The area is bordered on the west by BLM and private lands. The northern and southern boundaries are Forest Service lands prescribed to be managed for deer and elk winter range. County and BLM roads provide close access to this area. The area is bordered on the south by NFST 749 and 963 which pass through the middle of the area. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. Landforms includes mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform

feature. The area is characterized by steep, open mountainous slopes with a westerly aspect. Vegetation is largely open hillsides of grassland and chaparral with Ponderosa pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Historical prospecting, mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for bighorn sheep and American marten, both Forest Service sensitive species. This CRA provides winter range in the lower elevations for deer and elk. The area is also part of the range for the Sangre De Cristo bighorn sheep herd. There are approximately two miles of non-motorized trails in the CRA. This area has very rugged terrain, limited access, and provides a sense of remoteness and seclusion. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are summer and fall outfitter and guide activities. The CRA is closed to livestock grazing. There is a low potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. No WUI or CWPP is designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2,300 | 2,300 | No change. |

Crestone, #R209C6 (7,100 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in the eastern portion of the Rio Grande National Forest in Saguache County, administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The area is bordered on the west by BLM and private lands. The northern and southern boundaries are Forest Service lands prescribed to be managed for deer and elk winter range. It is bordered on the south by NFSR 949, suitable only for 4-wheel drive vehicles. There are numerous foot and horseback trails that pass through this area, including: NFST 881, 858, 744, and 860. NFSR 950 is also a 4-wheel drive road that extends up Drummick Gulch. The lower (western) portion is easily accessible. The upper portion to the east is very rugged and steep. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. The area is steep and rugged. Vegetation ranges from oakbrush in lower elevations to pinyon-juniper/chaparral mid-elevation, to alpine/subalpine plants at higher elevations. Aspen is intermingled throughout.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The majority of the area appears relatively natural, with the exception of past prospecting, mining, and timber harvest activities. There are a few miner and trapper cabins scattered throughout the area. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep (documented), American marten, Wolverine (documented occurrence). The area provides bighorn sheep habitat and mule deer and elk winter range. The unit also has one known natural salt lick within it. It is a key area for bighorn sheep lambing and wintering sheep. There are approximately three miles of non-motorized trails. The area has a large number of visitors during summer and hunting season, but a feeling of seclusion and inaccessibility can be experienced in some portions of this area. A portion of the Mill Creek Research Natural Area lies within this CRA. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is closed to livestock grazing. There are private lands and in-holdings. There is a low potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. A WUI occurs on the southwest boundary. The CWPP is currently being developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 6,900 | 7,100 | Mapping precision, minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, and excluding an existing road. |

Cumbres, #R20903 (10,300 acres)

1. Description

The Cumbres CRA is located in Conejos County Colorado, and is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It consists of steep hillsides and cliffs adjacent to the South San Juan Wilderness boundary on its northern boundary. The remaining boundaries of this CRA are Rio Grande National Forest lands prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities. The terrain within the CRA is not conducive to travel by vehicles, however, several access roads border or are adjacent to the CRA boundary, including NFSR 118 (Trujillo Meadows Road -level 3), NFSR 118.1, NFSR 119 (Cumbres), NFSR 114.1 (La Manga) and NFSR 128.1 (Elk Creek). Several NFSTs within the area provide motorized and non-motorized opportunities. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. Chama Basin can be generally characterized as moderate to steep forested mountain slopes with dissected drainages. Vegetation is mainly aspen and Engelmann spruce. The Cumbres area is characterized by moderate to steep forested mountain slopes with park-like benches and alpine plateaus with long narrow drainages. Vegetation is primarily spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The area is relatively natural in appearance. There is evidence of past human uses in the area such as range improvements, historical mining, timber harvest and associated road imprints and fire activity. The roadless area and its neighboring South San Juan Wilderness provide large tracts of public lands where wildlife can benefit from little or no disturbance from vehicles. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), southwestern willow flycatcher (endangered) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). It is considered a high use lynx area and part of a movement corridor to New Mexico. Lynx have been documented in the area. The steep north facing slopes and drainages are areas used by lynx for reproduction sites and hunting grounds. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, wolverine, and goshawk (nesting documented). Wolverine has been documented in the area in 1994. It is a high use area for American three-toed woodpeckers and other cavity nesters due to the increasing spruce-fir mortality. Several MIS have been observed in the area including hermit thrush and brown creepers. The CRA is considered a special wildlife area for bighorn sheep. It provides mule deer summer range, and elk production areas near Duck and Rock lakes. The steep north facing hillsides also provide areas of cover and refuge for elk. It is considered overall range for black bear. The Rio de Los Pinos River from the headwaters to the waterfall at the wilderness boundary contains an introduced population of pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The Wolf Creek headwaters start just east of the southern boundary of the Cumbres CRA. From the headwaters downstream to a culvert barrier at the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad crossing contains a wild population of pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

This area is managed for semi-primitive motorized opportunities with most trails open to motorized use. There are approximately 14 miles of non-motorized trails (including the CDNST). The various roads and trails provide good access to the area. Once away from the trails, one can get a feeling of remoteness and seclusion. Recreational users include hikers, horseback users and various motorized uses (motorcycles). The CRA provides good hunting opportunities in late summer and fall. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Outfitter and guide activities are permitted for the fall season. The reservoir and dam are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs (Cumbres, Jarosa Mesa, and Mesa allotments) and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements (Cumbres allotment only). There are private land in-holdings. The mineral rights in Chama Basin are privately owned. There is interest to explore the area's mineral potential which could ultimately change the character of the area. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. Lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Approximately 1,100 acres had been previously managed for timber. No WWUI or CWPP are designated within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 10,600 | 10,300 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Deep Creek–Boot Mountain, #R209M3 (27,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is a large irregular shaped area in Saguache and Rio Grande Counties, and three Ranger Districts (Saguache, Creede, and Del Norte). It is adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness along its western border. Rio Grande National Forest land borders the other three sides. Management prescriptions for these lands include Special Interest Areas (Use and Interpretation Emphasis) along sections of the eastern and western boundary, parks and grasslands along the northern boundary, and recreation/general forest activities along the remaining boundaries. The Deep Creek area is bordered on the north and west by NFSR 675. NFSR 787 extends into the area from the west for 1 1/2 miles to reach a private in-holding (Sky City). The La Garita Stock Driveway borders the east side of the area and is now a part of a designated trail system.

General road access within close proximity to the Boot Mountain area includes NFSR 650 (Baughman Creek road), NFSR 673 (Cave Creek road) and NFSR 676 (Bowers Creek road). There are numerous Forest trails within the area providing motorized opportunities. A private road along Wannamaker Creek provides access to the Sky City Mining District, a large multiple-owner in-holding. The private road extends from NFSR 787 and is blocked with a locked gate. A pack trail continues beyond the private land up Wannamaker Creek and connects with the La Garita Stock Driveway (a motorized ATV route). The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. In general the area is characterized by deep narrow canyons, steep slopes and alpine plateaus. It is dissected by four major drainages: Wannamaker, Bear, Deep, and Johns Creeks which run to the north. Boot Mountain is high, mountainous terrain with mature and pole-sized Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands with interspersed open parks. There are inclusions of aspen, subalpine and alpine associations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. It appears natural; however, there is evidence of human use primarily historical timber harvest and mining. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx use of this area is considered low. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, wolverine, and goshawk. This area is considered high quality deer/elk winter habitat, and security areas. Elk calving occurs at the head of Embargo Creek. Other documented species include moose, American three-toed woodpeckers, marten, and spruce-fir associated species such as hermit thrush and brown creeper. It is a key area for blue grouse. Ptarmigan have been also documented. Wannamaker, Deep, and Embargo Creeks are small streams which support good brook trout fisheries. Wannamaker Creek contains hybridized Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

The Special Interest Area portion (emphasizing use and interpretation) of the CRA includes the landscape and several identified sites where members of the John Charles Fremont's 4th Expedition camped and traveled while snowbound in the La Garita Mountains in 1848-49. The Deep Creek portion is very large area with few trails and provides a sense of seclusion and remoteness. There are approximately 31 miles of motorized trails and 19 miles of non-motorized trails in the Boot Mountain portion of the CRA. Because of the motorized recreation opportunities and available access, there is a very limited sense of remoteness and solitude here. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the La Garita Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted in the Deep Creek and Boot Mountain areas. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private lands and private land in-holdings. There is high potential for oil and gas in the Boot Mountain portion and no potential for oil and gas leasing in the Deep Creek area. There are no leases. There are nominations in Rio Grande County. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Nine hundred acres within the CRA have been previously managed with timber harvest.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 29,100 | 27,600 | Mapping precision, minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, and mapping corrections to exclude timber harvested and roaded areas. |

Dorsey Creek, #R209C2 (3,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately four miles east of Poncha Pass, in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It surrounds the northernmost lobe of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness on three sides and provides a buffer for the wilderness area. Its western boundary is adjacent to BLM and private land. Its northern boundary is the Pike/San Isabel National Forest. The CRA southern and western boundaries are bordered by NFSR 990 (Dorsey Creek) and NFSR 991 (San Luis Creek). NFST 757 (Simmons Creek) passes through the eastern side of the area. The western area is easily accessible and there is a very limited sense of remoteness or solitude. The eastern area is more remote. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. The area is characterized by steep, open mountain slopes with drainages sloping to the west. The lower elevations support sage and grass-covered slopes with intermittent stands of oak brush which transition into aspen, conifer and subalpine forests with increase in elevation.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The majority of the area appears relatively natural, with the exception of past prospecting, mining, and timber harvest activities. The CRA provides an extension of relatively unfragmented and undisturbed habitats and serves as a wildlife corridor connecting the Sangre de Cristo mountain range with other alpine areas of the state. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). The CRA is located near the Poncha Pass Lynx Linkage area and most likely received some use by lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and goshawk. Bighorn sheep occur in the vicinity and occasionally use habitat within the CRA. There is a known Goshawk nesting area. The lower elevations are near the home range of the Poncha Pass Gunnison sage grouse population, and probably support the birds at some point during the year. The CRA supports deer and elk summer and winter range. The headwaters of San Luis Creek, within the Dorsey Creek CRA, provide refuge to hold elk during the hunting seasons.

Dispersed recreation opportunities are available. There are approximately three miles of non-motorized trails. The area is popular for elk hunting. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There are no designated CWPPs or WUIs.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3,600 | 3,400 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Elkhorn Peak, #R209B9 (10,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Saguache County and is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. This large area is bordered by private and BLM lands on both east and west sides. The west side includes the town of Bonanza and the Bonanza Historic Mining District. The northern boundary is Rio Grande National Forest lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. The Elkhorn Peak CRA encompasses the high points of Elkhorn and Hayden Peaks and several of the drainages radiating from these peaks. NFSR 56 (Peterson Creek road) borders the eastern portions of the area and NFSR 873 (Kelly Creek road) falls within the area, but is closed above the Forest boundary. This area has several National Forest System trails passing through it; NFST 923, 924, and 925. There are two 4-wheel drive roads that extend to the western edge of the area; NFSR 888 (Greenback Gulch) and 867 (Eagle Gulch). The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is steep, and bisected by a north-south ridge. Drainages run east and west. Vegetation is ponderosa pine in lower elevations, Douglas-fir in mid-elevations, and alpine associations at higher elevations. Aspen stands occur in areas burned in the past.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The majority of the area appears relatively natural. However, historical mining, timber harvest and roading are evident. Several old roads were obliterated and reseeded in 1992. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Potential for lynx occurrence in the CRA is low. The CRA also provides potential habitat for American marten and wolverine, both Forest Service sensitive species. It provides valuable deer and elk winter range. Elkhorn Gulch and Kelly Creek contain networks of beaver ponds and support brook trout fisheries.

There are approximately nine miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. A feeling of seclusion and remoteness can be experienced on the west end, in the rugged Elkhorn and Hayden Peaks area. Approximately 3,740 meters of Kerber Creek (above Brewery Creek) and some tributaries are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality impaired by historic mining. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private lands and private land in-holdings. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Several patented and unpatented mines are within and adjacent to this area but at this time there is no known activity. Mining prospects are scattered throughout the area. Should mineral activity and discovery occur in the future, the area's character may change. A WUI occurs on the western boundary near the town of Bonanza. Currently a CWPP is being developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 10,800 | 10,500 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Four Mile Creek, #R209A8 (10,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. The Rio Grande National forest lands bordering the northern and southern boundaries are prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities, lands to the west are prescribed for grasslands management. The eastern boundary is primarily BLM lands with a few private parcels. The small section in the southeast corner is adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for deer and elk winter range. The area can be accessed by NFSR 740 (Fourmile Creek) and 736 (Duckfoot Creek). NFST 774 (Fourmile Creek trail) and 776 (Saguache Creek trail) provide non-motorized access through the area. The area is contiguous with Taylor Canyon CRA to the north. The CRAs are within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G). These two contiguous CRAs are unique in the Saguache District for their topography and habitat types. They encompass an extremely rugged, lower-elevation area of rocky fin-shaped ridges separated by small meadows and canyons in between. The majority of these areas sit in the 9,000 to 9,500 foot elevation range, with the highest points along rims of the Saguache Creek canyon reaching above 10,600 feet. The CRA is characterized by numerous canyons and tributaries of Saguache Creek. Vegetation is ponderosa pine in lower elevations, some lodgepole pine at mid-elevations, and spruce/fir at high elevations. This area is dissected by several major drainages which include Saguache Creek, California Gulch, Duckfoot Creek, Fourmile Creek and the main fork of Buck Park Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The majority of the area appears relatively natural, with the exception of historical mining, timber harvest, and numerous primitive roads. Some areas experienced fire 80 to 150 years ago. Together the Fourmile and Taylor CRAs form part of a large unfragmented and undisturbed area important for maintaining habitat used by many terrestrial, aquatic and avian species. This CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as Canada lynx (threatened), and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Lynx use is considered low. Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as bighorn sheep, American marten (documented occurrence) and goshawk. Peregrine falcons use the area as well as several MIS such as pygmy nuthatch. Approximately seven miles of the Saguache Creek canyon is included in the Fourmile CRA, a remote 1,500-foot-deep canyon which is very heavily used by wildlife including elk, deer, moose, bear, mountain lion, and many other associated species. The canyon has been a site for bighorn transplants and is potential bighorn habitat. Because of the rugged topography, the area serves as a refuge for deer and elk during hunting seasons.

This area is somewhat rugged with limited access which provides a certain degree of seclusion and remoteness. There are approximately 12 miles of non-motorized trails in the CRA. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private and BLM land is adjacent to the eastern boundary. One in-holding is owned by a grazing permittee in the center of the area. Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are Administratively Unavailable. Historical timber harvest occurred in the CRA. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 10,500 | 10,200 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Fox Creek, #R20907 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Conejos County and is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. The CRA runs along the east side of the Conejos River. The river corridor essentially separates this CRA from the South San Juan wilderness. Forest Service lands along the west boundary of the CRA are managed for wild and scenic/recreation river. State and BLM land are adjacent to these areas along the area’s eastern boundary. Forest lands on the east side of the CRA are managed for recreation and general forest activities. The CRA borders the La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife Area on its southeastern corner. General access to the CRA is provided by NFSR 250 (Alamosa-Conejos River Road) which encompasses these areas on the north, west, and south. Due to the steep terrain associated with the river canyon walls, suitable access routes from NFSR 250 are limited. Existing four-wheel drive roads provide closer access. These include NFSR 101 (Fox Creek Road), NFSR 240 (La Jara Creek Road) accessing Willow Mountain, NFSR 248 (Jim Creek Road) and NFSR 249 (Bancos) accessing the Fox Creek area, and NFSR 259 accessing the Alamosa River area. Both motorized and non-motorized opportunities are provided on NFSTs and non-NFSTs. NFSR 260 (Silver Lakes Road) provides access to Willow Mountain on the area’s north and west boundary. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area consists of steep hillsides on the northeast rim of the Conejos River drainage which are characterized by gentle to steep alpine slopes and ridges with stands of aspen, Engelmann spruce – subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. The forested areas are interspersed with fescue grassland and shrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The area is relatively natural in appearance with the exceptions of livestock grazing improvements and evidence of historical timber harvesting and mining activities. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and possibly receives some use by this species although higher use occurs on west side of Conejos River. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and wolverine. An elk production area is located north of Black Mountain and south of Beaver Lake. Elk use the south-facing slopes and the area immediately east of the CRA during winter months. The CRA is most notable for bighorn sheep which use the entire area for winter range and production. It provides some drier country utilized by species such as green-tailed towhees. Turkey occurrence is documented. The CRA provides potential roosting and winter range on the south facing slopes on the east end. There are peregrine falcons nesting on the western side of the river and most likely forage in this CRA.

The area is managed for both motorized (Alamosa River/Fox Creek) and non-motorized opportunities (Willow Mountain) and provides a variety of opportunities including, horseback riding, viewing scenery, stream fishing, motorcycling, ATV use, and mountain biking. The area is large enough that one can find seclusion and a feeling of solitude once away from the area’s trails. These areas contain big-game habitat that provides hunting opportunities in the fall. Use from the State and BLM lands to the east lends itself to visitors exploring these unroaded areas. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. Currently there are no leases but there are nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,100 | 6,100 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Fox Mountain, #R20948 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately five miles southwest of the town of South Fork, in Mineral County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. Lands adjacent to the boundaries of this CRA are Rio Grande National Forest lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. Roads within close proximity of this area are NFSR 390 (Pass Creek) and NFSR 381 (Fox Mountain). There are no NFSTs within the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This is a high-elevation mountainous area with steep side canyons comprised of Engelmann spruce/alpine fir stands. Several minor drainages are within the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes and is relatively natural in appearance with some evidence of historical mining and timber harvest activity. This CRA is dominated by a high quality, late succession spruce-fir vegetative community. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). It is a high use and potential denning area for lynx and an extension to the linkage corridor near Hwy 160/Wolf Creek Pass. The CRA also provides habitat or potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten (high use in area), and bighorn sheep (special wildlife area). It is a high use area for spruce-fir associated MIS such as hermit thrush, and brown creeper. The CRA provides habitat for black bear, elk, mountain lion, and peregrine falcons. The CRA is a forage and reproduction area for Merriam turkeys.

There are approximately one mile of motorized trails and no non-motorized trails. Because of the limited access and lack of NFSTs, one can get a sense of remoteness and solitude in this area. This area provides non-motorized recreation opportunities in the summer with snowmobile activity occurring throughout the winter. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are summer and fall outfitter and guide activities permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. Approximately 0.2 miles of permitted water facilities occur. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIS within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 7,800 | 6,100 | Mapping corrections to exclude timber harvested and roaded areas. |

Gibbs Creek, #R20949 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Mineral County and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness on the western boundary. The other boundaries border Rio Grande National Forest lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. Gibbs CRA is just south of the Kitty Creek CRA. The general access to this area is by NFSR 410 (Big Meadows road) which access the area's eastern boundary. NFSR 412.1 (Spruce Creek road), also accessing the eastern boundary but is currently gated and closed. NFST 1841 (Gibbs Creek) runs the entire length of the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area contains high-elevation mountainous terrain (steep side slopes) with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir stands. Gibbs Creek drainage is in the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Historical mining and timber harvest is evident. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It is a high use lynx area within or adjacent to Wolf Creek Pass Lynx Linkage area which is key to lynx movements north and south. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten (documented occurrence), wolverine, American three-toed woodpecker, and boreal toad. It is primarily summer range for deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep. Black bear occupy the CRA. Boreal toad most likely occupies the CRAs above 8,000 feet. Merriam turkey use the CRAs and it is a potential reproduction area.

There is approximately one mile of non-motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the present limited access, this area provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing has occurred, however the allotment is currently vacant. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1,700 | 1,400 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries and mapping corrections to exclude timber harvested and roaded areas. |

Gold Creek–Cascade Creek, #R20925 (900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Conejos County and is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. The area is adjacent to the South San Juan Wilderness on its western boundary. The remainder of the area joins Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. The southeastern corner of the CRA borders Platoro Reservoir. This area is accessed via NFSR 247 (Three Forks Road) and NFSR 245 (Rito Gato) which borders the area's eastern boundary. There are two NFSTs (NFST 710 & 713) that provide access into the South San Juan Wilderness. These trails are non-motorized. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area characterized by high elevation, mountain terrain with Engelmann spruce/ alpine fir and numerous high elevation parks. The CRA has extensive late-succession spruce-fir and alpine areas.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. The majority of this area appears relatively natural; however, there is evidence of historical mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat and high quality denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It is a high use lynx area and part of one of the first core areas established after reintroduction. Lynx have been documented in the nearby area. The steep north-facing slopes and drainages are potential areas for lynx reproduction sites and hunting grounds. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and American three-toed Woodpecker. It is a very important area for bighorn sheep providing overall range. It provides elk summer range north of the Adams Fork and west of Klondike Mountain. The CRA also provides habitat for various species including, but not limited to black bear, elk, mule deer, mountain lion, and wild turkey.

The area provides for non-motorized recreation opportunities. There is approximately one mile of non-motorized trail. With the area being adjacent to the Wilderness and its limited NFSTs, one can get a sense of seclusion and remoteness within this area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is not allowed for range improvements. There is moderate potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

Hot Springs, #R209C8 (500 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in the eastern portion of the Rio Grande National Forest in Saguache County, administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The area is bordered on the west by BLM and private lands. The northern and southern boundaries are Forest Service lands prescribed to be managed for deer and elk winter range. It is just north of cotton Creek CRA. NFST 753 borders the north boundary. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. The area is characterized by steep, open mountainous slopes with a westerly aspect. Vegetation is largely open hillsides of grassland and chaparral with ponderosa pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area is relatively natural in appearance. The area's long-term ecological processes are intact and operating. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. The CRA provides a buffer and extension of undisturbed habitat from the Sangre De Cristo Wilderness. This provides relatively unfragmented and undisturbed alpine and subalpine habitats adjacent to the San Luis Valley. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, and American marten. This CRA provides winter range in the lower elevations for deer and elk. The area is also part of the range for the Sangre De Cristo bighorn sheep herd. The area is of importance to the Brazilian free-tailed bats that come from the adjacent Orient Mine colony.

There is approximately one mile of non-motorized trail in the CRA. Because of the limited access and rugged terrain, one can get a sense of seclusion and remoteness within the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are permitted fall outfitter and guide activities. There is no livestock grazing in the CRA. There is a low potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 500 | 500 | No change. |

Indian Ridge, #R209RE (1,600 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is in the western part of the Rio Grande National Forest, adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness in San Juan County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. The CRA lies along the boundary of two forests, the Rio Grande National Forest lands on the north and the San Juan National Forest lands to the south. This CRA is located in the headwaters area of upper Rio Grande and borders the Continental Divide. It is characterized as remarkably wild country. This area is accessed by NFSR 520 (Rio Grande road) and NFSR 506 (Beartown road). NFST 787 is within the southeastern part of the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by west facing, steep alpine and mountainous slopes and valley bottoms. The mountainous slopes have Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands with Rocky Mountain whortleberry. Willows and sedges are in the valley bottom.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area's long-term ecological processes are intact and functioning. It is relatively natural in appearance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential quality, relatively unfragmented habitat and excellent denning potential for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The area also provides potential habitat for wolverine and American marten, a Forest Service sensitive species. Possible wolverine tracks have been noted nearby along the Continental Divide. Beaver, black bear,

moose, ptarmigan have been documented. This area also provides summer range for elk and mule deer. There is less than one mile of non-motorized trail within the CRA. Because of the steep terrain and limited access, one can get a sense of seclusion and remoteness within the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. There are private land in-holdings. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1,600 | 1,600 | No change. |

Kitty Creek, #R20950 (1,500 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Mineral County and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness on the western boundary. The other boundaries border Rio Grande National Forest lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. Kitty Creek CRA is just north of Gibbs CRA and both are similar. Roads within close proximity of the area are NFSR 430 (Shaw Lake road) and NFSR 431 (Kitty Creek road). Portions of the non-motorized NFST 837 (Kitty Creek trail) traverse through the area and NFST 838 (Hope Creek trail) are adjacent to the area’s southern boundary. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This is high-elevation mountainous terrain with Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands and aspen.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. Historical timber harvest and past early century railroad tie cutting are evident. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It is a high use lynx area within or adjacent to Wolf Creek Pass Lynx Linkage area, a key to lynx movements north and south. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten (documented occurrence), wolverine, American three-toed woodpecker, and boreal toad. It is primarily summer range for deer, elk, moose, and for bighorn sheep. Black bear occupy the CRA. Boreal toad most likely occupies the CRAs above 8,000 feet. It contains potential reproduction areas for Merriam turkey.

There are approximately two miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the present limited access, this area provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing has occurred, however the allotment is vacant. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are standard lease terms. Approximately 200 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1,400 | 1,500 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

La Garita, #R20931 (10,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Saguache County, administered by the Divide Ranger District. Boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed primarily for recreation and general forest activities. The northwestern corner runs into a grassland/meadow complex. BLM and private lands are adjacent to the eastern boundary. General access to this area is from NFSR 670 (La Garita); NFSR 646 (Pinyon) and NFSR 795 (Coolbran Canyon) on its eastern boundary; NFSR 650.I (Lone Rock) and NFSR 650 (Embargo) on its west boundary and NFSR 673 on its northern boundary. Two NFSTs (787 and 793) are located in this area and open to motorized use (motorcycles and ATVs). The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized by rolling hills of pinyon-juniper to steep mountainous terrain of Engelmann spruce and fir. Three major drainages are within the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area has long term, intact, and functioning ecological processes. This area's landscape is relatively natural appearing, although historical mining and timber harvest are evident. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and goshawk. It is an important big game area and provides summer and winter range and winter concentration areas for both elk and mule deer. The area provides bighorn sheep range and concentration areas. Several habitat improvement projects have been completed to improve the range for bighorn sheep. The area also provides summer and winter range for pronghorn antelope. Black bear and mountain lion occur throughout the CRA. Goshawks (USFS sensitive species) have been documented as inhabiting the area. Although peregrine falcons have not been documented in the CRA they do occur nearby to the southeast. La Garita Creek is historic Rio Grande Cutthroat trout water although none have been found to occur recently. The creek provides an excellent trout fishery.

This area provides semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities. The area's character and recreational setting could change depending on future potential mineral and oil and gas exploration. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water developments. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings. This is a high potential area for oil and gas exploration and mineral potential. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 240 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the La Garita Colorado Roadless Area. There are no leases; however, there are nominations in Rio Grande County. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There is some WUI (Intermix) on the eastern boundary but to do, there are no CWPPs.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 12,100 | 10,500 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, and mapping corrections to exclude timber harvested and roaded areas. |

Lake Fork, #R209A7 (10,700 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Saguache County and administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It is adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness along the western and southern boundaries. The remaining boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities along the east and west, and grassland management along the northern boundary. There is one NFSR 776 1A (Table Mountain) that extends three miles through this area. Access is restricted to permitted use by a water-user group. Access to the northern area is along the northern boundary on NFSR 776 (accessible by ATVs and 4-wheel drives). The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The CRA is characterized by a large plateau in the northern portion. Drainages run primarily to the east and north. It is dissected by several drainages including Lake Fork Saguache Creek, Miners Creek, North Fork Saguache Creek, and several minor drainages. The northern area is gently to moderately sloping. Vegetation is mainly spruce/fir associations with aspen stands and mountain meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

For the majority of the area, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating. Exceptions occur along roads and the more heavily used trails. This area had extensive natural fires approximately 100 years ago, creating large aspen stands and mountain-bunchgrass parks. Most of the area appears relatively natural. Historical mining, timber harvest and roads are evident. A water diversion is located within the CRA. This CRA provides high quality habitat next to the Continental Divide. The Lake Fork CRA encompasses a wide array of habitats, including the entire watershed of the Lake Fork of Saguache Creek, which is quite extensive and provides an array of excellent summer elk habitat. The Lake Fork Saguache and its unnamed western tributary support fisheries consisting of brook and brown trout. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and southwest willow flycatcher (endangered). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, wolverine and boreal owl. Moose are documented. Secluded areas contains good potential wolverine habitat. Good potential for boreal owl and other late-successional spruce/fir associated species.

This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the La Garita Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations include: South Quarter - Administratively Unavailable, Northern Three-Quarters - Standard Lease Terms. Historical timber harvest occurred in the CRA. Approximately 220 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. Currently, there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 10,800 | 10,700 | Minor mapping adjustments to excluding an existing road. |

Lower East Bellows, #R20978 (1,800 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is approximately five miles southeast of Creed in the Rio Grande County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness along its northern boundary. Its western boundary is private land and Forest Service lands are adjacent to the other boundaries. NFSR 600 (Pool Table road) is within close proximity of the area's southern boundary. There are no Forest trails within the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by gentle to steep forested mountainous slopes and ridges and is composed of Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir intermingled with benches and side slopes of Idaho, Arizona and Thurber fescues.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area appears natural and there is little evidence of human uses with the exception of historic mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It is a low use area for lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten and wolverine. This entire CRA is managed under a bighorn sheep management prescription providing sheep summer, winter concentration and production habitat. This CRA provides elk and mule deer winter concentration range and moose habitat. There is high-quality cliff habitat for peregrine falcons; however there is no known occurrence at this time. Because of the limited access, steep terrain and lack of trails within the area, one can get a sense of solitude and remoteness while in the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the La Garita Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Approximately 20 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,800 | 1,800 | No change. |

Middle Alder, #R209D1 (5,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately two miles north of the town of South Fork in Rio Grande County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. Its southern boundary is adjacent to BLM and private land. The remaining boundaries join Forest Service lands managed for deer and elk range along the south portion of the CRA and recreation/general forest activities in the north portion of the CRA. Roads within close proximity of this area are NFSR 610 (Alder) on its west boundary; NFSR 611 (Difficult/Bear) on its northern boundary, and NFSR 630 (Agua Ramon) on its east boundary. Three NFSTs within this CRA provide motorized opportunities. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by steep, mountainous terrain comprised of Engelmann spruce/alpine fir stands. Three major drainages (Middle Alder, West Bear, and Bear Creek) are in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological identifiable processes. Although the area is relatively natural in appearance, there is evidence of historical mining and timber harvest within the CRA. This CRA provides potential foraging and denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), however it appears to be a low use area by lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, wolverine and goshawk (documented nearby on the forest). It is a key big game security habitat and provides mule deer and elk winter concentration areas and summer range. The area also provides habitat for black bear, moose, and mountain lion. There are stable reproducing populations of blue grouse and Merriam turkey within the CRA. The west fork of Alder Creek, headwaters to Alder Creek has a wild population of pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Although this is outside the CRA, the west fork does confluence with the mainstem of Alder Creek so there is a potential for this population expanding into the CRA.

This CRA is in close proximity to South Fork and several nearby subdivisions. Easy access along its boundary, allows for high recreation use. The area provides both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are approximately five miles of motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the area's steep, rocky terrain, one can get a sense of remoteness within the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall and winter outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases, however there are nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Approximately 200 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. A WUI occurs on the south boundary against the town of South Fork. A CWPP is currently being developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 5,700 | 5,400 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical boundaries. |

Miller Creek, #R209C4 (1,100 acres)

1. Description

Miller Creek CRA is located approximately 22 miles east of the town of Saguache, in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. The CRA serves as a buffer for the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness area as three of the areas boundaries (north, south and eastern) are adjacent to it. BLM and private land are located along the western boundary. The closest road accessing this area is NFSR 985. There are no Forest trails in the CRA. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 feet. The area consists almost entirely of extremely steep terrain along the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, open mountainous slopes and drainages sloping to the west. Vegetation ranges from oakbrush in

the lower foothills to Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir intermingled with aspen in the higher elevations and a few grassy south-facing open slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The majority of the area appears relatively natural with the exception of historical mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for American marten, a Forest Service sensitive species. The few grassy south-facing open slopes provide good winter and summer range for deer and elk. The lower elevations are near the home range of the Poncha Pass Gunnison Sage Grouse population, and probably support the birds at some point during the year. Because of the steep and rugged terrain, a feeling of remoteness and seclusion can be experienced. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private and BLM lands are contiguous to this area’s western boundary. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1,000 | 1,100 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Pole Creek, #R209C7 (1,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Saguache County and administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It is surrounded on three sides by the Sangre De Cristo Wilderness area. The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Monument is located south of the CRA. Private lands and Luis Maria Baca land grant lands are adjacent to the western and southwestern boundary. It is relatively inaccessible from the north or south due to the steep and rugged terrain. Access to this area is mainly from the Pike/San Isabel National Forest on the east. The area is accessible by the Liberty Road which access private property. Motorized access on the Liberty Road is currently by permit only. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevations ranging from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. Vegetation ranges from oakbrush in the foothills to pinyon-jumper and chaparral in the mid-elevation sites to Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands intermingled with aspen in the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The majority of the area appears relatively natural with the exception of extensive historical prospecting, mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Currently there is no documented lynx use. The CRA also provides key summer habitat for bighorn sheep, maternity roosts for Townsend’s big-eared bat and probable habitat for the American marten, all Forest Service sensitive species. The few grassy south-facing open slopes provide good winter and summer range for deer and elk. Since access is limited, a feeling of seclusion and remoteness can be experienced within the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. The area is closed to livestock grazing. There are private land in-holdings. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. There is WUI (Intermix) on the southern boundary but currently no CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1,000 | 1,000 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries and to exclude an existing road. |

Pole Mountain–Finger Mesa, #R20959 (43,900 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is in the western part of the Rio Grande National Forest, adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness in San Juan County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. The CRA lies along the boundary of two forests, the Rio Grande National Forest lands on the north and the San Juan National Forest lands to the south. This CRA is located in the headwaters area of upper Rio Grande and borders the Continental Divide. Access is by NFSR 520 (Rio Grande road) which borders the area’s southern boundary, NFSR 533 (Sawmill Canyon finger Mesa) on the southeast boundary, NFSR 516 (Mason Creek) on the eastern boundary, and NFSR 518 (Heart Lake) on its northeast boundary. There are numerous NFSTs in this area that provide motorized and non-motorized uses. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by alpine slopes, to very steep alpine ridges, talus slopes, and glacial basins, gentle to steep mountain slopes to floodplain, toe slopes and fans in canyon and valley bottom. Valley bottoms are composed of willow/sedge and Thurber and Arizona fescue. High-elevation areas have Rocky Mountain whortleberry and Kobresia/forbs. Subalpine fir/ Engelmann spruce compose the majority of the moderate mountain slope areas. Major drainages include Pole Creek and Lost Trail Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This is a large CRA adjacent to Continental Divide. The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. It is fairly natural with the exception of evidence of historic mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides habitat and has documented colonies of the federally listed (endangered) Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly at high elevations. This CRA receives high-use by Canada lynx and is a key area to lynx movement between the Rio Grande and San Juan National Forests. The CRA also provides potential denning habitat for this federally listed species. A lynx den site has been documented near this CRA. The CRA provides potential habitat for the southwest willow flycatcher (endangered). The CRA also provides habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep (documented use), American marten (documented), and wolverine. Possible wolverine tracks have been noted nearby along Continental Divide. This CRA provides elk and mule deer summer concentration habitat, elk production habitat, and bighorn sheep summer, winter and production habitat. Lost Trail Creek provides priority habitat for moose. Other species known to be present include: black bear, beaver, and ptarmigan. Peregrine falcons forage in the area and there is high quality potential nest habitat available.

There are approximately 20 miles of motorized trails (including the CDNST) and 16 miles of non-motorized trails. Because of the area’s size and rough terrain, one can get a sense of remoteness and seclusion when in this area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer, winter and fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Portions of several grazing allotments occur in the CRA. Range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private lands, and in-holdings. There is a patented claim along with some prospecting in the Canby Mountain area. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Approximately 150 acres have been previously managed for timber harvest within the CRA. There are currently no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 43,900 | 43,900 | No change. |

Red Mountain, #R20955 (4,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Mineral County, Colorado and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is located adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness area along its eastern boundary. Its southern boundary joins the San Juan National Forest. Its western boundary is adjacent to Rio Grande National Forest lands prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities. The only road access within close proximity of this area is NFSR 526(Red Mountain Creek) which borders the western boundary. There is a one-mile section of NFST 896 in the area, which is used by hikers and horseback riders. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section

(M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by gentle to very steep mountain slopes and ridges. Rock outcrop ridges are very steep with accumulations of talus and rock glaciers. The main plant association is subalpine fire/Engelmann spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. There is evidence of historical mining and timber harvest activities within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), Mexican spotted owl (threatened) and willow flycatcher (endangered). Lynx presence has been documented, and potential denning habitat is available. The CRA provides mule deer and elk summer and production range, moose habitat, and American marten habitat (Forest Service sensitive species). One can experience a high quality backcountry hunting experience for elk, deer, and moose. The area provides non-motorized recreation opportunities with approximately five miles of non-motorized trails. Because of the limited access and few NFSTs in this area, one can get a sense of remoteness and seclusion while in this area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is closed to livestock grazing. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 4,200 | 4,100 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Ruby Lake, #R20957 (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Mineral County, Colorado and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is located adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness area along its western boundary. It is a horseshoe shaped area, with the eastern portion adjacent to private lands along the Rio Grande corridor. The interior of the CRA is Forest Service lands prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities. Access is by NFSR 522 (Fern Creek) which borders the area's eastern boundary. There is one NFST that accesses the lake and the Wilderness. The trail up to the lake is open to motorized use. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by steep glacial cirques, alpine ridges, talus slopes and glacial basins at higher elevations, and gentle to steep mountain slopes at mid-elevations. Gentle park openings which fan into canyons and valley bottom willow and sedges are found in the canyons and valley bottoms. Subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce/Rocky mountain whortleberry are on the mid-elevation mountain slopes with kobresia/forbs on alpine ridges and talus slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area is relatively natural in appearance with the exception of historical mining, roads, and timber harvest. This CRA provides a diversity of high quality habitat near the Continental Divide. Potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened) occurs here. This is a high use area for lynx, presence has been documented and denning probably occurs. The CRA also provides habitat and/or potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, wolverine, boreal toad and goshawk (nest sites documented). This CRA contains the highest known population of boreal toads on the Forest. Texas Creek is a high priority moose habitat area and summer concentration/production area for elk. The general area provides elk and mule deer summer and elk winter range, and moose habitat. Bald Eagles concentrate in the area during the winter and forage along the river.

This area is adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness and provides motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are approximately four miles of motorized trails and two miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. With the limited access and low density of system trail, one can obtain a sense of seclusion and solitude within this area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer and fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing is permitted but allotments are currently vacant. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Approximately 50 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. Currently there are no designated CWPPS or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 7,1000 | 6,600 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Sawlog, #R209A2 (10,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located approximately 12 miles southwest of the town of Saguache, in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. Its eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to BLM and private land, the western and northern boundary is adjacent to Forest Service lands prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities. This area is bordered on the west by NFSR 41G (Carnero Pass). Several roads provide access to the northern boundary including NFSR 680 (Mann Creek), 680.2B (Royal Park), and 621 (Fullerton Park). There are several miles of former road in the area that were obliterated in 1992. Private and BLM lands adjoin this area along the north, south, and east boundaries. Access is via Lime Creek and Bredell Creek from the BLM, and 41.G (North Fork Carnero), Poison Gulch, Sawlog Gulch, 675 (South Fork), and 2B (Royal Gulch via Mexican Park) and 623 (Fullerton Park) from Forest Service lands. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by gently rolling hills to steep rocky outcrops. Drainages run primarily to the south. Vegetation is comprised of pinyon/jumper in lower elevations, ponderosa pine at mid-elevation, and spruce/fir intermingled with aspen at high elevations. Small to large bunchgrass parks are found throughout. The Sawlog and Poison Gulch portions of this area are characterized by very large, open expanses of grasslands on the south-facing slopes and dense conifer stands on the north-facing slopes. There are also several small springs in the bottoms of the gulches.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area was heavily roaded with four-wheel drive tracks made by hunters and wood gatherers, but they have recently been closed and obliterated. The majority of the area appears relatively natural with the exception of areas adjacent to constructed developments. Historical mining, timber harvest and old roads are evident within the CRA. This area was used for sheep grazing for many years; however, the forb composition in some areas is less than potential. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides habitat and/or potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and goshawk. This is a key big game area and contains important year-round range for elk and deer. It also serves as an important refuge area for deer and elk during hunting seasons, enhancing harvest around the edges of the area and providing excellent hunting for the hunters who put out the effort to hunt within this CRA. This CRA encompasses a large portion of the watershed of North Carnero Creek and contains approximately 1.3 miles of North Carnero Creek which hosts a wild population of pure Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout and an introduced (1998) population of Rio Grande sucker.

This area is currently managed for non-motorized recreation and is accessible by foot or horseback only. There is approximately two miles of non-motorized trails in the CRA. The limited access gives the users a feeling of seclusion and inaccessibility. The area is popular with hunters. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 120 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Sawlog Colorado Roadless Area. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Currently there are no designated CWPPS or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 10,500 | 10,400 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, and to exclude an existing road. |

Sheep Mountain, #R209A5 (3,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Saguache County and administered by the Saguache Ranger District. It is adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness along the southern boundary and the Lake Fork CRA on the western boundary. It is also adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities along the northern boundary, and grassland management along the eastern boundary. Saguache Park State Wildlife Area is located north of the CRA. The CRA is bordered on the east by NFSR 787 (South Fork of Saguache Creek). NFSR 790 extends along the west side for about two miles. There are no NFSTs within the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. It lies along an extremely rugged ridge top. Drainages run east and west into Saguache Creek. The area is a high plateau with steep sides. Vegetation is predominately spruce/fir with aspen stringers and small parks. Sheep Mountain CRA and Lake Fork CRA are partially contiguous and both are adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness Area in the Saguache Park area. The Sheep Mountain CRA consists almost exclusively of dense subalpine timber on steep slopes. Most of the Lake Fork watershed consists of patches of timber interspersed by a mosaic of open slopes and meadows. This CRA also encompasses Table Mountain and surrounding area. The top of Table Mountain itself is a large expanse of flat brushy alpine habitat, which is also very good elk summer range, and the slopes of the mountain support some of the most dense subalpine timber stands in the district. Sheep Mountain and the Lake Fork watershed are managed as backcountry while Table Mountain itself is managed with forest vegetation emphasis and for forest products.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The CRA appears natural with some evidence of historical mining and timber harvest activities. This area provides good summer elk habitat and heavy cover for calving. Elk take refuge on Table Mountain when disturbed by hunting pressure, and thus Table Mountain provides a “hot spot” for elk harvest during hunting seasons. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and southwest willow flycatcher (endangered). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, wolverine and boreal owl. Moose are documented. Secluded areas contains potential wolverine habitat. There is potential habitat for boreal owl and other late-successional spruce/fir associated species. There are approximately three miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the La Garita Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs. There are no range improvements. Motorized access is not allowed for range improvements. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Currently there are no CWPPS or WUIS within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 3,200 | 3,100 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Silver Lakes–Stunner, #R20920 (5,800 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Conejos County and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is located on the south side of the Alamosa River. NFSR 250 runs along the river corridor. This road and private parcels along segments of the river corridor separate this roadless area from three other CRAs on the north side of the river. The south boundary and most of the northern boundary of the CRA is adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. The northeastern part of the CRA is adjacent to private land along the river. The following roads are within close proximity to this area NFSR 250 (Alamosa River Road) near the area’s northern boundary; NFSR 260 (Silver Lakes Road) adjacent to its eastern boundary and NFSR 257 (Kerr Lake Road) providing access near the area’s western boundary. There are no NFSTs within the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section

(M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area has long and deep forested canyons. A majority of the area is comprised of Engelmann spruce/alpine fir stands with some interspersed Aspen stands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area’s landscape is relatively natural appearing with evidence of historical timber harvest and roads and private property development. This CRA has significant wildlife value. It provides potential habitat and denning areas for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This CRA is close to a current population. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten (documented occurrence), bighorn sheep and wolverine. The CRA contains mule deer and elk range and productions areas. Bighorn sheep occupy the CRA which is a key habitat area for this species. Because of the limited access and lack of NFSTs, one can get a sense of seclusion and solitude when in this area. The area is managed for non-motorized recreational opportunities. Activities include fishing and hunting. A large parcel of private land is situated within the area (Cornwalls Nose - Castlemann Gulch). This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs, however there are no range improvements. Motorized access is not allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings with roads providing access to the private property. There is medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. There has been historical mining in the area; however there are no active claims. Approximately 50 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. There is a WUI (Intermix) with town of Jasper but currently no CWPP developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,300 | 5,800 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Snowshoe Mountain, #R20954 (31,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located a few miles south of the town of Creede in Mineral County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is bordered on the south side and parts of the northeast and northwestern corners by Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. There are only two roads within proximity of this area; NFSR 523 (Middle Creek road) borders the eastern boundary and NFSR 528 (Lime Creek Road) borders the area’s southern boundary. There are three NFSTs within the area open to motorized use. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This area is characterized by moderate to steep forested mountain slopes, benches (open parks) known as Seven Parks and gentle rolling slopes with aspen. Part of the area drains into Goose Creek but the majority flows into Deep Creek. The main plant association in the conifer type is subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry and Aspen/Thurber fescue. Plants associated with mountain valleys and openings are willow/sedge and Thurber fescue/Arizona fescue. Major drainages include Lime Creek, Deep Creek, Pierce and Elliot Creeks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. Past mining activity is associated with the 1889 Creede silver discovery. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This is a high use area for lynx particularly in the south end. Lynx have been documented in the CRA. The CRA also provides potential habitat for American marten, a Forest Service sensitive species. The CRA provides summer and winter range and production areas for mule deer, elk and moose habitat. The area provides a quality backcountry hunting experience for elk, deer and moose. The area is managed for motorized and non-motorized opportunities. There are approximately 12 miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the size of the area and the terrain, one can get a sense of seclusion and solitude. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer and fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private lands in the area. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Approximately 70 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. There is a WUI along north boundary with town of South Fork. A CWPP is being developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 31,900 | 31,500 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Spectacle Lake, #R209P1 (600 acres)

1. Description

This small CRA is located in Conejos County and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is sandwiched between the South San Juan Wilderness along its western boundary and the Conejos River corridor on its eastern boundary. Adjacent lands are mostly private with some Forest Service lands along the northern and southern tips managed for recreation and general forest activities. Access to this area is from NFSR 250 (Conejos River Road) which parallels its eastern boundary. There are no system trails within the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area consists of steep hillsides in the Conejos River drainage. This area is mainly river bottom with blue spruce, cottonwoods, and riparian. The Conejos River runs the entire length of the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area's landscape appears relatively natural. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The steep north facing slopes and drainages are potential areas lynx could utilize for reproduction sites and hunting grounds. It functions as a north-south corridor for the lynx moving south to New Mexico. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten, and wolverine. Habitat also occurs for black bear (overall range), peregrine falcons (migratory hunting grounds and near known active nesting), wild turkey (overall range), mule deer (overall range) and elk. The area provides non-motorized opportunities (approximately two miles of trail). The main recreational activity is fishing. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is not allowed for range improvements. There are approximately three miles of overhead telephone lines. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are controlled surface occupancy. Approximately 65 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. There is a WUI adjacent to the CRA to the west but currently no developed CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 800 | 600 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Spruce Hole-Sheep Creek, #R20906 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Conejos County. It is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is located south of the Conejos River corridor. Its northeastern boundary is private land within the corridor. The northwestern and part of the western boundary is Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. The southern boundary is Forest Service lands managed for grasslands. The closest access roads to this area are NFSR 107 (Osier) and NFSR 108 (Spruce Hole) which border the area's south and western boundaries. There are no NFSTs within the area. The terrain is not conducive to travel by vehicles. The CRA mainly consists

of steep hillsides on the south rim of the Conejos River drainage. The area is undergoing changes (natural open grasslands and areas where trees were planted) because of a significant fire that burned an extensive portion of the Osier country. The upper plateau part of the Cumbres cattle allotment is within this area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. It is characterized by large, open grassy areas intermingled with aspen and fir stands in the upper plateau, with many steep and narrow forested (spruce and fir) drainages that slope into the Conejos River.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area is relatively natural in appearance. There is historical mining and timber harvest evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, wolverine, and goshawk (documented use). The area provides habitat for the black bear (overall range), moose and mountain lion (overall range). It is a special wildlife area for bighorn sheep. It provides winter and summer range for mule deer. There is an elk production area in the Sheep Creek/ Bear Creek drainages. There is elk winter range. Elk use the Sheep Creek/ Bear Creek drainages during winter months. It is overall range for wild turkey with potential roosting and winter range on the south facing slopes on the east end. Peregrine falcons are known to nest in the area. The late successional spruce/fir habitat received high use by American three-toed woodpeckers (Forest Service sensitive species), and other MIS such as hermit thrush and brown creeper. Bear Creek and Sheep Creek contain trout of various species such as Rio Grande cutthroat, rainbow, and brown.

The area is managed for a semi-primitive non-motorized setting. Because the area has no trails it provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The area receives a very limited amount of use because of the lack of well established access routes and no trails. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Historical timber harvest occurred in the CRA. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 7,700 | 7,600 | Minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Stunner Pass–Dolores Canyon, #R20913 (2,900 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Conejos County. It is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is adjacent to the South San Juan Wilderness. Forest service lands are along the other boundaries prescribed for special interest areas (backcountry) management along the south boundary (also adjacent to the wilderness areas) and general forest activities on the north and eastern boundary. General access to this area is from NFSR 243 (Treasure Creek Road) and NFSR 380 (Elwood Pass Road) along its northern boundary and NFSR 245 (Rio Gato Road) adjacent to its southeastern boundary. There are no NFSTs within this area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The headwaters of the Alamosa River (Gold Creek, Cascade Creek, Dolores Canyon and Treasure Creek) are within this area. Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands with interspersed aspen stands comprise the area's vegetative cover.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area is relatively natural in appearance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the nearby area has been documented. The steep north facing slopes and drainages are potential areas lynx could utilize for reproduction sites and hunting grounds. It is considered a high use area for lynx. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and wolverine. Because of its close proximity to the Continental Divide, the area is most unique for subalpine/alpine species such as sheep and pika. It is a key wildlife area for sheep providing overall range for this species. There is an elk summer range north of the Adams Fork and west of Klondike Mountain. It also provides habitat for the following species: black bear (overall range), wild turkey (overall range) mountain lion (overall range) and mule deer (overall range).

Because of the limited access and lack of NFSTs within the area, the semi-primitive non-motorized setting provides opportunities for seclusion and solitude. This area provides non-motorized opportunities with a limited amount of recreational activities (horseback riding, fishing, hunting) occurring because of the lack of NFSTs. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer outfitter and guide activities are permitted. The area contains portions of two allotments. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements in the Alamosa allotment but not the West Vega allotment. There are adjacent private lands and private land in-holdings. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Approximately 165 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIS within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 3,000 | 2,900 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Sulphur Tunnel, #R209RA (1,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Mineral County, Colorado and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is located adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness area on its southwestern border. The remaining adjacent lands are Rio Grande National Forest lands prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities. Access to this area is by NFSR 524 (Copper Creek road). There is a special use road accessing the private in-holding at Sulfur Tunnel. There are forest trails within the area available for non-motorized recreation use. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized by gentle to steep mountainous slopes with Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands and Rocky Mountain whortleberry. Trout Creek is the major drainage within the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area is relatively natural in appearance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This is a high use area for lynx and lynx have been documented in this unit. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten (documented occurrence), wolverine (along the Continental Divide), American three-toed woodpecker and boreal toads. The CRA is adjacent to known boreal toad overall range and actual breeding populations and may also contain boreal toad populations. The area provides mule deer and elk winter/summer range and production areas. Copper Creek is a priority moose habitat. There are high densities of three toed woodpeckers, hermit thrush, and other spruce/fir associated species. Some sense of remoteness and solitude can be obtained within this area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings. Vehicle access is permitted by special use permit to the private in-holding. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 70 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Sulphur Tunnel Colorado Roadless Area. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIS within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,900 | 1,800 | Mapping precision. |

Summit Peak–Elwood Pass, #R20912 (3,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA lies along the Continental Divide bordering the San Juan National Forest. It is located in Conejos County and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is adjacent to the South San Juan Wilderness along its southern boundary and also joins the Treasure Mountain CRA # 17 (22,500 acres) on the San Juan National Forest. Its eastern boundary is Rio Grande National Forest lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. General access to this area is from NFSR 250 (Conejos River Road) that parallels the eastern boundary. There are no NFSTs in this area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The headwaters of the Alamosa River (Gold Creek, Cascade Creek, Dolores Canyon and Treasure Creek) are within this area. Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands with interspersed aspen stands comprise the area's vegetative cover.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area appears relatively natural. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented and it is considered a high use area. The steep north facing slopes and drainages are potential areas lynx could utilize for reproduction sites and hunting grounds. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten (documented occurrence), and wolverine. The CRA provides habitats for the following species: black bear (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), elk, and mule deer (overall range). It is a key habitat area and overall range for bighorn sheep. There is an elk summer range north of the Adams Fork and west of Klondike Mountain.

Because of the proximity of NFSR 250 (sight and sound), one does not get a feeling of seclusion. The area provides for non-motorized opportunities with fishing and horseback riding the two main recreation activities. Its primitive and non-motorized character can be maintained. There are approximately six miles of non-motorized trails (including the CDNST). This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Conejos Canyon and Bancos cattle allotments are within this area. Livestock grazing occurs with no range improvements or motorized access allowed. There are private land in-holdings. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Currently there are no designated CWPPS or WUIS within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3,300 | 3,200 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Taylor Canyon, #R209A9 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. The Rio Grande National forest lands bordering the northern and western boundaries are prescribed to be managed for recreation and general forest activities, a section of land on the northeast is managed for deer and elk winter range. The eastern boundary is primarily BLM lands with a few private parcels. Access to the area is by NFSR 740 (Fourmile Creek road) which is adjacent to this area's western and a portion of its northern boundaries. The CRAs are within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G). These two contiguous CRAs are unique in the Saguache District for their topography and habitat types. They encompass an extremely rugged, lower-elevation area of rocky fin-shaped ridges separated by small meadows and canyons in between. The majority of these areas sit in the 9,000 to 9,500 foot elevation range, with the highest points along rims of the Saguache Creek canyon reaching above 10,600 feet. The area has had extensive natural fires which occurred from 80 to 100 years ago. Vegetation is ponderosa pine in the lower foothills, and Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir at higher mountainous terrain. Luder's and Elk Creeks are the major drainages within the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The general landscape is relatively natural in appearance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. Together Fourmile and Taylor CRAs 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. This

CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as Canada lynx (threatened), and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Lynx use is considered low. Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as bighorn sheep, American marten (documented occurrence) and goshawk (nesting documented). Peregrine falcons use the area. There is one known peregrine falcon aerie in the Taylor CRA, with a high potential for more to be discovered considering the quality of habitat for these birds. High densities of pygmy nuthatch use the ponderosa pine in the area. The CRA provides mule deer and Elk winter range. Together with the Fourmile CRA, the area serves as a refuge area for deer and elk during hunting seasons as well as a heavily-used winter range.

There is approximately three miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the limited access, one can get a sense of solitude and seclusion within the area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are standard lease terms. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,100 | 6,000 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Tewksberry, #R20946 (6,600 acres)

1. Description

Tewksberry CRA is located approximately six miles southeast of the town of South Fork, in Rio Grande Country. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. The northwestern boundary is the South Fork of the Rio Grande and U.S. Hwy 160 intermixed with private lands. The remaining boundaries are adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest Service lands prescribed to be managed for dispersed recreation and general forest activities. General roads within close proximity of this area are NFSR 360 (Beaver Creek), near its north boundary, NFSR 380 (Park Creek) and NFSR 361 on the south boundary, and U S Highway 160 on the west boundary. One motorized trail is within this area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This eco-section is characterized by steeply sloping to precipitous mountains dissected by many narrow stream valleys with steep gradients. Upper mountain slopes and crests may be covered by snowfields and glaciers. High plateaus and steep walled canyons are common. The area is characterized by steep mountainous terrain with mixed Douglas fir/Engelmann spruce/fir stands interspersed with aspen. Tewksberry Creek is the major tributary within the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area’s landscape is relatively natural in appearance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx use is high to moderate, with key areas for crossing Hwy 160 within the Wolf Creek Pass Lynx Linkage area. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, wolverine and goshawk. Nesting goshawks have been documented near the northeast boundary. The CRA provides summer and winter range for deer, elk and moose, and actual use and potential reproduction areas for Merriam turkey. Pronghorn antelope, black bear and mountain lion among other species also occupy the CRA. The area provides semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. There are approximately five miles of motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the area’s steep terrain and limited trail system, one can get a feeling of remoteness and seclusion. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer and fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings. Water facilities (e.g., dams, ditches, pipelines, etc.) occur on approximately 20 acres of the CRA. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases. There are some nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. There is some WUI on northwest boundary with a CWPP being developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,700 | 6,600 | Mapping precision. |

Tobacco Lakes, #R20923 (3,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is within Conejos County and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is adjacent to the San Juan Wilderness area on the southern boundary, Platoro Reservoir on its western boundary and Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities along the remaining boundaries. There is some private land adjacent to the CRA on the northeastern corner. General access to this area is by NFSR 105/1 00 on the area's eastern boundary and NFSR 247-T adjacent to its western boundary. Only one NFST 150 (Big Lake), a motorized trail is within the area. The CRA consists of steep drainages and hillsides not conducive to travel by vehicles. This area is characterized by high-elevation mountainous terrain with Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands intermingled with large, open meadows and steep drainages sloping into Platoro Reservoir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area's landscape is relatively natural in appearance with minimal human disturbance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA contains probable Canada lynx denning sites. The steep north facing slopes and drainages are potential areas lynx could use for reproduction sites and hunting grounds. The CRA is also a key area for bighorn sheep and provides potential habitat for the American marten and wolverine (Forest Service sensitive species). The Canon Diablo area provides elk summer range. The area also provides overall range for mule deer, black bear, mountain lion and bighorn sheep.

This area provides semi-primitive motorized opportunities on existing system trails. The area's primitive character and recreation setting can be maintained but may change should access to the private in-holdings be pursued. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements in the Lake Fork and Platora allotments only (not in Diablo allotment). Water Facilities (e.g., dams, ditches, pipelines, etc.) encompass approximately 423 acres. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,400 | 3,300 | Mapping precision. |

Trout Mountain–Elk Mountain, #R209DA (31,100 acres)

1. Description

This is a large CRA located just south of the town of Wagon Wheel. It is located in Mineral County and administered by the Divide Ranger District. It is separated from the Weminuche Wilderness Area by a sliver of Forest Service lands with NFSR 430 running the length of the western boundary between the CRA and the wilderness area. The northwestern corner of the CRA is adjacent to private lands. The remainders of the boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. Roads within close proximity of this area are U.S Highway 160 and NFSR 430 (Shaw lake) on its south and west boundary. There are numerous non-motorized NFSTs and one motorized trail within the area. A road provides access to private property. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area has high, mountainous terrain with steep cliffs along its eastern boundary. Vegetation is mature Engelmann spruce/alpine fir interspersed with Douglas-fir and aspen.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The general landscape is relatively natural appearing. Historical mining, timber harvest, and roads are evident within the CRA. Much of the area was cut for railroad ties. This large CRA is probably most important for big game species. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA has been documented. It is considered a high use area. The north half of the CRA is also part of Wolf Creek Lynx Linkage.

The CRA also provides habitat and/or potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: goshawk (known nesting), American marten, wolverine and American three toed woodpeckers (high densities in the spruce-fir zones). The following species are known to use the CRA: moose, elk (migration corridor, summer/winter range), mule deer (summer/.winter range), black bear, mountain lion, peregrine falcon, bald eagle (winter concentration area). It is an overall habitat and production area for Merriam Turkey.

The area provides non-motorized opportunities with a limited motorized travel trail route. There are approximately 11 miles of motorized trails and 18 miles of non-motorized trails within the CRA. Because of the area’s size and non-motorized recreation opportunities, one can obtain a sense of remoteness and seclusion when in this area. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer and fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a small parcel of private land (Metros Lake area) within the CRA. There is a high potential for oil and gas leasing. The area’s lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Approximately 50 acres were previously managed for timber harvest. There is a WUI on southeast boundary. The CWPP is being developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 33,400 | 33,100 | Minor mapping adjustments to exclude an existing road. |

Ute Pass, #R209B8 (8,700 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located approximately five miles north of the town of Saguache, in Saguache County. It is administered by the Saguache Ranger District. Its northwestern boundary is Forest Service lands managed for deer and elk winter range, the remaining boundaries are adjacent to BLM and private lands. It is bordered along its northwest side by NFSR 852 (Ute Pass). There is one NFST 845 (Coleman Cutoff) that passes through the eastern portion of this area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized by rugged topography with granite boulders. Vegetation is dry grassland/pinyon-jumper in lower elevations, ponderosa pine in mid-elevations, and spruce/fir intermixed with aspen at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area does have evidence of human impacts such as an electrical transmission line through the western corner, and historical mining, roading, timber harvest activity and a few old homestead sites. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. It is considered a low use area by lynx but could be important in movement north to south from the Poncha Pass Lynx Linkage. The CRA is a special wildlife area for bighorn sheep. The eastern end of the Ute Pass CRA has supported a small herd of bighorn sheep in the past, although this herd is believed to have died out in recent years. The area is still considered good potential bighorn habitat. Both of these CRA’s contain important winter range for deer and elk. The CRA provides potential habitat for American marten, a Forest Service sensitive species. There is a limited sense of remoteness in the western part, which increases in the east end with only one trail passing through. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Ute Pass area is surrounded by private and BLM land on the north, east, and south sides. There are two private in-holdings in Schecker Gulch and Asterhouse Gulch. The Saguache Peak electronics site is also on the western edge of the area. The area is rugged, with steep and rocky slopes. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are adjacent private lands and private land in-holdings. There is a low potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area’s lease stipulations are no surface occupancy. Approximately 200 acres were previously managed for timber harvest within the CRA. There is a WUI with a CWPP being d developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 9,100 | 8,700 | Mapping precision, minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, and to exclude an existing road. |

Wason Park, #R20951 (20,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is approximately three miles north and east of the town of Creede in Mineral County. It is administered by the Divide Ranger District. The area is adjacent to the La Garita Wilderness on the north and eastern boundaries. Most of the CRA is managed as backcountry. Its western boundary is mostly Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. The southern boundary is adjacent to private land along the Rio Grande corridor. The only road access within close proximity of this area is NFSR 502 (East Willow creek). Five NFSTs provide motorized and non-motorized opportunities. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized by gentle to steep alpine slopes and ridges, talus slopes, and glacial basins at higher elevation. Mid-elevation is composed of benches (park openings) and steep cliff walls into East and West Bellow Creeks. Major drainages are East and West Bellow Creeks, Farmers Creek, Willow and White Creeks. Alpine areas are associated with kobresia/forbs, Arizona Fescue/subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce/Rocky Mountain whortleberry on forested mountain slopes with benches.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area appears natural with the exception of signs of historical mining and timber harvest. This large CRA is very important as it is surrounded by Wilderness on two sides creating a large expanse of relatively unfragmented and undisturbed habitats for a variety of wildlife species. It is most unique for bighorn sheep and big game species. It is in close proximity to a high use lynx area, however, lynx use has not been documented to date. It likely provides potential habitat and denning habitat for this federally listed species. The CRA also provides habitat and/or potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, wolverine, and American three-toed woodpeckers. This CRA provides elk and mule deer summer, production, and winter concentration habitat. The Mammoth Mountain and Farmer's Creek area are winter concentration areas for elk and deer, bighorn sheep summer and winter habitat, habitat for moose, and pine marten. This CRA is adjacent to priority habitat for moose in West Willow Creek. These areas also provide a migration route for bighorn sheep from the Bellows Creek herd to the San Luis Peak and Bristol Head herds.

The area provides motorized and non-motorized opportunities. There are approximately ten miles of non-motorized trails and three miles of motorized trails. Once away from the NFSTs, one can get a sense of remoteness. Because of the patented mining claims and active mineral prospecting there is a potential for future access and development on these sites which may change the area's character. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the La Garita Wilderness. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer, fall and winter outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Livestock grazing does not occur. There are private land in-holdings. There is no potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. There is a WUI near the south boundary but no CWPP has been developed.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 20,500 | 20,400 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Wightman Fork–Upper Burro, #R209M1 (6,700 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Conejos County and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is located on the north side of the Alamosa River. NFSR 250 runs along the river corridor. This road and private parcels along segments of the river corridor separate this roadless area from Silver Lakes/Stunner CRA on the south side of the river corridor. It is between two other CRAs on the north side

of the river; separated from Wightman Fork to Lookout CRA by a strip of private land; on its eastern side, it is separated from Bennett Mountain CRA by NFSR 280. Its southeastern boundary is adjacent to private lands within the river corridor. The remaining boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. Roads which provide general access to this area are NFSR 250 (Alamosa-Conejos River Road) which borders the area's southern boundary; NFSR 328 (Spring Creek Road) along its eastern boundary and NFSR 334 (Bolita) accessing a portion of the area's northern boundary. A two mile stretch of motorized NFST 700 (Dry Creek) is within the area. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The upper Burro area is characterized by high elevation mountainous terrain with Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands dissected by tributaries draining into Burro Creek. The Wightman Fork/Blowout area is characterized by steep side canyons of Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir stands intermingled with aspen and bristlecone pine stands. Numerous rugged and steep tributaries feed into the Alamosa River.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area's landscape is relatively natural appearing with minimal human disturbance. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA provides potential habitat and denning areas for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This CRA is close to a current population. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten (documented occurrence), bighorn sheep and wolverine. The CRA contains mule deer and elk range and productions areas. Bighorn sheep occupy the CRA which is a key habitat area for this species. It is managed as backcountry, dispersed recreation, and as a Special Interest Area (emphasizing use and interpretation). The Special Interest Area portion of the CRA is an area of hydrothermally altered volcanic rock displays with vivid red, orange, and yellow soils in a rugged, highly eroded setting.

The area primarily provides non-motorized opportunities, however there are approximately 11 miles of motorized trails within the CRA. With the limited access, one can obtain a sense of remoteness when in this area. Activities include fishing and hunting. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Wightman Fork and many other Alamosa River tributaries have water quality that has been impaired by both natural contamination sources (hydrothermally altered geology/soils) and by historic mining. Air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources." Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Fall outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Portions of three grazing allotments are within the area. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There are private land in-holdings. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases however there are nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. There are currently no designated CWPPS or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 7,200 | 6,700 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries, and to exclude timber harvested and roaded areas. |

Wightman Fork to Lookout, #R20914 (5,700 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located in Conejos County and administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. It is located on the north side of the Alamosa River. NFSR 250 runs along the river corridor. This road and private parcels along segments of the river corridor separate this roadless area from Silver Lakes/Stunner CRA on the south side of the river corridor. It is separated from the Wightman Fork/Upper Burro CRA on its eastern boundary by a strip of private land. A portion of its western boundary and northern boundary are adjacent to private land. The remaining boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for recreation and general forest activities. The closest access routes are NFSR 250 (Alamosa-Conejos River Road) which is adjacent to this area's southern boundary and NFSR 244 (Wightman Fork Road) and NFSR 230 (Summitville Road) at its northern boundary. There are no NFSTs within the area. The steep terrain limits motorized use. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. The area is characterized by steep alpine slopes to very steep alpine drainages with Engelmann spruce/alpine fir stands interspersed with open parks. Three drainages flow into the Alamosa River.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact functioning ecological processes. The area appears relatively natural. Historical mining and timber harvest are evident within the CRA. This CRA has significant wildlife value. It provides potential habitat and denning areas for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This CRA is close to a current population. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: American marten (documented occurrence), bighorn sheep and wolverine. The CRA contains mule deer and elk range and productions areas. Bighorn sheep occupy the CRA which is a key habitat area for this species.

Because of the limited access and lack of NFSTs within the area, the semi-primitive, non-motorized setting provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The area provides non-motorized recreational opportunities with very limited activities (fishing and hunting) taking place due to its steep terrain and no NFSTs. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Wightman Fork and several other Alamosa River tributaries have water quality that has been impaired by both natural contamination sources (hydrothermally altered geology/soils) and by historic mining. Air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Summer outfitter and guide activities are permitted. Portions of three allotments are within the area. Livestock grazing occurs and range improvements include fencing. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements. There is a permit for a water quality monitoring station. There are private land in-holdings. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Approximately 135 acres were previously managed for timber harvest.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,000 | 5,700 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

Willow Mountain, #R209Q2 (10,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Conejos County and is administered by the Conejos Peak Ranger District. The western boundary of the CRA is adjacent to the Conejos River corridor. Its southeastern boundary is adjacent to the La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife area; its remaining boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands. On the west side the lands are managed for wild and scenic /recreation river qualities and on the east side, the lands are managed for recreation and general forest activities. General access to these unroaded areas is provided by NFSR 250 (Alamosa -Conejos River Road) which encompasses these areas on the north, west, and south. Due to the steep terrain associated with the river canyon walls, suitable access routes from NFSR 250 are limited. Existing four-wheel drive roads provide closer access. These include NFSR 101 (Fox Creek Road), NFSR 240 (La Jara Creek Road) accessing Willow Mountain, NFSR 248 (Jim Creek Road) and NFSR 249 (Bancos) which access the Fox Creek area, and NFSR 259 which accesses the Alamosa River area. Both motorized and non-motorized opportunities are provided on NFSTs and non-NFSTs. NFSR 260 (Silver Lakes Road) provides access to Willow Mountain on the area's north and west boundary. The Willow Mountain CRA consists of steep hillsides and cliffs to the west along the Conejos Canyon Rim. The terrain is not conducive to travel by vehicles. The neighboring State Land provides significant vehicle access to most of the neighboring lands. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. They are characterized by gentle to steep alpine slopes and ridges with stands of aspen, Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. The forested areas are interspersed with fescue grassland and shrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area has long term, intact, functioning ecological processes. These areas are relatively natural in appearance; however, there are signs of historical mining and timber harvest. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and possibly receives some use by this species although higher use occurs on the west side of Conejos River. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, American marten, and wolverine. The CRA is notable for bighorn sheep which use the entire area for winter range and production. The steep hillsides of the Conejos drainage nearby provide areas of cover and refuge for elk. The Willow Mountain area provides summer concentration areas. There is also an elk production area near Willow Mountain. The CRA provides habitat for the following species: black bears (overall range), mule deer (overall range), and native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout that are found in Jim Creek. There is an introduced pure Rio Grande cutthroat population from the headwaters to La Jara Reservoir and in Torsido Creek, from the headwaters to La Jara Reservoir.

These areas are managed for both motorized (Alamosa River/Fox Creek) and non-motorized opportunities (Willow Mountain). There is approximately six miles of motorized trails within the CRA. Once away from the motorized trails, one can experience a sense of solitude and remoteness. These areas provide a variety of opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, viewing scenery, stream fishing, motorcycling, ATVs, and mountain biking. These areas contain big-game habitat that provides hunting opportunities in the fall. Public use on the adjacent State and BLM lands, overflow into the CRA to explore the unroaded area particularly during the fall hunting season. This CRA is within a State identified source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water quality meets State Water Quality Standards and air quality/visibility is not impaired by local sources. Traditional and cultural sites are found here and throughout the Rio Grande National Forest.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA contain cattle and sheep allotments. Range improvements include fencing and water development. Motorized access is allowed for range improvements in the Willow, Jim Creek and Bancos allotments. There is a medium potential for oil and gas leasing. There are no leases or nominations. The area's lease stipulations are administratively unavailable. Currently there are no designated CWPPs or WUIs within the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 9,900 | 10,000 | Mapping precision and minor mapping adjustments to provide logical identifiable boundaries. |

ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

Barber Basin, #R21120 (5,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5,500 | 5,500 | No change. |

Black Mountain, # 21101 (22,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and the following Forest Service Sensitive species: boreal toad, Colorado River cutthroat trout, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. This area provides significant habitat for several species of special concern including nest sites for greater sandhill cranes. Four creeks provide habitat for a conservation population of Colorado

River cutthroat trout. The CRA also provides habitat for mule deer, elk (Bears Ears herd) and black bear. The CRA is natural appearing landscapes with a high scenic quality. The landscape has a rugged, undeveloped character with pothole lakes in the north. The four peaks are of high scenic quality and offer panoramic views of the surrounding area for long distances. There is evidence of past timber harvest and milling activity. Seismic exploration in the late 1970s left the area bisected by low-level roads. Recreation use is low through the late spring and summer but increases dramatically during the big game hunting seasons. Snowmobile use is substantial through the winter and early spring. The following trails occur in the CRA: NFST 1185, 1185.1A, and 1144.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The north, west, and south boundaries adjoin mostly private lands, with some BLM land interspersed. There are several term grazing permits with seasonal grazing; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are two special use recreation permits. A permitted special use communication site is near the summit of Black Mountain. There are five water diversion ditches. All have adjudicated 50-foot easements. Motorized or mechanized equipment has been authorized for ditch maintenance and repair. The potential for locatable minerals is low. There is one salable mineral site adjacent to the CRA. The CRA has high potential for oil and gas. Two current oil and gas leases are at least partially in the CRA issued prior to January 12, 2001. There are approximately 100 acres with expressions of interest for leasing. An active production well field is on private land adjacent to the west end of the area. There are approximately 19,600 acres tentatively suitable for timber harvest (86% of the total area) and 6,800 acres suitable for timber harvest.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 22,800 | 22,700 | Updated mapping. |

Bunker Basin, #R21125 (12,800 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12,800 | 12,800 | No change. |

Bushy Creek, #R21121 (11,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is near Lynx Pass in the Gore Range south of Steamboat Springs. It is in Routt County east of Yampa, and administered by the Yampa Ranger District. Public access is partially restricted because of the private ownership along the Morrison Creek Road located on the eastern boundary of the CRA. Access is provided from NFSR 185 (Green Ridge Road) and NFST 1174 (Morrison Divide Trail). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). The CRA generally has a northeast aspect with the exception of a bowl draining to the south at the head of Bushy Creek. Most of the CRA has slopes in excess of 20%; the soil is very erosive. The area has rugged, steep topography. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 10,200 feet. Predominant drainages include Beaver Creek, Bushy Creek, Clear Creek, and Muddy Creek. Lodgepole pine, spruce-fir, and aspen stands interspersed with meadows characterize the vegetation. A Thurber fescue-needlegrass plant community dominates the meadow vegetation. The northeast facing slopes are timbered but are too steep for conventional logging. The south and southeast facing slopes contain small aspen stands. Soils are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from granite and shale. They are generally shallow and poorly developed.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11,400 | 11,400 | No change. |

Chatfield, #R21124 (11,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Garfield, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties west of Yampa; and administered through the Yampa Ranger District. The CRA is accessed from NFSR 260 at Sheriff Reservoir and from NFSR 948 along the Bear River corridor. Two trails access the area: NFST 1110 (Heart Lake Trail), a popular motorized trail and NFST 1123 (East Coal Creek Trail). The Bear River Corridor is a popular access route into the Flat Tops Wilderness, summer through fall. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H). Elevations range from 9,844 feet along Mandall Creek to 12,134 feet at Ormo Peak. The topography varies from the broad open expanses of the Little Flat Tops to the extremely steep walls dropping from the rim of the Little Flat Tops to the moderately sloping drainages of South Hunt Creek, Watson Creek, and Moody Creek. Soils in the area are generally loam to clay loam derived from basalt and shale. The CRA supports stands of spruce and subalpine fir with an overstory of beetle-killed spruce and large expanses of aspen. The highest parts have tundra; the area above timberline has sub-alpine willows and grasses.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11,300 | 11,300 | No change. |

Chedsey Creek, #R21112 (1,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Jackson County east of Steamboat Springs and adjacent to the southern end of the Mount. Zirkel Wilderness; it is administered by the Parks Ranger District. NFSR 625 and 626 border the south, north, and east sides of the CRA. Timber haul roads in the northern end extend from NFSR 626.1; they are re-vegetated and closed to motorized vehicles. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The CRA has deep, rolling, forested drainages, which become shallow close to the north end. Streams are both perennial and intermittent. Several rock outcrops are scattered throughout the area. There are opportunities to view vistas overlooking North Park and the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. The CRA contains mostly spruce/fir timber stands. Some commercial timber harvest has taken place; a small clearcut is located in the area. Regeneration is in excess of 15 feet. Soils are generally loamy sands to sandy loam derived from glacial till and have low fertility.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is one cattle and horse term grazing permit in this CRA; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. Timber harvest occurred on the north end of the CRA in the past 25 years. Currently there are no WUI acres identified in this CRA. Approximately 900 acres are in the proposed West Side CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,000 | 1,000 | No change. |

Dome, #21123 (2,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Garfield County, southwest of Yampa. This CRA has two contiguous sections. Both the Routt and the White River National Forests administer the CRAs. Only a small portion of the Dome CRA is in the Routt National Forest. The majority of it is in the White River National Forest (Dome Peak CRA #6 – 12,000 acres). The Flat Tops Wilderness bounds the west border of the Dome CRA. Other than access on the north side from NFSR 948 (Bear River Road), no NFSRs access the area. There are no maintained trails. The CRA is adjacent to the larger Dome Peak CRA on the White River National Forest. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 12,000 feet. The CRA is at the base of the Flat Top Mountains and has rolling timbered and open sagebrush country. Many perennial and ephemeral streams drain into major lakes and reservoirs. Soils are generally sandy loam to loam derived from basalt. The CRA supports stands of spruce and sub-alpine fir, with an overstory of beetle-killed spruce.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2,100 | 2,100 | No change. |

Dome Peak, # R21108 (35,700 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Routt and Jackson counties just north of Clark; it extends to the Wyoming border. A thin, east-west sliver of the CRA on the east side of the Continental Divide is on the Parks Ranger District. The west border abuts private land along NFSR 129 and Pearl Lake State Park. The CRA is directly adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, in the Park Range north of Steamboat Springs. Roads and trails provide easy access to the CRA. Road access is from NFSR 400 on the south. Western access includes Pearl Lake State Park, NFSR 409, and NFSR 499. Northern access is from NFSR 80. The west side has access from NFSR 431. The south side borders Seedhouse Road, a popular road used to access NFS campgrounds and the Slavonia trailhead. The west border abuts private land along NFSR 129 and Pearl Lake State Park. Roads on the east and west of the CRA have heavy motorized use. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations range from approximately 7,800 feet to 10,824 feet, with numerous perennial creeks and several small lakes. The terrain is rolling. The primary attraction is Dome Peak, with its variety of vegetation types from riparian to alpine tundra. Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to clay loam derived from granites and gneiss; soils are stable. Vegetation ranges from parks, sagebrush, a mixture of conifer forests, and aspen to above timberline tundra on higher peaks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 36,700 | 35,700 | Updated mapping, removed roads. |

Elkhorn, #R21107 (10,500 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This CRA provides essential habitat needs for the following Forest Service sensitive species; boreal toad, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, and greater sandhill crane (species of special concern). The area also provides habitat for black bear, elk (portion of the Bears Ears herd), and mule deer. The CRA has a moderate degree of naturalness. Portions of the Middle Fork of the Little Snake River wind through a rugged, scenic canyon, providing the most outstanding feature of the area. The CRA provides a mix of semi-primitive and roaded-natural recreation opportunities. Dispersed recreation includes camping, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, motorized trail use, and snowmobiling. The heaviest use is during hunting season. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11,000 | 10,500 | Updated mapping removed roads. |

Gold Creek, #R21110 (3,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Routt County north of Steamboat Springs; administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. Mount Zirkel Wilderness borders the CRA on the east. The remaining boundaries are Forest Service lands managed primarily for backcountry and wild/scenic emphasis. There is easy access provided to the CRA by NFSRs 400 and 443. Three non-motorized trails cross the CRA and lead into the wilderness: NFST 1150 (Gold Creek Trail), NFST 1161 (Gilpin Lake Trail) and NFST 1163 (Three Island Lake Trail). The access points into the wilderness are the primary attractions. The three trails are difficult to access and are not open to motorized vehicles, but they receive heavy use. The trailheads off NFSR 400 and 433 along the west border are popular access routes into the wilderness and receive heavy use. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This CRA has hillsides and mountain slopes heading up from Gold Creek and Gilpin Creek into the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Soils are generally sandy loams to loams derived from glacial materials and have a high erosion hazard when disturbed. The vegetation is primarily mature conifer and mature aspen. The CRA provides small buffers to the heavy road traffic on forest roads and trails. These areas are very rugged. The CRA experienced extensive blow downs and fires that will take generations to recover.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CDOW has determined that this CRA is typical high-elevation lodgepole pine and spruce fir forests that has essential habitat for black bear, boreal toad, elk, lynx, marten, mule deer, moose, mountain lion. The CDOW has confirmed the presence of lynx through radio telemetry data on the CRA. The overall appearance is quite natural. Little evidence remains of past mining activities. The vegetation appears fairly natural and unmanaged. Scenic features of the CRA rate include the glacially carved valleys of Gold, Gilpin, and Island Creeks and the scenic views available. The three trails in this CRA receive the highest use of any trails in or near the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. The trailheads off NFSR 400 and 433 along the west border of the unit are popular access routes into the wilderness and receive heavy use. Recreation activities include camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mountain biking. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is on the west border of Mount Zirkel Wilderness.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

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

Grizzly Helena, #21114 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Jackson County between Walden and Steamboat Springs, administered by the Parks Ranger District. The west side of the CRA is the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Several roads on private property provide access to the CRA. Three trails cross the area: NFST 1126 (Grizzly Helena Trail- -motorized), NFST 1130 (Rainbow Lake Trail) and NFST 1131 (Lost Ranger Trail). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Several drainages

bisect the CRA in an east-west direction. Many intermittent and perennial streams are present. Little vegetation manipulation is evident. Livingston Park is a scenic area with large meadows and beaver ponds. Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from glacial till and granite; the soils are coarse-textured. Vegetation is mixed conifer and associated understory with some aspen.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are three special use recreation permits and two term grazing permits. Grazing permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are at least two known water conveyance system easements; motorized equipment is authorized for their maintenance and repair. There are no WUI acres identified. Approximately 6,300 acres are in the proposed West Side CWPP. Fuel treatments are in the early stages of planning near the Rainbow Lakes trailhead and on private land in-holdings near the Pitch Pine trailhead.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,400 | 6,100 | Updated mapping. |

Kettle Lakes, #R21115 (10,900 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is in the eastern foothills and mid-slope areas of the Park Range, in Jackson County northwest of Walden, on the Parks Ranger District. Access to the CRA is by NFSTs 1124, 1125, 1125.1A, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1148, 1178, and 1180. The CRA's west side is contiguous with the east side of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. One administrative road occurs in the CRA, the Pleasant Valley Ditch headgate access road. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Streams dissect the CRA in an east-west direction characterizing the terrain. The CRA has a unique glacial pothole region and two large natural lakes (Upper and Lower Big Creek Lakes). The glacial pothole area is designated as the Kettle Lakes Research Natural Area. The area has forested ecosystems in a mid-late seral condition with a few scattered sagebrush/grass openings and aspen communities. The predominant species are lodgepole pine at lower elevations and spruce/fir at higher elevations. Vegetation cover is heavy. Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from glacial till and granite; the soils are coarse-textured.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA provides essential habitat for wildlife species including, but not limited to, bighorn sheep (Forest Service sensitive species), black bear, bufflehead, elk, mule deer, moose, mountain lion, osprey, white-tailed deer, and many passerine bird, small mammal, and raptor species. The glacial pothole area is unique and high in scenic values. The presence of trails, ditches, roads, and other human-made features detracts from the sense of naturalness. Human-made features are generally not visible except in the immediate foreground. There is little noticeable vegetation manipulation. Overall, the area does appear quite natural.

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a recreation residence east of Big Creek Lake. There is at least one term grazing permit; the permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is one recreational special use permit. There are at least seven known water conveyance system easements; motorized equipment is authorized for their operation, maintenance, and repair. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS has an easement on NFST 1128.1 to access the Boettcher Snotel (an automated system that collects snow pack and related climatic data) site with motorized vehicles for monitoring, maintenance, and repair. The majority of the CRA has no potential for oil or gas; areas of the eastern edge have low potential. There are no leases currently held for lands within the CRA. Approximately 50% of the CRA has a low potential for locatable minerals; 30% has moderate, and 20% has high. There are no salable mineral sites. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 65 acres of mineral interest that underlie Forest Service surface ownership. Approximately 8,600 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 58% of the CRA. There are no WUI acres identified in this CRA. Approximately 6,900 acres occur in the North End CWPP and another 4,100 in the proposed West Side CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11,100 | 10,900 | Updated mapping. |

Little Green Creek, #R21118 (900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Routt County between Kremmling and Steamboat Springs. The Yampa Ranger District administers the CRA. It is west of NFSR 100 (Buffalo Park road) and adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. Access is limited. It is adjacent to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area. A ridge and NFST 1108 (Divide Trail) surround the south, west, and north sides and separate the CRA from the wilderness area. NFST 1108 runs to the west of the CRA. The northern part of the CRA is accessed from NFSR 303 off of U.S Highway 40 west of Rabbit Ears Pass, and by NFST 1108. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. There is a ridge separating the CRA from Sarvis Creek Wilderness and it is in a different watershed. The terrain is steep. Soils in the area are generally loamy sand to sandy loam derived from granite; soil fertility is low. This CRA has diverse vegetative communities, including willow bottoms, lodgepole, and spruce-fir. The conifer forest is even-aged.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is approximately 800 acres are suitable for timber harvest.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 800 | 900 | Updated mapping. |

Long Park, #R21116 (42,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Grand, Jackson, and Routt counties east of Steamboat Springs, on the Hahns Peak and Parks Ranger Districts. It is located north of Rabbit Ears Pass on U.S Highway 40. It is a large roadless area located between Mount Zirkel and Sarvis Creek Wilderness areas. The U.S. Highway 40 corridor splits this CRA from the Walton Peak. Its southwestern boundary adjoins private land parcels, the remaining boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for scenery, dispersed recreation and general forest activities. It is accessed by NFSRs 296, 299, 305, 305A, 306, and 306A and NFSTs 1101, 1102, and 1134. A system of snowmobile trails runs through the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The CRA slopes westward to the lower areas of the Yampa River Valley and mid to high elevation parks and lakes dominate the CRA. There is Krummholz forest. The terrain on the east side and in the interior is rolling hills, dissected by several streams. The terrain along the western edge is more rugged and steeply sloping and includes several steep canyons with scenic waterfalls. Vegetation is primarily scrub oak and aspen at lower elevations and willow-dominated parks and riparian areas, shallow lakes, and spruce/fir forests at higher elevations. There is some tundra.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Snowfall accumulations are among the highest in the state, attracting winter recreationists. The area receives heavy recreational use because of the variety of opportunities offered near to the town of Steamboat Springs. The high level of use, limits the sense of solitude within the CRA. NFST 1102 (Fish Creek Falls Trail), is designated as a National Recreation Trail. NFST 1101 and 1134 are open to motorized travel and receive substantial use. Much of the CRA is open to snowmobilers and a system of snowmobile trails runs through the area. Use also takes place off designated routes. Snowmobilers more heavily use the eastern portion. All trails in the area are open to bicycle use. NFST 1102 receives heavy bike use. NFST 1032 (Mountain View Trail) connects Long Lake and Mount Werner and is designed specifically for mountain bike users. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Used extensively are the watershed resources. The watershed supply for the city of Steamboat Springs is in this CRA, which also has two municipal water supply reservoirs (Long Lake and Fish Creek reservoirs) and a recreation reservoir. The Fish Creek Reservoir expanded in 2007.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. The eight authorized recreation special use permits include a guided snowmobile tour, a snowcat-served guided backcountry ski operation, and a machine-groomed nordic ski trail. There are two municipal water supply reservoirs (Long Lake and Fish Creek reservoirs) and a recreation reservoir in this CRA. Motor vehicles are approved for use in the reservoirs for annual inspections, maintenance, and repairs. In 2007, the Mount Werner Water District constructed a water storage tank and access route; and their permit includes the use of motorized equipment to access this site for maintenance and repairs.

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

The majority of the CRA has no potential for oil or gas; the far southeast corner has low potential. Potential for locatable minerals is low. One salable mineral site is just to the north of the CRA. Approximately 300 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 24,200 acres is tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 54% of the CRA. Approximately 160 acres are in management area prescription 7.1, Residential/Forest Interface, and are an identified WUI. Approximately 4,100 acres

are in the proposed West Side CWPP. A fuels reduction project (Steamboat Front Fuels Project) in the early stages of development includes parts of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Mad Creek, #R21111 (24,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Routt County northwest of Steamboat Springs, administered by the Hahns Peak Ranger District. It is near the town of Steamboat Springs and accessed by NFSRs 60.2A, 314, and NFSTs 1100, 1118, 1166, 1171, 1206. The Mad Creek CRA is adjacent to the southwestern corner of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and shares more than twenty miles of boundary with the west side of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). This CRA is down slope from the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, extending to the Elk and Yampa river valleys. Elevations range from 7,200 to 10,000 feet. Rocky Peak is in the center of the CRA. The terrain is roughly broken and dissected by several streams. It contains several isolated rocky peaks and some large open meadows. Vegetation includes extensive hillsides of oakbrush on the southern fringes and lower elevations. Aspen pockets are common. Generally, the CRA is forested with mixed conifer, spruce, and fir at higher elevations. Soils are generally sandy loam to loam derived from glacial materials. Elk Park is a degraded riparian area because of past uses combined with low soil productivity.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Key elk winter range is on the lower elevation, oak-covered hillsides. Most of the CRA is undisturbed and remote. According to the CDOW, the lower elevations of this CRA have more than 6,000 acres of big game winter range that are essential to the elk herd in Game Management Unit 14. There is a high degree of naturalness. Evidence of past activity is present but generally unobtrusive, unnoticed by the majority of visitors. There are outstanding views of the Yampa valley and the Elk River valley. Large portions of this CRA are undisturbed by humans. Other sections have evidence of past developments and historic motorized use. Most of the area is open to snowmobilers. All trails are open to bicycle travel; at least three routes get heavy use. The proximity of developed and urban areas limits the sense of remoteness and primitive adventure. However, opportunities for solitude are high as the diversity of dissected topography easily screens people from one another in short distances. Most of the area has dense vegetation, which also screens people from one another. The peaks and ridge-tops offer a sense of solitude. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Part of the Soda Creek headwaters is in this CRA. Mad Creek and Big Creek cross the CRA from their headwaters in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. All of these creeks flow to the Yampa River. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are three recreation special use permits and at least one known water conveyance system easement (motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance and repair). Yampa Valley Electric Association and U.S. West Communications hold utility easements through the area. Motor vehicles are approved to access utility lines for annual inspections, maintenance, and repairs. A land exchange in 2006 and 2007 resulted in acres removed from the CRA, as they became privately owned. Potential for locatable minerals is moderate on approximately 50% of the CRA and low for the remaining 50%. There are no salable mineral sites and no potential for oil or gas. Approximately 13,600 acres are tentatively suitable land for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 54% of the CRA. Approximately 8,800 acres of this CRA are in the North Routt CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 25,100 | 24,300 | Updated mapping removed roads. |

Morrison Creek, #R21119 (8,500 acres)

1. Description

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

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CDOW has determined that wildlife species in this CRA include, but not limited to, black bear, boreal toad, mountain lion, mule deer, northern goshawk, and peregrine falcon. The CRA has a high degree of naturalness and provides excellent elk habitat. Recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and the potential for increased use of NFST 1108 for mountain biking. A moderate amount of hunters use the largest portion of this CRA, bounded on the south by the CR 16 and on the north by the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. There is currently little mountain bike use. It is anticipated, however, that NFST 1108 along the eastern border will continue to show increased use, particularly now that NFST 1106 (Silver Creek Trail) is closed to mechanized vehicles. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment n area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

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

Never Summer North, #R21130 (3,700 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Jackson County southeast of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. Access is by NFSTs 1138 and 1141. Access in the extreme northeast portion is accessed by developed and maintained trails originating in Colorado State Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. A small portion in the northeast corner adjoins the Rocky Mountain National Park. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This remote area is similar in character to the Never Summer South CRA (#R21129). Timbered mountainside slopes encompass portions of the foothills on the west side of the Never Summer Range near the southeast corner of North Park. Steep slopes and high ridges with a few rocky points and talus slopes characterize most of the area. The upper portions of most drainages have evident avalanche paths. Soils are generally loam and sandy clay loam derived from glacial till and granites. Vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine stands at lower elevations, giving way to spruce/fir at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides essential habitat needs for black bear, elk, lynx (federally threatened), mule deer, moose, mountain lion, white-tailed ptarmigan (Forest Service sensitive species), boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species), Northern river otter and mountain wood frog (Forest Service sensitive species). Elk and moose gather here in the summer; bighorn sheep (Forest Service sensitive species) winter in this CRA.

The area is a gateway to the existing wilderness and offers excellent opportunities for viewing scenery. The CRA has distinctive landscapes and offers spectacular views of the surrounding area. Opportunities for solitude rate high primarily because of the low level of current use, the rugged terrain, and dense vegetation screening people from one another over short distances. Human activity from past logging and mining is evident and has modified the CRA's appearance, however, much of the area, has had a chance to recover and appears more natural. The trails in the CRA are open to bicycle use. The CRA is used primarily for dispersed recreation, especially big game hunting. Currently, recreation use is low. Big game hunting attracts much of the current use. The CRA is open to snowmobilers. It

is adjacent to two popular trails that are marked and maintained by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. This CRA is in a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,700 | 3,700 | No change. |

Never Summer South, #R21129 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Jackson County, southeast of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. The Never Summer Wilderness and the Rocky Mountain National Park bound it on the southeast. NFS lands with roads border the northern, western, and southern perimeters. The Colorado State Forest borders portions of the north. NFS Road 758 borders the southwest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through the CRA. NFSTs 1136, 1141, 1143, and 1186 provide access. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Steep slopes and high ridges characterize the eastern part. Lower elevations have many talus slopes; there are numerous avalanche paths in the upper portions of most drainages. Soils are generally loam and clay loam derived from volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The western areas are lower, more rolling terrain. Included is the low-lying Horse Park area, an old, filled-in lake that supports a unique vegetative community. Vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine stands at lower elevations giving way to spruce/fir at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7,600 | 7,600 | No change. |

Nipple Peak North, #R21105 (6,300 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat needs for bald eagle, black bear, elk (summer range; migration corridors summer concentration; production area), great blue heron (nesting, overall range), mountain lion, mule deer (migration; overall and summer range), and osprey (nesting, foraging). Opportunities for solitude are moderate because of the ridge-top topography. Extensive logging activity has taken place in the Mill Creek drainage to the south and the Lopez and Willow Creek drainages to the north. Road activity has taken place on all four sides of this CRA. Use is moderate during the summer and high during the fall hunting season. This CRA is popular with hunters and hikers. Limited hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and primitive camping are the key activities. Winter recreation is limited to occasional cross-country skiing. There are no Forest Service maintained trails. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are two special use permits for recreation. There are also several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. This area has approximately 3,900 acres of land suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 45 acres are in the North Routt WUI, one of three highest priority fuel reduction treatments proposed on the Routt National Forest; about 1,000 acres of treatment is anticipated in the Red Creek Fuels Project in the next three years. Approximately 4,700 acres are in the North Routt CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6,300 | 6,300 | No change. |

Nipple Peak South, #R21104 (11,900 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

This CRA is managed for non-motorized, semi-primitive recreation. It is open to snowmobilers. A heavily used snowmobile route runs along the northern edge; the CRA is adjacent to a system of snowmobile trails. These trails get moderate to heavy use; there is also use off designated routes. Most use is for dispersed recreation (big game hunting with some snowmobile use through the winter). The

lack of public access and the CRAs relatively small size limit the recreation use of the area. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is one term grazing permit; the permittee may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. A radio relay station is near the summit of Sand Mountain with motor vehicle access for operations, inspections, maintenance, and repairs. There was a Chevron oil well pad and its associated high standard access road; the well facilities have been removed, and the pad and road obliterated and rehabilitated. Potential for oil and gas is medium. There are currently no expressions of interest for leasing. Potential for locatable minerals is low; there are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 70 acres are suitable for timber harvest; 11,130 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suited acreage is approximately 81% of the CRA. Approximately 1,150 acres are in management area prescription 7.1, Residential/Forest Interface and the North Routt WUI. This WUI is one of three highest priority fuel reduction treatments proposed on the Forest. The Red Creek Fuels Project anticipates treating about 1,000 acres in the next three years. Approximately 10,700 acres are in the North Routt CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Pagoda Peak, #R21126 (57,700 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Generally, the CRA appears natural and unmodified by human activity. The CRA is so large and receives so little use, outside of the hunting seasons, that it offers an exceptional sense of isolation and solitude. Evidence of human activity is scarce and widely dispersed. The CRA retains a wild character and is one of the largest non-wilderness CRAs. Cyclone Park, located in the eastern portion of the CRA, is one of a few large, subalpine meadow areas accessible only by foot or horseback on the west side of the Routt National Forest. There is a unique island fault near Pagoda Creek in the north-central part of the area. The primitive nature of activities may be constrained by the number of adjacent roads and amount of available public access in the southern portion of the area. Dispersed recreation is the primary use, with that use heavy during big game hunting seasons. In the spring, summer, and fall many hiking and horseback enthusiasts visit the CRA. Rio Blanco County Road 8 provides easy access and viewing for those who remain in their vehicles. NFSTs 1804 and 1810 are open to motorized travel for part of the year. The CRA is open to, and used considerably by, snowmobilers, particularly the Indian Run Snowmobile Trail on the northern end and two loop trails on the southern end. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A permitted special use communication site lies in the CRA; motorized equipment are authorized for its maintenance and repair. There is at least one known water conveyance system easement (Sullivan Ditch); motorized equipment is authorized for its maintenance

and repair. There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. Potential for locatable minerals is low; there are no salable mineral sites. Potential for oil and gas in the northern end is high with no potential in the southern end. There is currently one oil and gas lease partially in the CRA issued prior to January 12, 2001. The Scott Mill Oil Field, an active production field, is adjacent to this CRA. Approximately 42,100 acres in the Routt portion are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 73% of the CRA. Summer homes are being developed on the private lands to the north of the CRA. This is a significant change from the historical agricultural orientation of the East Fork Valley.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 57,800 | 57,700 | Updated mapping. |

Shield Mountain, #R21106 (9,400 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

Recreation use in the summer is low, primarily dispersed camping; use in the fall hunting season is high. Biking, hiking, horseback riding, and primitive camping are the main recreation activities. Bikers and ATVs use NFST 1192 for forest access. Little winter recreation use takes place (lack of winter access). The large elk herd attracts hunting and wildlife viewing. Four-wheel drive roads and several non-designated motorized trails bisect this CRA. It is adjacent to other NFS areas with a network of roads and motorized trails. This CRA is in a state defined, source-water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

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

South Fork, #R21109 (4,700 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Routt County east of Glen Eden and adjacent to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. It is bordered on the north by NFSRs 400 and 443 (popular access routes to Forest Service campgrounds) and on the east by the wilderness. The southern border follows a drainage divide. There is a poorly defined western border bisecting a series of small lakes, which drain into the South Fork of the Elk

River. There are two trails crossing the CRA, NFST 1101.1A (South Fork Trail- non-motorized) and NFST 100 (Swamp Park Trail – non-motorized). Road access adjacent to the CRA includes NFSRs 400 and 443 along the northern border. The CRA is within the Mount Zirkel Subsection of the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Bisecting the CRA is the South Fork of the Elk River, recommended for designation as a wild and scenic river. Gentle topography characterize the CRA with small parks, many beaver ponds and riparian areas. Soils are generally sandy loam to loam derived from granites and gneiss. There are aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce fir forests, some small parks, many open meadows and riparian areas, beaver ponds.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4,700 | 4,700 | No change. |

Sugarloaf North, #R21102 (15,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Routt County, northeast of Craig, administered by the Hahns Peak/ Bears Ears Ranger District. On the borders are NFSRs 110, 116, 118, 150, and 159, and access is provided by NFST 1144. The CRA is approximately 21 miles west of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and 40 miles north of the Flat Tops Wilderness. NFSR 110 separates the CRA from the Black Mountain CRA. The Forest boundary is the north border, California Park is on the east, and on the south and west border is NFSRs 110 and 116. California Park is a very large natural mountain park. This CRA is in the Elkhead Mountain Subsection of the North-Central Highland Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The Elkhead Mountains border the CRA, with the drainage flowing to the north. The terrain is roughly broken with steep slopes and dissected by several streams. There are many smaller parks and meadows. The primary vegetation type is spruce/fir with pockets of aspen and lodgepole pine intermixed, and their associated understory vegetation. Mixed grass and forbs make up the numerous meadows, including California Park. Many of the meadows are wet, associated with streams or ponds.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CDOW has determined that this CRA provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including black bear, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, elk (part of the Bears Ear herd), and mule deer. It includes nesting habitat for greater sandhill crane and waters that provide for conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. A seasonal road closure is in affect on NFSR 150 to protect sandhill cranes during the critical nesting and rearing periods. The overall appearance of the CRA is natural and evidence of past activity is generally unobtrusive. Recreation use is generally low but high during big game hunting seasons. Opportunities for solitude are high; a diversity of highly dissected topography easily screens people from one another for short distances. Most of the CRA has dense vegetation screening people from one another; because of the rugged terrain, people tend to concentrate on existing trails. Visitors can travel only short distances in any direction before they encounter an improved road or other area where human activity has altered the landscape. There are some excellent opportunities for backpacking, big game hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding, but are somewhat confined by the CRA’s size, layout, and the number and proximity of access roads. The portion of NFST 1144 that

crosses the CRA is open to motorized travel. The trail receives low use during the summer but used extensively by ATVs during the big game hunting seasons. The CRA is open to snowmobilers, is adjacent to portions of a system of snowmobile trails the Northwest Colorado Snowmobile Club marks, and maintains. Snowmobile use appears to be increasing in the area. Currently, snowmobile use is low to moderate through the winter and spring, heaviest in the California Park area. NFST 1144 is open to bicycle travel; currently use is low. A portion of this CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

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

Sugarloaf South, #R21103 (23,200 acres)

1. Description

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 23,300 | 23,200 | Updated mapping. |

Troublesome North, #R21127 (31,700 acres)

1. Description

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

This CRA is in the Colorado Basin Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Section (M3311) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. The CRA is unique as it is one contiguous area, which goes from lower elevation sagebrush land to above timberline, (elevations range from 8,500 to almost 12,000 feet). It includes much of Arapaho Ridge, an imposing ridge that juts out from the Continental Divide into North Park, and the Rabbit Ears Range. The terrain consists of gentle, rolling foothills in the lower elevations giving way to steep drainages and high, prominent ridges and peaks at higher elevations. Vegetation is diverse, including mixed sagebrush/grass in the foothills areas and low elevation parks; aspen stands, lodgepole pine stands, and spruce/fir forests at higher elevations; and tundra above timberline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There is a permitted special use communication site along Rabbit Ears Divide, adjacent to NFSR 104. A second permitted special use communication site, Arapaho Ridge Snotel, (an automated system that collects snow pack and related climatic data) is in the western portion of this CRA. Access to both sites for monitoring, maintenance, and repair is by motorized vehicles. There are three special use permits for recreation. Potential for oil and gas on the CRA is high. There are no expressions of interest for leasing. Potential for locatable minerals is moderate for approximately 90% of the CRA and low for the remaining 10%. There are no salable mineral sites in the CRA itself, but one is just to the west of the area. Approximately 12,100 acres are suitable for timber harvest. Approximately 25,500 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 77% of the CRA. The Little Haystack Timber Sale (in 1990) included part of the CRA. Also, completed in the past 15 years, was the Grassy Run Timber Sale. Approximately 4,700 acres are in the Rand CWPP; another 10,800 acres are in the proposed Wade-Tamlin-Spicer CWPP.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 32,800 | 31,700 | Updated mapping removed roads. |

Troublesome South, #R21128 (47,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Grand and Jackson counties northeast of Kremmling, administered by the Parks Ranger District. It is about 130 miles west of Denver. It is bordered by NFSRs 105, 106, 112, 125, and 730 and NFST 27, and on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest by NFSR 108. Access is by NFSTs 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 91. The CRA is approximately 30 miles southeast of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and 10 miles west of the Never Summer Wilderness. BLM lands, including a BLM roadless area border the CRA on the west. NFS lands border the CRA on the north, east, and south. The eastern border is contiguous with the Troublesome CRA (13,800

acres) on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. This CRA includes a portion of the Rabbit Ears Range and the Troublesome Creek watershed to the south. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The terrain is highly dissected by numerous streams, both perennial and intermittent. The northern end of the area reaches the Continental Divide where it follows the peaks of the Rabbit Ears Range. This large CRA has very diverse and complex vegetation communities, including willow bottoms, grasslands, sagebrush hillsides, aspen, lodgepole, spruce/fir, and alpine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CDOW has determined that this CRA is suitable potential habitat for lynx and wolverine. It provides a very important landscape function by connecting adjacent areas for wildlife security and movement. Wildlife uses include a migration corridor for mule deer and elk, deer and elk winter range (2,700 acres) and summer range. Calving, fawning and rearing of young are common here. Large riparian areas dominated by willow and beaver colonies bisect this CRA. Moose are common year-round residents; this is a core area for the Unit 18 population. All of the creeks and streams have fisheries including populations of brook, rainbow, and German brown trout.

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are several term grazing permits; permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for management activities. There are three special use permits for recreation. There is a permitted special use communication site near the summit of Parkview Mountain; accessed by motorized vehicles for operation, maintenance, and repair. There is a special use trail easement (NFST 58). The private landowner has authorization to access their property with motorized vehicles. Potential for oil and gas is high. Currently, there are no expressions of interest for leasing lands. Potential for locatable minerals is moderate on approximately 50% of the CRA and low on the remaining 50%. There are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 400 acres are suitable for timber harvest; 37,800 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. The tentatively suitable acreage is approximately 80% of the CRA. The CRA has preliminary CWPPs. These may recommend fuels treatments along the NFS boundary. Pine beetle kill is widespread in the CRA and is a concern in the Bighorn Park subdivision west of the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 47,000 | 47,400 | Updated mapping. |

Walton Peak, #R21117 (5,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Routt and Grand counties west of Rabbit Ears Pass and south of U.S. 40, administered by the Hahn's Peak Ranger District. U.S. Highway 40 borders the CRA on the west, on the north by U.S. 40 and NFSR 251, on the east by NFSR 303, and on the south by Harrison Creek and the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. The southern border is contiguous with the Sarvis Creek Wilderness area. The CRA is easily accessed from the Meadows and Walton Creek Campgrounds and U.S. 40. Three NFSRs, 302, 251, and 303 provide access. There are no trails in this CRA. This CRA is in the Gore Subsection of the Northern Parks and Range Eco-Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. Elevations range from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The Walton Peak area slopes downward into Walton and Harrison Creeks. Meadow, riparian, and willow habitat dominate the creek habitats. Conifer forest covers the peak. Soils in the area are generally sandy loam to loam derived from andesite and other volcanic deposits. The soils have a low water-holding capacity due to the amount of coarse fragments.

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

hunting, winter snowmobile use, and cross-country use is heavy. This CRA is within a state defined, source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

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

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5,300 | 5,300 | No change. |

Whalen Creek, #R21113 (1,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Jackson County southwest of Walden, administered by the Parks Ranger District. It is contiguous with and down slope from the east side of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. To the north and east are other NFS lands. NFSRs 615, 627, and 630 border the CRA as well as NFST 1126. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) in the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. Elevations range from 5,575 to 14,410 feet.

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

2. Roadless Characteristics

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

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

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Dispersed recreation and seasonal grazing is the primary use of the CRA. Range permittees may request authorization to use motor vehicles for range allotment management activities. There is no potential for oil and gas. Currently there are no leases. Potential for locatable minerals is medium. There are no salable mineral sites. Approximately 850 acres are tentatively suitable for timber harvest. This is approximately 77% of the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,100 | 1,100 | No change. |

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST

Baldy, #309 (20,000 acres)

1. Description

Located on the Columbine Ranger District in the San Juan National Forest, this CRA includes much of the eastern flank of Missionary Ridge to the private land along the Florida River. The area borders subdivisions and home sites along its southern and eastern boundaries. Road access within one-quarter mile of the roadless area includes NFSRs 595, 076, and the East Animas, a La Plata County road. Forest Service System trails that access and serve the area are: NFST 543 (Missionary Ridge), 546, 557, 558, 676, 727, and 728. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from between 6,800 feet near Durango up to 10,500 feet on Missionary Ridge. The area includes Missionary Ridge and is the southern exposure of a northward-slanting incline. It extends from the low valleys east of Durango, up to the high ridge tops of the hydrological divide, between the Animas River drainage and the area drained by the Florida River. The vegetative cover varies with elevation and exposure. Ponderosa pine at the lower elevations gives way to the large band of mixed conifer. Above treeline the spruce and fir give way to the alpine tundra. Much of the area burned during the Missionary Ridge fire of 2002, which changed the vegetative structure of the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The wide variety in vegetative cover for feeding and hiding provides outstanding habitat. During the last four growing seasons, the Gambel oak has made a comeback from the Missionary Ridge fire of 2002, providing important habitat for numerous passerine birds and Merriam's turkey. The dead and dying trees provide important foraging spots for the many species of woodpeckers and nuthatches found on the forest. These species include: Lewis' woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker and pygmy nuthatch, all of which are listed as sensitive species by the US Forest Service. Those areas where the fire was less intense are covered in tall grasses and 8-10' aspen saplings. These areas are heavily used by wintering elk. A key attraction to the area is Missionary Ridge. Dispersed recreational activities are limited to day-use and/or pass-through activities by persons on their way to the wilderness. Big-game hunting is probably the primary activity. Hiking and mountain-biking along NFST 543, as well as day hiking in the Baldy area are popular. Most of the area is closed to motorized recreation. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Some cultural resource inventory has taken place in the area. Survey data from surrounding areas indicates that sites are likely to be found in open parks and meadows and along drainages and near permanent water sources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area contains active grazing allotments and few facilities such as livestock ponds and fences. The area contains geothermal possibilities. Locatable mineral potential is low to nonexistent. The area contains low potential for oil and gas development, as well as coal. There are no existing oil and gas leases in the area. There are 916 acres of suitable timber lands, some in the Willow Creek drainage.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Baldy – 20,000 | |
| | Florida River – 5,700 | |
| Florida River – 35,400 | Total – 25,700 | New area split from Florida River RARE II #2294. |

Blackhawk Mountain, #SJ012 (17,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA contains the area radiating out from the high ridge between Blackhawk Mountain, Section Point Peak, and Hermosa Peak. The area is located on both the Dolores and Columbine Ranger Districts. It is located entirely within Dolores County. The western boundary is along the Dolores River. The northern and southern boundaries parallel Barlow and Scotch Creeks, respectively. The eastern boundary parallels the Hermosa Park Road. The area is accessible from Colorado Highway 145, NFSRs 596 (Barlow Creek Road), 578 (Hermosa Park Road), and 550 (Scotch Creek Road). Colorado Trail 507 is the only Forest trail that accesses and serves this roadless area. There are non-system trails in this area shown in the Rico town plan. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from 8,600 feet near Spruce Gulch to 12,681 feet on the summit of Blackhawk. Numerous stream channels and ridges radiate in all directions from the high ridge formed by Blackhawk and Hermosa Peak. The area is highly dissected by the radiating stream channels. Above treeline on the three high peaks, the alpine tundra exists and is punctuated with cliffs and monolithic rock outcrops. Parent geology is made up of sedimentary layers with shallow to deep, unstable soils. Vegetative overstory of the mixed conifer type with ponderosa-aspen mix is dominant at the lower elevations and aspen-white fir mix at the upper elevations. Depending on exposure there are pockets of Douglas fir and spruce.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species inhabiting the area are typical of wildlife found in the Southern Rocky Mountains. The variety of understory vegetation provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife. Elk use the areas for calving, spring and fall foraging areas, and hiding cover. The elevations above tree line are used extensively by elk, in the summer months, where they take advantage of high protein grasses and forbs. Mule deer fawn within the Blackhawk Mountain area. The CRA provides suitable Canada lynx habitat, a federally listed (threatened) species. Radio telemetry has confirmed Canada lynx use of the area. The areas in the river and stream bottoms provide a scenic backdrop for recreation travel along the surrounding roads. Blackhawk Mountain is a key attraction. The primary dispersed recreation use is hunting, hiking, and viewing the scenery. The northern half and portions around Rico are open to cross-country motorized use. The Deadwood, Circle, and McJunkin non-system trails are used for non-motorized use. Winter use includes snowmobiling in the open area, backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing. Big-game outfitters use this area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Cultural resource inventories have been conducted in some parts of the area. Some sites have been recorded during these inventories that include isolated finds, lithic scatters, and historic mining features. There is a moderate to high likelihood of additional sites occurring in open parks, meadows, and along stream courses. The likelihood of additional finds on the steep slopes and in the dense timber stands is low.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area contains active grazing allotments and few facilities such as livestock ponds and fences. Some summer home development is occurring on private lands. Mining claims along with associated road construction or development of patented lands could compromise parts of the area. The mining district around Rico is comprised of many mining patents that could be reactivated in future years. A small portion of the area, approximately 500 acres around Rico, is listed by the Department of Energy as very important for uranium. The area contains known quantities of hard-rock minerals and geothermal potential. There presently is no coal, oil, or gas activity. Oil and gas development potential is low. There are 1,049 acres of suitable timber lands in the roadless area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 17,200 | 17,500 | GIS mapping. |

East Animas, #SJ010 (16,900 acres)

1. Description

The northern boundary abuts the Weminuche Wilderness. This roadless area lies between the Missionary Ridge Road, private lands, and National Forest System lands along the Animas River. Its western and northern boundaries are in the Animas River corridor. Its eastern boundary flanks the numerous timber sales on the slopes of Missionary Ridge. NFSR 682 (Missionary Ridge Road) provides the only road access to the area and NFST 676 (Canyon Creek Trail) provides the only trail to access the area. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,000 feet on Carson Creek up to 12,000 feet on the slopes leading up to Mountain View Crest. The area is characterized by the steep slopes rising out of the Animas River Canyon which is part of the overall slopes leading to the top of Mountain View Crest. Once out of the steep canyon walls, the area has a more moderate and constant rise in elevation. The area is highly dissected by numerous streams that are tributaries to the Animas River. The overstory vegetation cover is primarily mixed conifer with some ponderosa pine types in the lower elevations along the Animas River. Spruce and fir growth is predominant in the areas approaching the treeline. Extensive aspen stands are found on the east side of the boundary. The Missionary Ridge fire burned the southern portion in Bear Creek. The geology is a display of numerous rock outcrops and rock cliffs. They are a mix of sedimentary and igneous origin. There is a wide variety of soil types, most of which are fairly unstable on the steeper slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area is rich in wildlife due to the wide variety of vegetation ranging from the dry ponderosa/Gambel oak type up through the aspen, spruce, and fir. Tank and Canyon Creek have a fair to good trout fishery. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), which are known to inhabit the area. The CDOW states that this area serves as a migration corridor for deer and elk, as well as providing important winter range for elk. CDOW estimates that over 1000 elk use this area during a normal winter. The lower elevations are important habitat for black bears due to the abundance of Gambel oak. Some bears travel great distances in order to use the East Animas area as a feeding area, foraging on acorns. Gambel oak acorns provide high quality nutrition, allowing bears to store ample fat to survive hibernation. The Animas Canyon at the north end of this CRA is home to a herd of bighorn sheep, which were transplanted in 2000.

Key attractions to the area include: the Animas River, Grass Hopper Creek, and Tank Mesa. Dispersed recreational use of the area is limited to hunting and hiking. The area provides a scenic backdrop for scenic viewing from Highway 550, the Durango-Silverton

Narrow Gauge Railroad, and recreation traffic along the Missionary Ridge Road. The area is closed to all summer motorized-vehicle use and the rocky topography restricts most winter snowmobile use to existing roads outside the area's boundary. Currently snowmobiling happens in Tank, Bear Creek, Canyon Creek, and on Mountain View Crest there are snowmobiling intrusions into the wilderness. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Based on data from surveys in surrounding areas, there is a moderate to high likelihood that sites exist along drainages and in open parks and meadows. Historic features include one sawmill and cabins between Bear Creek and Canyon creek.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is located within an active livestock allotment. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 630 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the East Animas CRA. Potential mineral resources, both locatable and leasable, are not considered significant. No exploratory activities are foreseen at this time. There are currently no oil and gas leases in the area. The area contains 2,364 acres of suitable timber lands. These suitable stands include aspen stands near the Missionary Ridge Road.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 15,200 | 16,900 | GIS Mapping. |

Fish Creek, #SJ001 (13,500 acres)

1. Description

This area is located in the northeastern part of the Dolores Ranger District, in Dolores County, southwest of but not adjacent to, the Lizard Head Wilderness. It is bounded by Little Fish Creek and the National Forest boundary to the west, West Dolores Road and Fish Creek form the boundary to the east. This CRA includes both Little Fish Creek and Fish Creek drainages, spanning from Black Mesa south to the confluence of the two rivers. All immediate adjacent lands surrounding the Fish Creek roadless area are National Forest lands. The SJNF boundary is located just over a mile west of the area and is bounded by private lands. Uncompahgre National Forest lands are 1-3 miles to the north of the roadless area. Lizard Head Wilderness is a few miles from the northeastern boundary of the Fish Creek roadless area. Lands south of the roadless area are a part of the SJNF. The Fish Creek State Wildlife Area is located less than a mile southwest of the roadless area. Access to the area is formed by points along the following roads, which are within one-quarter mile or less of the roadless area boundary: National Forest System Roads 452, 403, 611A, 404, 534, 64. NFST 647 (Fish Creek Trail) is a main attraction to the area.

The Fish Creek roadless area was not identified in previous roadless inventories. The CRA falls within two Ecosctions, the northern part is within the South-Central Highlands Ecosction (M331G) and the southern portion is within the Northern Canyon Lands (341B). The area's elevation ranges from 7,400 feet near the West Dolores River up to 9,763 feet at the Nipple Mountain summit. The area includes a variety of topographic features, including mountain peaks, mesas, deep canyons, steep valley slopes, and rolling high country. It is dissected by Fish Creek and Groundhog Creek, which are tributary to the West Dolores River. The area is characterized by Nipple Mountain, Fish Creek State Wildlife Area, and Willow Creek Divide. The geology of the area is manifested by rock outcrops and cliffs of both sedimentary and igneous origin. The soil types vary widely and run the full range of instability from stable and shallow to deep. The lowest elevations are covered with willow-dominated riparian zones with 93 acres of old-growth ponderosa pine. Aspen dominates the south-facing slopes, while spruce-fir forests populate north-facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species found in this area are typical of those found in the Southern Rocky Mountains. The large number of vegetative types has created an extremely diverse habitat. The Fish Creek CRA has several major elk migration corridors between winter range to the southwest and summer range around the Lizard Head Wilderness. Significant numbers of elk utilize the area for calving. Band-tailed pigeons nest in and utilize the area in spring, summer, and fall. Black bears find the area especially important, as the shrub community provides important feeding areas during the critical fall period. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Through radio telemetry, lynx presence in the CRA has been documented.

The Fish Creek Trail offers hiking, horseback-riding, hunting, and fishing. The western boundary is open to cross country motorized use. The area east of Groundhog Creek is open to snowmobiling. The Fish Creek drainage is closed year round to motorized use. Some winter snowmobile use occurs in Willow Divide and on Nipple Mountain. Unauthorized ATV use has occurred in the area. The CRA is used for pack trips for fishing and hunting big-game outfitters. Overall, levels of recreation use is low off the main trails This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Groundhog Creek is the major outlet for Groundhog Reservoir. Fish Creek Trail has a ditch running along side it on National Forest lands. The western side has several reservoirs.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area has livestock-grazing use with numerous fences, stock ponds, and reservoirs on the western side. However, the only range developments consist of a couple of fences. There is a brush fence on the southern boundary of Mavreeso. The area is also used for pack trips by big-game outfitters. The area lies outside of known mineral-producing regions and has low potential for economic mineralization. This CRA has moderate oil and gas potential and low potential for coal. There are no other saleable minerals known in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 13,500 | New area, not in pervious inventory. |

Florida River, #SJ011 (5,700 acres)

1. Description

Located on the Columbine Ranger District in the San Juan National Forest, this area includes much of the eastern flank of Missionary Ridge to the private land along the Florida River. The northern boundary of the Florida roadless area is adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness. Road access within one-quarter mile of the roadless area includes NFSR 600 (Vallecito Road), 597 (East Florida Road), and 596 (Florida Road). NFST 534 provides direct access to the CRA. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from between 8,200 feet near Lemon Reservoir up to 12,740 feet at the summit of Miller Mountain. The area is characterized by U-shaped valleys of the Florida and Vallecito rivers. Rock types of the exposed geology are as varied as the landform. The west side is primarily layers of sedimentary rocks. The Florida drainage contains some metamorphic and granites and the Vallecito is represented by mostly igneous outcrops and cliffs. Soils are variable in terms of depth, texture, and eroding character. The vegetative cover varies with elevation and exposure and is primarily a large band of mixed conifer. At treeline, the spruce and fir give way to the alpine tundra. Much of the area burned during the Missionary Ridge fire of 2002. This 70,000-acre fire changed the vegetative structure of the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The area is used by lynx and had an active lynx den the last two years. The CRA provides excellent wildlife habitat for mule deer, elk, black bear, Merriam's turkey, and numerous other wildlife species. Several large herds of elk have begun to use this area during the winter months. Also found in this area is an active bald eagle nest on the west shore of Lemon Reservoir. Shearer Creek is located within this CRA. In 2005, Colorado River cutthroat trout were stocked into this creek as part of the ongoing recovery effort in Western Colorado. Parts of this CRA were affected by the Missionary Ridge fire of 2002. Since then many of the hillsides have begun to show signs of recovery. In some places the grass is 2 ft tall and the aspen rejuvenation is remarkable. The area provides outstanding wildlife appreciation opportunities. Dispersed recreational activities are limited to day-use and/or pass-through activities by persons on their way to the wilderness. Big-game hunting is probably the primary activity. This CRA is closed to all types of motorized recreation except for areas around Miller Mountain on the north end which are open to motorized uses. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Some cultural resource inventories have taken place in the area. Survey data from surrounding areas indicates that sites are likely to be found in open parks, meadows, along drainages, and near permanent water sources.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area contains active grazing allotments and a few facilities such as livestock ponds and fences. The area contains geothermal possibilities. Locatable minerals potential is low to nonexistent. The area contains low potential for oil and gas development. Potential for coal is low as well. There are no existing oil and gas leases in the area. There are 916 acres of suitable timber lands, some in the Willow Creek drainage.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Florida River – 5,700 | |
| | Baldy – 20,000 | |
| Florida River – 35,400 | Total – 25,700 | Acres split between two CRAs: Baldy and Florida River. |

Graham Park, #SJ005 (17,800 acres)

1. Description

The Graham Park roadless area is a dipper-shaped area between the old Mosca timber sale and the Weminuche Wilderness. It is located in Hinsdale County in the north-central portion of the Pagosa Ranger District. The north side shares a common boundary with the Weminuche Wilderness along the ridge between Granite and Graham peaks. The eastern boundary is the private land in the Weminuche Valley and the south boundary is along the clearcut areas of the historic Mosca Timber Sale. The area is known for its views of the Weminuche Wilderness. Roaded access to the area is available via NFSR 631 (Piedra Road). The following Forest trails access the area: NFST 524, 673, 584, and 591. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,200 feet in the Weminuche Valley and 12,531 feet on the summit of Graham Peak. The area's physical characteristics were formed by the high ridge separating the Weminuche drainage from the upper Los Pinos river drainage. This area covers the upper one-fourth of the slope between the Piedra River and the hydrological divide with the Pine River. Being near the top of the ridge, it is moderately dissected by cross-drainages and has three named streams draining the dipper portion of the area: Bear Creek, Shaw Creek and Falls Creek. All of which are tributaries to Weminuche Creek. The handle portion of the area contains the headwaters of Mosca Creek, Sand Creek, and the west and east forks of Coldwater Creek.

Although the exposure of the area is generally southern and eastern, the dissecting stream channels have resulted in some northern and southwestern exposures. Geology of the area ranges from sedimentary outcrops in the Weminuche Valley to granitic formations that form the major peak along the Weminuche Wilderness boundary. Soils vary. The area has some mixed conifer types on the slopes rising out of the Weminuche Valley floor. Once the bench is reached in the Bear, Shaw, and Falls creeks area the timber type is in uniform stands of spruce and fir. Above the treeline, on the higher peaks the alpine tundra is mixed with rock cliffs and talus slopes. One distinguishing characteristic is the number of open, wet, or riparian meadows (fens) along the upper reaches of Shaw and Falls creeks. These are an uncommon feature that enhances the higher, rocky slopes of the adjacent Weminuche Wilderness.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The spruce-fir forests and high mountain meadows found in this area create an unusual mosaic of vegetation that provides excellent elk and deer summer and fall habitat, as well as numerous other species. The wet meadows in the Shaw and Falls Creek drainages are important elk calving and summer ranges. Radio-collared mule deer studies have shown that many mule deer in the Pine and Piedra drainages use the high country and Graham Peak for summer habitat and fawn rearing. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx are known to use the adjacent wilderness area. Lynx have been released in a nearby area through the CDOW lynx augmentation program. The CDOW has conducted snowshoe hare surveys since 1998 along NFSR 631 (Mosca Road) south of the CRA and found significant numbers of snowshoe hares, an important prey species for the lynx. Bighorn sheep are found along the Pine-Piedra divide on Granite and Graham Peaks, as well as in the cliffs which form the Weminuche Wilderness boundary in the Poison Park, Cimarrona, and Williams Creek areas. The Pine River bighorn sheep herd summers and rears lambs in the Graham peak area. Research has shown that bighorns do not respond well to human disturbance. The roadless nature of the area is essential for their survival. Several creeks in the Graham Park CRA are important in the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout recovery plan. Shaw Creek, from the headwaters to the confluence with Weminuche Creek, has a wild population of cutthroats of unknown purity. Sand Creek, from its headwaters to NFSR 631, and Falls Creek, from its headwaters to Weminuche Creek have both been stocked with the pure Weminuche strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout in 2005. Recreational use of the area is mostly hunting. Some trail use occurs by horse packers and backpackers using system and non-system trails for hunting. Recreation use is very low outside of hunting season. The area is a prime spot for observing wildlife. The area is closed to summer motorized travel, but snowmobiling is permitted off NFSR 631 in the winter.

This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Previous cultural resource surveys in the area resulted in the location of only a few sites of isolated artifacts and lithic scatter. These sites were located in meadows, thus indicating likely site locations in the upper Piedra Valley. There is a moderate likelihood of sites being present in meadows and along drainages.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are two outfitters and guides in the area with two camps and a potential Sno-Cat skiing proposal. The current level of livestock-grazing is expected to continue with only the ranching economy causing any major changes. Existing range improvements will be maintained. One timber sale has affected the area since the RARE II study and analysis. The Mosca 2 timber sale modified the roadless character on approximately 920 acres. The 1.8 miles of new road to connect the scattered cutting blocks also impacted another 80 acres. There are 3,225 acres of suitable timber lands within the CRA. The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan allocated the area to semi-primitive non-motorized recreation and 1,160 acres to timber production.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11,100 | 17,800 | GIS Mapping. |

HD Mountains, #SJ009 (25,100 acres)

1. Description

Located on the Columbine Ranger District, on the San Juan National Forest, the HD Mountain roadless area is located to the southeast of Bayfield, Colorado. It is partially located in four townships, in both Archuleta and La Plata counties. The area is located south of Highway 160. The area has an irregular boundary that generally inscribes the mountain ridge that separates the many old roads and timber-cutting areas on the eastern and western flanks of the HD Mountains. Access roads leading to the area include: NFSRs 608, 137, 613, 615a, 756, 743, and 537. The only National Forest System trail serving the area is NFST 524 (Pine-Piedra Trail). This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from 6,500 feet in Skull Creek to 8,936 feet on Pargin Mountain. A 10-mile-long north-south low mountain range made up of individual peaks, mesas, and cuerdas characterizes this roadless area. It is a transition area between the geomorphology of the Colorado Plateau and the higher Rocky Mountains along the Continental Divide. The general ridge line is dissected by a series of relatively flat, narrow stream bottoms and some rolling hills. The major geology of the area is composed of sedimentary rock formations and their resulting soil types. Many of the soils are considered poor and highly susceptible to erosion. Many are of shale origin and have a moderate to high shrink characteristic and are of low strength. Vegetation lies in a vegetative transition zone between the pinyon-juniper type and the ponderosa pine type. Pinyon pine, juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer vegetation dominate the southern exposures and ponderosa pine is present on the northerly exposures. Large Gambel oak stands are along the western side of the area. Gambel oak is intermingled beneath the ponderosa pine and at the lower elevations of the pinyon-juniper type. There are a large number of open grass meadows in the drainage bottoms. On the northern exposures there are some pockets of Douglas fir. Old-growth ponderosa pine stands are in Turkey Creek and Ignacio Canyon. Springs are found within the area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The HD Mountains CRA is important winter range, severe winter range, and winter concentration areas for mule deer and elk. This is due to the open grassy meadows provided by the area. The HDs are also overall range and summer range for mule deer. The CRA contains habitat for four species of big game as well as small mammals. The CDOW, USFS, BLM, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) are currently in the second year of a five year radio-collar/GPS deer study (2005). The purpose of the study is to evaluate the impacts of oil and gas exploration on deer survival and habitat use in the HD Mountains. The USFS and the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) worked together to improve and reclaim areas within the HD Mountains for big game and other species. This involved hydro-chopping and re-seeding of native vegetation including forbs and grasses. The area is important to black bears due to the large quantity of oak brush. Mountain lions are prevalent in the area due to the concentrations of big game. Because of the number of old ponderosa pine snags in the area, this CRA provides suitable habitat for the federally listed Mexican spotted owl (threatened), as well as other cavity-nesting birds. Historically, peregrine falcons have nested in the HD Mountains area. It provides overall winter range for bald eagle and a golden eagle foraging area. It is mapped as overall range and as a winter concentration area for Merriam's turkey. This area hosts a variety of raptors and passerine bird species.

A notable scenic feature of the area is Pargin Mountain. Key attractions to the area also include Turkey Creek and Ignacio Canyon. Old growth ponderosa pine stands in Ignacio Canyon have been identified as a potential RNA. Although a full spectrum of recreational activities exists in the area such as hiking, mountain-biking, and ATV use due to the area's location near Bayfield, recreation use is considered moderate due to the absence of water, vegetation, and terrain. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Cultural resource inventories conducted in the area have identified a large number of properties that include isolated finds, archaic campsites, lithic and ceramic scatters, habitations with subsurface architecture, and a large number of historic features relating to the logging and ranching era. Some of these properties will be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. There is a high probability of finds on the ridge or mesa tops, in the meadows, and along the intermittent stream drainages.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Grazing allotments cover much of the area, although the utilized area is relatively small due to topographic limitations. Coal-bed methane, natural gas, and other hydrocarbons offer the largest substantial extractive resource. In 1978 the Department of Energy listed the entire area as being highly important for oil and gas. The Colorado Geological Survey also pointed out high oil and gas potential as well as coal beds underlying the entire area. These early studies are collaborated by the large interest in leasing and drilling expressed today. The largest impact to the roadless character of the area is the leasing and drilling activity associated with the gas wells in this region of the San Juan Basin. There have been two wells drilled on the boundary and four drilled in the interior, resulting in approximately 2 1/2 miles of road construction. The road construction has modified the roadless character of approximately 380 acres along the roads. As of December 2005, 17,388 acres within the HD Mountain roadless (88%) area were leased for oil and gas development. Currently (2005),

there are 19 oil and gas leases, encompassing approximately 14,150 acres, issued prior to January 12, 2001 in the HD Mountains CRA. There are 7 oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 3,070 acres that were issued in June, 2001. Of these 7 leases, approximately 1,600 acres of the acreage has a no surface occupancy stipulation due to the roadless character. There are no planned timber sales within the area. There are 3,638 acres of suitable timber lands within the area, including portions of Ignacio Creek. However, topography limits utility of the area for timber management.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 20,000 | 25,100 | GIS mapping. |

Hermosa, #SJ014 (148,100 acres)

1. Description

This is the largest of the roadless areas on the San Juan National Forest. The area is located in portions of 12 townships in the central part of the Forest. Most of the area is in La Plata County, but the western portions fall into Montezuma County. The irregular boundary is caused by roads that penetrate into the general area and deep narrow valleys, like Bear Creek, that have remained unroaded. The area is totally surrounded by National Forest System lands and private lands in the corridor along Highway 550. The nearest existing designated wilderness is located across the Animas River Valley. This area is within one-quarter mile or less to 13 Forest Service System roads, Colorado State Highway 550, 10 four-wheel-drive roads, and one private mining road. The area is served by the following major National Forest system trails: 514 (Hermosa Creek Trail), 515, 517, 518, 519, 521, 547, and 549. Other NFSTs include: 520, 658, 607, 609, 618, 621, 736, Rough Canyon, Grindstone Loop, Sharktooth, Morrison, Owens Basin, Dutch Creek, Salt Creek, Big Lick, Clear Creek, and the Pinkerton-Flagstaff Trail. The Rico/Silverton toll road, a historical feature, is located in the northern part of the roadless area. This is a portion of the Colorado Trail which is a system of trails connecting Durango with Denver.

This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from between 7000 and 13,200 feet. The area's physical characteristics vary from flat to vertical cliffs. The highly dissected valleys also have a wide variety of surface geology. Soil types, depths, and erodibility vary widely. Every slope aspect (exposure) on the compass exists somewhere in the roadless area. The four major streams that drain the area have numerous year-long and intermittent streams that dissect the surface of the area. The wide range of elevations, slope aspects, soil, and geology types has resulted in an extremely complex mixture of plant communities. At the lower elevations pine and oak dominate the vegetative type. As elevation increases, a transition to fir-aspen (mixed conifer) occurs and then on to a spruce-aspen complex. Douglas fir is found on the northern aspects throughout the mixed conifer type. The higher elevations, near tree line, have spruce-fir forest. Interspersed throughout the forested areas are open grassland parks and occasional wet meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Hermosa CRA is important to many wildlife species, including several big game species. The spruce-fir forests and high mountains meadows in the area provide production, summer, fall, and transitional habitats for mule deer and elk. The higher elevations of this area provide excellent summer habitat for elk. The Hermosa drainage has long been known for its quality habitat for elk calving and summer range. Elk winter below Baldy Mountain and in Perins Peak State Wildlife Area (SWA) and remain in the area year round unless pushed down by heavy snow in severe winters. Mule deer winter below US Hwy 160 and utilize the CRA for fawning, transition, and summer ranges. The area also contains important movement corridors connecting the summer range areas with winter ranges in the lower country outside the roadless area and the National Forest. The cliffs between Durango Mountain Ski Resort and Elbert Creek are historic range for bighorn sheep. Historically, sheep utilized the "Hermosa Cliffs" summer range. Recently, bighorn sheep have begun to re-occupy this habitat as a result of a transplant into the Animas River Drainage in 2000. The area between Baker Peak and Baldy Peak is also documented historical range for bighorn sheep. Bighorn sheep inhabited the area during the summer and moved into lower elevation near the Decker Tract of Perins Peak SWA, Junction Creek, and Hermosa Creek in the winter when pushed out by snow.

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally and state listed, Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. Although lynx were not initially released in the Hermosa CRA, they have been located in the area during on-going lynx monitoring associated with the recovery effort. The area supports a healthy prey base for the lynx including: snowshoe hare, pine squirrel, mice, and blue grouse. Because of the high concentration of big game prey species, the area is also important for mountain lions. Black bear depend on the mixture of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs during the den emergence and summer hyperphagia. The southern portion of the Hermosa CRA also provides diverse habitat for small mammals, rodents, cavity nesting birds, and smaller predators. Pike inhabit rocky canyons. Pine squirrel, Williamson's sapsucker, gray jay, and Cooper's hawk thrive and nest in the mixed spruce/fir/ponderosa habitat. Pine marten, a USFS sensitive species, are also found in forested areas in La Plata Canyon and Junction Creek. Forest Service sensitive species that occupy the area also include: flammulated owl, Northern leopard frog, Lewis' woodpecker, as well as others. The USFS increased monitoring efforts in 2005 to help determine population viability across the San Juan National Forest.

Merriam’s turkey and blue grouse are plentiful and utilize the forested areas for nesting and fall feeding habitat. Peregrine falcons nest on the cliffs of Elbert Creek and Hermosa Cliffs. Several pairs usually produce two or more chicks each year. Peregrines are sensitive to human disturbance and are listed as a USFS sensitive species. Bald eagles and osprey have been sighted in the area. The Colorado River cutthroat trout, a Forest Service Sensitive Species, occupy Hermosa Creek, Rio Lado, and its tributary streams. Several creeks within the CRA are important in the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout recovery plan. The CDOW introduced the Nanita Lake strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the East Fork of Hermosa Creek above the waterfall near Sig Creek in 1992. Big Bend Creek, from the headwaters to the confluence with Hermosa Creek, contains a population of genetically pure Colorado cutthroat trout, as does Clear Creek (part of the Hermosa Creek Drainage). Flager Creek within the Junction Creek Drainage was stocked with the Weminuche strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the summer of 2005. Future plans include re-introducing the species to North Hope Creek and stocking several creeks in the Junction Creek drainage.

The area has high scenic values from its undisturbed nature and high alpine peaks. This area is the largest CRA in Colorado. The CRA contains Hesperus Mountain and Hermosa Creek. The proposed Hermosa RNA lies in the Southern San Juan Mountains, about 13 miles north of the town of Durango, on 8,000 acres at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 12,000 feet. The area is characterized by highly dissected mountain topography and sedimentary geology. Key features include: old-growth forests, Colorado cutthroat trout, alpine tundra, spruce-fir forests, aspen forests, ponderosa pine forests, mixed conifer forests, and mountain shrublands. The Hermosa CRA has long been a special area, providing an opportunity to enjoy activities in a natural setting that would otherwise be prohibited in a classified wilderness. More than 125 miles of trails cross the roadless area, some of which are designated open to motorcycles and ATVs. Mountain-bike use has become increasingly popular on many of the trails. Stream fishing and fall hunting (outfitting/guiding) are primarily dispersed off-trail uses.

The Bear Creek drainage and associated trails provide a wide opportunity for most uses, including: motorcycling, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback-riding, mountain bikes, goat packing, fishing, backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing. Outfitters and guides use upper Bear Creek for hunting opportunities. Other than Hermosa Creek, the extensive trail network receives little recreational use other than during hunting season. The popular Hermosa Trail is open to all forms of backcountry recreation, including hiking, horses, mountain bikes, motorcycles, and ATVs. Ten tributary trails branch from the main Hermosa Trail and offer access to numerous more remote valleys. The Hermosa Creek Trail serves as one of the most popular and scenic mountain-bike routes in Colorado. A western spur descends along Bear Creek to the Dolores River. Travels can traverse from the Animas to Dolores Rivers, over the crest of the La Platas, without crossing a road or otherwise encountering signs of civilization. There is approximately 7.6 miles (12,250 meters) of the East Mancos River, within the Hermosa CRA, identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Previous cultural resource surveys within the area have identified numerous artifacts and properties, some of which are likely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The properties include both historic and pre-historic resources. They range from isolated finds and lithic scatters to historic mines and structures. The predictability of further survey finds is high to moderate in the level areas and stream bottoms and low in the heavily timbered areas and on steeper slopes. The La Plata Mountains on the south side of the area are known to be an area of special interest to the Navajos. From Hope Creek RNA evaluation (1996): There are numerous records of historic and prehistoric cultural finds from the vicinity of Hope Creek (Colorado Historical Society records). The finds include aspen art, culturally significant trails, stone tools and tool-making artifacts, and remnants of early European settlement.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The current level of livestock-grazing is expected to continue and existing range improvements will be maintained and/or upgraded when needed. There are a fair amount of livestock improvements along the east side including reservoirs, springs, stock ponds, fences, cabins (three: Albert Park, Little Elk and Goulding Creek). Most of the brush fences built in the 1970s have deteriorated (27 miles in two years). The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 2,570 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Hermosa CRA. Mining development is found off of Sharkstooth Trail. Portions of the area in and around the La Plata Mountains are mineralized and have current ongoing prospecting and mining operations. Mineral potential for the Hermosa Drainage portion is low and there are no known mineral development activities. From Deadwood Creek RNA evaluation (1996): An active mine exists on the slope above Deadwood Creek about 0.3 miles (0.5 km) north of the southern boundary. The southernmost extensions of the roadless area into the high peaks of the La Plata Mountains, south of Kennebec Pass, contain a number of patented mining claims. There are currently no oil and gas leases in the area. There are 6,973 acres of suitable timber lands in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 141,500 | 148,100 | GIS mapping. |

Lizard Head Adjacent, #SJ018 (5,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is adjacent to the southern boundary of the existing Lizard Head Wilderness, west of Colorado Highway 145 near Lizard Head Pass, on the Dolores Ranger District in Dolores County. The current roadless area consists of approximately 5,000 acres immediately south of the present wilderness boundary and north of Colorado Highway 145. The area is accessible via Colorado Highway 145, NFSR 535 (West Dolores Road), and NFSR 611 (Black Mesa Road). The following trails access the area: NFST 637 (Cross Mountain Trail), 203 (Kill Packer Trail), 634, 635 (Navajo Lake Trail), and Burro Bridge Trail. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,400 feet, on the West Dolores River, to nearly 11,200 feet near Lizard Head Creek. Toe slopes extend southward from the Mount Wilson massif. The toe slope is only moderately dissected by Slate Creek, Coke Oven Creek, and the West Dolores River (three tributaries to the Dolores River). The geology is of igneous origin resulting when the Wilson Mountains were thrust up through sedimentary formations. The soils are the result of the disintegration of the Mancos shale, Dakota sandstone, and McElmo sedimentary and vary from clay to sandy loam. Most of the soils are shallow and easily eroded. Spruce-fir is the only significant overstory vegetative type. Riparian habitat and open grassy meadows are the other predominant site types. There are isolated patches of aspen in the West Dolores River drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species that may inhabit the area are those that are common and typically found in the Southern Rocky Mountains. Diversity in wildlife habitat is high because the roadless area is a narrow band with a variety of meadow and forest types. Coke Oven Creek and Slate Creek have marginal fishery value and will probably not be locations for future fishery habitat projects. Little Fish Creek and Meadow Creek are marginal because of their steep gradients and low flows. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The area provides a scenic foreground view of colorful aspens in fall. It is also home to two 14,000 foot peaks (El Diente Peak and Mount Wilson) for motorists traveling along Colorado Highway 145, which is a portion of the San Juan Skyway, a designated scenic byway and All American Road.

Most recreation use is hunting or casual hiking from Highway 145. The area along the highway provides ample opportunity for sledding, backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing in the winter. Mountain-biking is gaining popularity along the Groundhog Stock Drive, as are hiking and horseback-riding. There is dispersed camping next to vehicles along the NFSR 535 (West Dolores Road) and the east side of NFSR 611. The area next to Lizard Head Pass is open to snowmobiling. Roads are closed on the south and west side of Lizard Head CRA. Slate Creek and Meadows areas are closed year-long to motorized vehicle use. Upper Fish Creek is closed in summer to motorized use, but open in winter to snowmobiling. National Forest System lands to the south and west are managed for a wide variety of recreational and commodity uses. The adjacent area on the north side is the Lizard Head Wilderness, managed according to the dictates of the 1980 Wilderness Act. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The few cultural resource surveys conducted in the area have identified isolated lithic artifacts and lithic scatters. There is a moderate to high likelihood of cultural resources occurring in meadows and along drainages. In densely forested areas and on steep slopes the probability of cultural resource finds is low. There are no known areas of interest that any tribes may have under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. There is aspen art along the Groundhog Stock Drive.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Inactive sheep allotments are in the area. Livestock developments in the area include stock ponds, fences, and the stock driveway. The area has low to moderate potential of locatable mineral. It has moderate potential for geothermal, uranium, oil and gas, and coal. There are no existing oil and gas leases within the Lizard Head adjacent roadless area. The Slate Creek and Meadows portions of the area are outside suitable timber base as in 1992 Plan Amendment. The Upper Fish Creek portion is identified as suitable for commercial timber harvest. There are 745 acres of suitable timber lands in the Lizard Head adjacent roadless area along 611 Road.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5,300 | 5,500 | GIS mapping. |

Piedra Area Adjacent, #SJ006 (39,300 acres)

1. Description

The Piedra Area adjacent CRA is in two Ranger Districts, Columbine and Pagosa. The area is bounded by 16 National Forest System Roads and a number of roads located in the large block of private land known as the Piedra Valley Ranch. The roadless area boundaries were inadvertently drawn during the RARE II to include one road, NFSR 639, within the area. The number of Forest System trails that access and serve the area are too numerous to list. The area borders other National Forest System lands and private holdings. It shares a common boundary with the Weminuche Wilderness, between the Pine River Valley and Granite Peak, on its northwest end.

Originally, the Piedra roadless area had a logical tie with the Weminuche Wilderness through the common boundary between Grassy Point and Granite Peak. However, this tie is somewhat diminished because the West Prong timber sale is now located between the wilderness and the main body of the roadless area. The CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 6,800 feet, along the Piedra River, to over 12,000 feet near Granite Peak. The east side of the area is characterized by south-facing slopes that are deeply dissected by the Piedra River and associated drainages. A few isolated plateau-like areas are scattered throughout. The Piedra River is the dominant drainage feature of the area, while the Pine River and East Creek share the far western side of the roadless area. Except for the slopes of Granite Peak and the First Box Canyon, the geology of the area consists of a sequence of sedimentary rock layers overlying the pre-Cambrian basement of granite and quartzite.

The vegetation of the area varies with elevation. Coniferous vegetation occurs over 70% of the area. Aspen stands cover approximately 25% of the area. The conifers include Douglas fir, spruce, white fir, and ponderosa pine. These forest stands are interspersed with grasses, rock, or riparian vegetation. Browse species such as oak and serviceberry are represented in only a few scattered areas, mostly at lower elevations. Old-growth ponderosa pine can be found in the area. The old-growth ponderosa pine stands in the Devil Creek drainages and along the upper Piedra River comprise much of the last 5% of remaining old-growth ponderosa stands in the San Juans. Most of the ponderosa pine old-growth is already included within the existing congressionally-designated area. However, additional significant stands of old-growth ponderosa pine are located along the Piedra River, immediately upstream of the protected area and in the southeast portion of the Piedra Area Adjacent roadless area. Such a large expanse of undisturbed, lower-elevation forest is rare in the Rocky Mountains.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The variety in understory vegetation provides very good wildlife habitat, which includes suitable habitat for two Forest Service sensitive species, the peregrine falcon and northern goshawk. A Colorado Division of Wildlife survey identified the Piedra's western forests as potential habitat for lynx based on snowshoe hare populations. The mixed conifer, aspen, spruce-fir, and oak vegetation types provide summer and fall habitat for numerous species including: mule deer, elk, black bear, and mountain lion. The forests of Piedra comprise an important elk migration corridor between winter range in oak and pinyon-juniper woodlands along the lower Piedra and summer range in the adjacent Weminuche Wilderness and in the headwaters of Piedra River tributaries. The First Fork drainage is a critical migration corridor for wintering big game animals. During severe winters these animals use the First Fork corridor to migrate south to critical winter ranges around the HD Mountains. Preliminary results from a mule deer radio-collar study, conducted jointly with the CDOW and Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT), have verified the existence and importance of this corridor.

Similarly, East Creek and the First Fork of the Piedra have unique and significant wildlife values. The Missionary Ridge fire in 2002 burned into East Creek and altered the habitat greatly, increasing the amount and quality of forage for a variety of herbivores. It has become especially attractive to wintering elk herds and provides high quality transitional range for many animals. The Missionary Ridge fire created a mosaic pattern of burned and unburned areas. This habitat diversity provides high quality habitat for a variety of bird and small mammal species. Cavity nesting birds, in particular, have responded favorably to the change. An expanding Merriam's turkey population is increasing each year. Weminuche Creek provide river otter (state threatened species) habitat. Sightings have been reported in the drainage. In addition, evidence of otter reproduction has been found in the Williams Creek drainage, near the identified roadless area. Most of the larger streams in this roadless area provide fishing opportunities. Some of the major streams for fishing are East Creek, Mosca Creek, Coldwater Creek, First Fork, Sand Creek, Weminuche Creek, and the Piedra River. Creeks with marginal fisheries include West Prong, Red Creek, Clear Creek, and Trout Creek. Fisheries habitat improvement projects have occurred on East Creek and the Piedra River.

Key attractions to the area include Coldwater Creek, Devils Hole, and NFST 600/601 (Devil Mountain Trail). There are no significant human imprints other than evidence of hunting camps and similar recreational activities in the roadless additions around Devil Creek and the upper Piedra. A full spectrum of recreational opportunities and activities is available and enjoyed by many users. An excellent trail system provides adequate foot and horse access throughout the area, while leaving plenty of escape and hiding cover for wildlife. Motorized recreation is available in the form of ATV trails in the southwest adjacent to the Forest Lake area. NFST 596 (Piedra River Trail) is closed year round to mechanized recreation (mountain bikes). In the southeast, NFST 603 and 604 (East and West Devil Creek trails) were closed to motorized use in a 1998 Plan Amendment. Only NFST 600/601 receives regular motorized use at this time. NFST 707 along the Heflin Creek and upper Indian Creek addition (Columbine) to the southwest is closed to motorized recreation use by special closure in the travel management plan. NFST 538 in the upper First Fork drainage (Columbine) is closed to summer motorized use, but winter snowmobile use is allowed. This use occurs primarily along the West Prong timber road and in the adjacent Beaver Meadows, both of which are largely excluded from the roadless area. Approximately one-half of the Bear Creek unit is closed to all motorized vehicles and the remainder contains no trails suitable for motorized vehicles. The upper end of the First Fork Trail beginning at Beaver Meadows is included within one large adjacent roadless addition to the west. This trail is popular with backcountry horsemen and during hunting season. The NFST 603 and 604 in the southeast addition are rugged and relatively unused. The upper Piedra River Trail is popular with anglers downstream of the Piedra picnic ground in the eastern roadless addition. The remote setting and complex terrain requires wilderness skill and navigational skill.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). One significant aboriginal camp has been identified in this CRA. Other camps may be discovered in the area, although it is unlikely that finds will be numerous or that any structural ruins exist. In the portion of the roadless area not included in the Wilderness Study Area, previous inventories have recorded numerous cultural resource properties consisting primarily of isolated artifacts, lithic scatters, and some mixed artifacts. Historic properties include Ute Scarred Trees, aspen art, historic stock driveways, and logging sites.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The current level of livestock-grazing is expected to continue with only the ranching economy causing any major changes. Existing range improvements will be maintained. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 670 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Piedra Area Adjacent CRA. The potential for significant development of locatable and leasable minerals in the area is relatively low. This is evidenced in part by the historic low level of exploration activity. Several lease tracts have been applied for, but no leases have been issued and no geophysical exploration activity has been proposed. The areas lie north of the Fruitland outcrop, which is generally considered the northern extent of prospective coal-bed methane deposits. At the lowest end of the adjacent area, there is low potential for conventional gas. There are currently no existing oil or gas leases in the area. In the areas where timber harvest has occurred, there are opportunities for additional wildlife habitat improvement projects. Some fisheries habitat improvement projects are planned for East Creek, but these will be hand-constructed and will not modify the roadless character. Old fisheries habitat surveys recommend placing log structures near the mouths of Mosca and Coldwater Creeks. The Piedra Area Adjacent contains 17,755 acres of suitable timber lands.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 53,900 | 39,300 | Timber sales, gas exploration, and GIS mapping. |

Runlett Park, #SJ012 (5,600 acres)

1. Description

Located on the Columbine Ranger District on the San Juan National Forest, Runlett Park's northeast boundary abuts the Weminuche Wilderness. The rest of the irregular-shaped boundary is adjacent to other National Forest System lands and private lands in the lower Pine River drainage below the wilderness. The area is surrounded on two sides by the NFSR 602 (Pine River Road) and on the third, non-wilderness side, by NFSR 724 (Middle Mountain Road). National Forest System Trail 530.1 (Runlett Park) serves the area. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from 8,000 feet, near the Pine River's entry into Vallecito Reservoir, and 11,288 feet at the summit of Runlett Peak. The soils are varied but all are subject to erosion. Along the west side of Middle Mountain are deep slumped soils. The overstory vegetation in the area consists of ponderosa pine at the lower end and spruce-fir on the higher elevations of Runlett Peak. The mid elevations are forested by the mixed conifer type that is prevalent on the San Juan National Forest in the mid elevations. The bottom (southern) third of the area was burned in the Missionary Ridge Fire of 2002.

2. Roadless Characteristics

As a result of the Missionary Ridge fire, this CRA offers a variety of understory vegetation, providing high quality forage for herbivores and habitat diversity for a variety of bird and small mammal species. The cliffs below Runlett Park are critical winter range for the Pine River bighorn sheep. This herd of sheep is one of the historical, original, herds in the state. When the animals are pushed out of the high mountains in the Weminuche Wilderness Area because of deep snow, these south facing cliff sides are critical for winter survival. Research has shown that bighorns do not respond well to human disturbance. The roadless nature of the area is essential for their survival. For many years, peregrine falcons have nested on the cliffs below Runlett Park. The nests usually produce two or more chicks a year. Breeding peregrines are sensitive to human disturbance and therefore dependent on the roadless qualities of the CRA. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The Lynx Recovery Project has released lynx near Runlett Park because of the high numbers of snowshoe hare in the area. Lynx are often located in the vicinity as part of the on-going lynx monitoring associated with the recovery effort.

The area serves as a scenic backdrop for the scenery around Vallecito Reservoir. The primary recreation uses are hunting and hiking. The quality forage and wildlife habitat in the CRA in turn provides for quality backcountry big game hunting experiences. Outfitters use the area for day rides and big-game hunting. The area is open to ATV use but the topography limits use to old fire lines and existing trails. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Only two historic sites relating to mining activities are known to occur in the area. Few surveys have been conducted in the area. It is likely that additional sites could occur in open parks and meadows along the drainage.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area contains active allotments with small facilities such as stock ponds and fences. Potential mineral activity appears to be minimal even though there was some historic mining activity in the general area. There are no oil and gas leases in the area. There are 2,267 acres of suitable timber lands within the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5,000 | 5,600 | GIS mapping. |

Ryman, #SJ015 (8,700 acres)

1. Description

The Ryman CRA covers steep slopes and canyons on the east side of the Dolores River, between Scotch Creek and Roaring Fork. The CRA is administered by the Dolores Ranger District. Most of the area is located in Montezuma County, with about 600 or 700 acres in Dolores County. Its western boundary parallels the Dolores River, with its northern and southern boundaries paralleling the Scotch Creek and Roaring Fork roads. The eastern boundary is along the past timber-sale areas at the top of the Roaring Fork Road. The area is generally surrounded by Colorado Highway 145, NFSR 550 (Scotch Creek Road), and NFSR 435 (Roaring Fork Road). NFST 735 (Ryman) and 559 (Salt Creek) provide access to and through the area for recreation use. This CRA is within South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,200 ft, near the confluence of Roaring Fork and the Dolores River, to 10,200 ft near the headwaters of Ryman creek. The area is generally composed of steep slopes originating out of the Dolores River and the Hermosa drainage. These slopes, that form the Dolores River Valley, are highly dissected with side drainages that have formed steep-gradient stream bottoms. The vegetation of the unit is of a mixed conifer type with ponderosa-aspen mix in the lower elevations and aspen-white fir mix at the upper end. There are pockets of Douglas fir and spruce growth which is dependent exposure. The parent geology of the area is of a sedimentary origin. The soils are varied between shallow and deep, but are consistently unstable.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species inhabiting the area are typical of wildlife found in the Southern Rocky Mountains. There is a good animal species mix because of the varied habitats created by the extent and variety of understory vegetation. Fish improvements have been made on Ryman Creek. This CRA supports a significant population of elk year round. Elk use decreases during the winter months. Elk calving areas in aspen/moist meadow habitats are found throughout the CRA. The area also provides important mule deer fawning areas and habitat during the spring, summer, and fall. Black bear and mountain lion use the area along with a variety of small mammals and birds, Merriam's turkey and blue grouse. Hunting and hiking are the primary dispersed recreational uses in the area. Snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, and mountain-biking occur on Ryman Trail. Upper Ryman is open to motorized use (motorcycle). Portions of the area contribute to the scenic enjoyment of visitors driving along the Scotch Creek and Roaring Fork roads. Snowmobiling use is limited and is not an issue in this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Previous cultural resource surveys in the adjacent area resulted in the location of only a few sites. These sites included lithics, lithic scatters, and some isolated artifacts located in meadows. There is a moderate to high likelihood of additional sites being present in meadows, along drainages, and near permanent water sources. The likelihood is lower for the steep slopes and dense tree-covered areas. There are no known areas of interest that any tribes may have under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There has been a watershed project (fish project) in Ryman Creek but its development did not affect the roadless character of the area. There are no other planned developments and projects for any of the National Forest resources in this area. There is no potential for locatable minerals or leasable coal in this area. Potential for oil and gas development is also low. There are no existing oil and gas leases. There are 897 acres of suitable timber lands in the area. However, there is no timber sales planned in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7,400 | 8,700 | GIS mapping. |

San Miguel, #456 (64,100 acres)

1. Description

This area is located in seven townships in San Juan County west of Silverton. Its irregular boundary defines a large area that borders Bureau of Land Management lands west of Silverton, and National Forest System lands along the rugged divide between the San Juan National Forest and the Uncompahgre National Forest. The western and southern parts of the boundary include lands along the upper Dolores River, Greysill Mountain, Engineer Mountain, and Sultan Mountain. This CRA is adjacent to the Hope Lake CRA #56 (6,811 acres) on the Uncompahgre National Forest. Points along the following roads are within one-quarter mile of the roadless area: Colorado Highways 145 and 550, NFSR 578, 579, 580, 585, 679, 785, and 815. The area is accessible and served by the following National Forest System Trails (NFST): 505, 507, 508, 510, 638, 657, 677 and 679. Parts of several of the trails are now included as a portion of the Colorado Trail. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 9,600 feet near Cayton Campground, to 13,752 feet at the summit of San Miguel Peak. A variety of geological processes formed the high mountain peaks and broad expanses of open rolling alpine tundra areas of the San Miguel roadless area. Glaciers carved deep U-shaped valleys and exposed numerous vertical cliffs. There are numerous peaks over 12,000 feet and three peaks over 13,000 feet. This area is characterized by many summits above 13,000 feet in elevation with many alpine lakes in between the cliffs. The area has a great variety of exposed surface geology and numerous soil types that are shallow and deep; eroding or stable. This CRA is characterized by aspen forests on lower slopes (e.g., around Cascade Creek) and spruce and fir forests on the western side around Sheep Mountain and Lizard Head Pass. However, most of the area is above treeline. The Lime Creek forest fire in 1879 left stumps and skeletal trees. Vegetation types vary with aspect and elevation. The forested areas are predominantly spruce and fir in the elevations near treeline and the mixed conifer type in the lower valleys with white fir, Douglas fir, and aspen. Above treeline, the alpine shrubs and forbs dominate. They are punctuated with rock points, mountain peaks and rock cliffs.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The spruce-fir forests and high mountain meadows provide important habitat for numerous wildlife species. The area has been mapped as important calving, summer, and transitional habitat for elk. Mule deer use the area as summer range, migrating from winter ranges as far away as Montrose, Telluride, and Durango. The area is mapped as historical habitat and overall range for bighorn sheep. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The Lynx's Recovery Project has released lynx in and around Silverton because of the high numbers of snowshoe hare. Lynx use, documented by radio telemetry data, includes travel between Silverton and Telluride. Due to the concentration of big game prey species, the area is important mountain lion habitat. Pine marten have been found in the San Miguel area and are currently listed as a USFS sensitive species. The USFS increased monitoring efforts in 2005 to help determine population viability across the San Juan National Forest. Two wild Colorado cutthroat trout populations live in waters within the San Miguel roadless area; Deep Creek, from headwaters to confluence with the San Miguel River and Elk Creek, from headwaters to confluence with Fall Creek.

Ice Lake Basin, Engineer Mountain, and Grizzly Peak are just some of the scenic features the area has to offer. Key attractions include trails to Engineer Mountain and Ice Lake Basin; and a 20-mile segment of the Colorado Trail. The CRA contains the proposed Grizzly Peak Research Natural Area in the northwest portion of roadless area, proposed for its tufted hairgrass, wet spruce-fir forest and alpine vegetation on large areas of shale geology. Because of its large size and spectacular scenery, the area provides a wide variety of recreation including hiking and backpacking in isolated areas to motor-biking along trails. Multiple uses of the National Forest System lands surrounding the area include a wide spectrum of uses from primitive activities to downhill skiing and helicopter skiing. Most of the area on the Dolores District is open for motorized travel and includes snowmobiling (Tin Can Basin) and ATV use. Big-game hunting outfitters and guides use the area. Within the Columbine District, most of the area is closed to motorized recreation other than during the winter. Snowmobiling use occurs in the extreme southwest corner of the area near Bolam Pass and around Little Molas Lake. There are groomed snowmobile routes on the east side by Molas Lake within the CRA. Sno-Cat skiing occurs around Cascade Divide. Heli-skiing also occurs in the CRA. Mountain-bike use occurs on the Colorado Trail and trails feeding into it. The trail up Engineer Mountain is one of the busiest on the Columbine District. Hunting and big-game outfitters use the area. The Little Molas and South Mineral areas have recreation campgrounds and power lines which were cherry-stemmed out of the CRA.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Municipal watershed structure for Silverton is located in the northeast corner of the area. From Grizzly Peak RNA evaluation (1996): Three archeological sites and one historic locality are known from Grizzly Peak, including an open camp, two concentrations of stone tool chips, and an abandoned piece of mining machinery. Cultural resource inventories in the area have identified a number of artifact sites. Most prehistoric sites are lithic scatters and the historic sites include Ute Scarred Trees, historic mining features, and segments of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. Many of these cultural resource properties may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is an active sheep and livestock allotment within the CRA and there are livestock reservoirs in the area. There are no other Forest Service recreation developments or wildlife habitat improvement projects planned. The area immediately north of Durango

Mountain Ski Area has been inventoried as an expansion area for the ski area. There is some potential for cabins being built on patented mines. Unplanned impacts to the area could result from access roads and utility corridors if the private lands were to be developed. Impacts to the larger landscape include: a jeep road accessing a 320-acre private inholding (Lodge) near Sheep Mountain used by the landowner, an abandoned Jeep trail leading into headwaters of South Mineral Creek, and a hiking trail to Hope Lake overlook.

The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 560 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the San Miguel CRA. There is low to no potential for oil, gas, or coal. There are no existing oil and gas leases within the San Miguel roadless area. Overall, the area is highly mineralized and could experience a resurgence of hard-rock mining activity. Numerous patented mining claims in high valleys have large portions that are underlain by shale, sandstone, limestone, and other sedimentary strata lacking in potential for hard-rock minerals. The northern portions of the unit contain more volcanic rocks. The Mineral Creek drainage was the focus of historic mining activities. From the Grizzly Peak RNA evaluation (1996): Grizzly Peak occurs in an area of concentrated historic mining activity. There are no active mines or mining claims within the potential RNA boundaries. The Graysill Mine, an abandoned gold works, is located 0.5 miles (0.8 km) south of the boundary near Bolam Pass. Tin Can and East Flattop are in the suitable base for timber. Previous timber sales proposed for the slopes of Sheep Mountain in mature and old-growth spruce-fir generated intense public controversy. It is anticipated any future timber sales proposed for the roadless forests within San Miguel would result in similar public controversy. There is no ecological need to manipulate these forests through mechanical means. There are 2,523 acres of suitable timber lands in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 58,100 | 64,100 | GIS mapping, 90 acres within Durango Mountain Ski Area permit boundary were removed. |

South San Juan Adjacent #SJ002 (35,100 acres)

1. Description

The area borders the Continental Divide and the Rio Grande National Forest on the north and east, the large Banded Peaks Ranch on the south, and mixed National Forest System lands and private lands on the west. This CRA is adjacent to the South San Juan Wilderness. It is administered by the Pagosa Ranger District. The area is one-quarter mile or closer to 13 National Forest System roads and Highway 160. NFSR 664 (Big Branch Road) extends into the interior of the roadless area approximately 1 ½ miles. The area is accessible and served by a large Forest trail system. As a result of historic livestock use in the area, nearly every drainage has a trail leading from a road into the area and then connecting with other trails in the area. These CRAs are within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from 7,600 feet, on the Blanco River, to 13,300 feet at Summit Peak. The physical characteristics of this roadless area vary from open rolling terrain to the spectacular vertical cliffs and peaks of the rugged mountains along the Continental Divide. The area's water courses include numerous streams and rivers, all of which are tributaries of the San Juan or Navajo rivers. The highly dissected valleys contain a large variety of surface geology and soil types.

The wide range of elevation, slope, aspect, and soil types have resulted in an extremely complex mixture of vegetation communities. However, the southern portion of the roadless area contains one of Colorado's largest and oldest stands of aspen trees, making it an outstanding fall color viewing area on the San Juan National Forest. Pine and oak are the dominant vegetation types at the lower elevations. As elevation increases, a transition to mixed conifer occurs and then on to a fir-aspen complex. Douglas fir is found on the northern aspects throughout the mixed conifer type. The higher elevations near the tree line have spruce-fir forests with the alpine tundra above. Interspersed throughout the forested areas are open grassland parks and occasional wet meadows. The area has a great variety of exposed surface geology and numerous soil types that are shallow to moderately deep and mostly subject to erosion.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This area contains numerous wildlife species native to the Southern Rocky Mountains. Some of the unique and interesting species are the white-tailed ptarmigan and bighorn sheep. Economic game animals such as deer, elk, and bear are abundant. The wide variety of understory vegetation in the mixed conifer forest type coupled with the many different combinations of overstory tree species results in high-quality habitat for many animal species. This area is used heavily by deer and elk in the spring, summer, and fall. The southern end provides severe winter range and a winter concentration area for elk. Merriam's turkeys are prominent throughout the CRA. Mountain lion is also common to the area. Black bear rely on the Gambel oak found along the western and southern end of this roadless area. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Fisheries include the headwaters of Blanco River, Quartz Creek, Castle Creek, and Sand Creek.

Primary recreation uses include hunting, hiking, hobby gold-panning and scenic viewing. The fall color season enhances the scenic vistas of this roadless area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Previous cultural resource surveys in this roadless area have identified numerous sites and properties. Prehistoric finds include everything from isolated

artifacts to lithic groups. Historic resources and features related to mining and ranching activities and historic “Aspen Art” groves have also been identified in the area. Predicted sensitivity for cultural resource finds is moderate in meadows and along drainages; it is low to moderate in the dense forested areas. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe expressed that the East Fork has some historic significance to their peoples but they did not elaborate.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area contains active grazing allotments. This area is separated from the Treasure Mountain roadless area by the Elwood Pass Road, which contains a buried natural gas line. The potential for a significant mineral discovery is high. Oil and gas exploration activities can be considered probable. Low potential for coal development exists in the southwestern one-third of the area. Fifteen oil and gas leases exist in the area and drilling activities are expected in this decade. The majority of the mineralized areas are located in the portion of the roadless area that was not designated for wilderness or allocated to the ski area. There is a high probability of gas and oil development in the southern half of the area which would result in the construction of roads, pipelines and other facilities supporting oil-field development. There are two current oil and gas leases, encompassing approximately 240 acres, issued prior to January 12, 2001 within the South San Juan Adjacent – leased CRA. There is one expression of interest with two acres within the South San Juan Adjacent – leased CRA. There are 2,633 acres of suitable timber lands in the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 51,300 | 35,100 | Change in inventory after South San Juan Wilderness Bill. These areas were combined. |

Storm Peak, #SJ002 (57,600 acres)

1. Description

The Storm Peak roadless area is located in Montezuma and Dolores counties. The area is located in portions of nine townships near the center of the Dolores Ranger District. The northwestern boundary roughly parallels the West Dolores River except for setbacks to exclude the Stoner Mesa and Eagle Creek roads. Where the boundary drops down to the Dolores River near Cayton Campground, it turns and meanders southeast along the Dolores River, except for setbacks to exclude the roaded areas around Rico and on Taylor Mesa. Access points to the CRA occur along the following roads and are within one-quarter mile or less of the roadless area boundary: NFSR 535,686,471,545,692,547, 538, and Colorado Highway 145. The following trails access or serve the area: Calico National Recreation Trail 208, NFST 207, 639, 640, 641, 645, 739, 200, 102, 639, 644, 648, 660, 633, 625, 208,640,648,626,624,627, 729, 738, 200, Stoner Mesa Trail, and School House 660 Trails (all non-motorized). The west two-thirds of the Stoner Area is currently open to cross country motorized travel. This CRA falls within two Eco sections, the northern part is within the South-Central Highlands Ecosection (M331G) and the southwestern corner is within the Northern Canyon Lands (341B). The area’s elevation ranges from 7,400 feet, near the confluence of the two Dolores Rivers, up to 12,340 feet at the Elliott Mountain summit in the Stoner Mesa roadless portion. The area has a variety of topographic features including: mountain peaks, mesas, deep canyons, steep valley slopes, and rolling high country. It is highly dissected by numerous streams that are tributary to the Dolores and West Dolores Rivers. The area is characterized by Stoner Mesa, its sloping sides, and the Stoner Creek valley. The area is bounded on the west by the Dolores River and contains various creeks and draws such as Stoner Creek.

Geology of the area is manifested by rock outcrops and cliffs of both sedimentary and igneous origin. The soil types vary widely and run the full range of instability to stable and shallow to deep. Vegetation varies according to elevation and exposure. Typically, ponderosa pine and Gambel oak growth occur in the lower country and mixed conifer is found in the mid elevations. There are nine or more mountain peaks that have spruce and fir. There are limited amounts of alpine tundra. In the Stoner Mesa area aspen forests and ponderosa pine and oak brush are found at lower elevations. Spruce, aspen, and fir are found at higher elevations. Blue spruce occurs occasionally, particularly along streams and the steep slopes below Stoner Mesa’s rim. The area below the west rim of Taylor Mesa offers pure stands of uncut aspen.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species found in this area are typical of those found in the Southern Rocky Mountains. The large number of vegetative types has created an extremely diverse habitat. Mountain lions, black bears, elk, and mule deer utilize the CRA. This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Radio telemetry data shows that Canada lynx also occupy the Storm Peak area. The CDOW is evaluating Storm Peak as a potential release sight for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep as it provides necessary habitat requirements. Elk use the area during the spring, summer, and fall. In winter their use is restricted to south facing slopes and is dependent upon winter snow depths. Given the size of the Storm Peak CRA and the number of south facing slopes, even winter use can be significant. A wild population of pure native Colorado River cutthroat trout exists in the lower end of Little Taylor Creek. The

entire drainage is designated as cutthroat habitat by Colorado Division of Wildlife’s regulations. Additional populations of pure native cutthroat trout may exist in other waters within the CRA.

Both the Dolores and the West Dolores rivers were studied for wild and scenic river values. The Dolores was found to be eligible for addition to the Federal Rivers System, but Congress has not acted on the issue. There are six or seven stock reservoirs scattered across Stoner Mesa. Several of these blend closely into the environment and are almost indistinguishable from natural Stoner Lake. The others have obviously constructed earthen berms, but these six or seven stock ponds are widely scattered across the mesa and are usually screened by dense aspen forest. There also exist several range fences crossing the mesa from rim to rim, which are also well screened.

Recreational activities include: hiking, backpacking, horse packing, hunting, and fishing. The area is used for backcountry skiing and the northern portion is used by snowmobiles. Recreation outfitters use the area for big-game hunting and packing services, horseback-riding, and fishing. There are a number of trails which provide for a diverse travel-related recreational opportunity. The area contains the Calico National Recreation Trail, which was the first National Recreation Trail designated on the San Juan National Forest. It follows the ridgeline from the Dolores River to Storm Peak and continues on through spruce forests to Morrison Creek. The area also includes the NFST 645 (Priest Gulch Trail) and the upper end of NFST 624 (Stoner Mesa Trail). The Calico Trail and Priest Gulch Trail are open to motorized recreation use. The Stoner Mesa Trail runs the length of the mesa and the Eagle Peak Trail parallels Stoner Creek. Two-thirds of the area is available to off-road motorized use (F open area) and a majority of trails are suitable for motorized use. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The many cultural resource surveys in or about the area have located and identified numerous sites consisting of isolated lithics, lithic scatters, some ground stones, historic aspen art, and habitation structures. Many of these sites are likely to be eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. There is a moderate to high likelihood of additional sites occurring in open parks and meadows, along drainages, and on level areas near permanent water sources. The likelihood of sites occurring on steep slopes and in dense timber is low to moderate. There are no known areas of interest that any tribes may have under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Access to approximately 17 private land holdings could impact roadless characterizes. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 15 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Storm Peak CRA. The Department of Energy shows that about 60 percent of the area may contain nuclear mineral resources. The area also contains known geothermal and locatable minerals. There are existing mineral leases within the area. Patented mining claims dot the Horse Creek watershed west of Rico. Oil and gas development potential is low and there are no existing oil and gas leases in the roadless area. There is an existing oil lease on Taylor Mesa. All previous timber sales were removed in the new inventory. Suitable timber lands total approximately 5,600 acres in the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 49,400 | 57,600 | GIS mapping. |

Treasure Mountain, #SJ003 (22,500 acres)

1. Description

This roadless area is located in portions of seven townships, lying east of Highway 160, between the East Fork drainage and Wolf Creek. It is administered by the Pagosa Ranger District. Its southern boundary parallels the East Fork Road from the West Fork Valley up along Elwood Creek to the Continental Divide near Elwood Pass. The eastern leg of the northern boundary follows along the Continental Divide between Elwood and Treasure Pass. The northern boundary drops down along the timber sale areas along the highway on the west side of Wolf Creek Pass. Points along the following roads are within one-quarter mile of the roadless area: Highway 160, NFSR 667 (East Fork), 039 (Falls Creek), and 725 (Wolf Creek Road). The area can also be reached along the Continental Divide from the Rio Grande National Forest side via NFSR 388, 390/391, and 380 (Elwood Pass). The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail skirts the east side of the area. The area is accessible and served by the following National Forest System trails (NFST): 565, 566, 567 and 845. This CRA falls within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from 8,400, near the confluence of the east and west forks of the San Juan River, to 12,000 feet along the Continental Divide. A prominent ridge descends westward from the Continental Divide with a few high points that are not individual mountains. The area is dissected by seven named tributaries to the forks of the San Juan River, creating an undulating southern exposure of the East Fork. The northern exposure of the Wolf Creek drainage is much steeper with little diversity in its geomorphologic form. The area has a great variety of exposed surface geology and numerous soil types that are shallow to moderately deep and mostly subject to erosion. Vegetation varies with elevation and exposure. On the higher slopes of the southern exposures the dominant cover is spruce and fir. On the mid to lower slopes the mixed conifer type, with aspen, is the predominant cover. The slopes of the northern exposure are nearly all covered with spruce-fir that is punctuated with an occasional cliff or rock outcrop. Near the higher elevations in the Elwood Pass area there are a number of open grassy parks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The mixed-conifer forest offers a diversity of wildlife habitat for an equally diverse number of wildlife species. Wildlife species inhabiting the area are typical of the Southern Rocky Mountains. The CRA is heavily used by elk and deer in the spring, summer, and fall months. The area provides a migration corridor from east to west. Black bear, elk, and yellow-bellied marmot are abundant. There are some fishing opportunities in the area: Wolf Creek, East Fork of the San Juan River, Silver Creek, and Falls Creek. The area contains an active eyrie of peregrine falcon on its west side. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). This is the location of historic evidence of Canada lynx occurrence in the San Juan. This area is part of the Canada lynx linkage area between the South San Juan and Weminuche Wilderness Areas. A lynx track was identified in the East Fork in the early 1990s. This is near the last confirmed grizzly bear sighting in the Southern Rocky Mountains.

The area is adjacent to the Wolf Creek Ski Area, the proposed East Fork ski areas, Elwood Pass four-wheel-drive route, and the Wolf Creek Pass highway corridor. These adjoining areas are managed for their recreation and scenic attributes. In addition, the Continental Divide runs through the area. The area is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreational opportunities. Dispersed activities are mostly land-based because the streams do not provide any measurable fishing. Most use, other than big-game hunting, occurs as day-use activities from points along the roadless area border. During the winter months the area around Treasure Mountain is heavily used by snowmobile riders from the top of Wolf Creek Pass and the old Wolf Creek timber access roads. The CRA has two trails open to motorized use and primarily used by motorcycles, NFST 566 (Windy Pass) and 565 (Treasure Mountain). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Previous cultural resource inventories have resulted in some small limited lithic finds. The area is more known for its historic lore of the “Lost Treasure” for which the area was named. Based on the Forest Cultural Resources model and data from surveys in surrounding areas, there is a good chance of additional lithic finds occurring in open parks/meadows and along drainages.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area contains active grazing allotments and a few facilities such as livestock ponds and fences. Treasure Mountain includes the site of the one-time proposed Wolf Creek Valley ski area, approximately 2,370 acres on the area’s western boundary. There is currently no formal proposal for Wolf Creek Valley. There are no existing oil and gas leases within the Treasure Mountain roadless area. The potential for oil and gas development is high to moderate. There is high potential for hard-rock mining in the Elwood Pass area southwest of Summitville. One timber sale, in 1984, affected the area since the RARE II analysis. The Falls Creek timber sale modified the roadless character of approximately 80 acres. No permanent roads were constructed for this sale. In addition, the roadless area boundary was originally drawn around a portion of the old Falls Creek timber sale areas which actually have about 640 acres that included old logging roads and clearcut areas prior to the RARE II designation. The area contains 55 acres suitable for timber production.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 20,900 | 22,500 | GIS mapping. |

Turkey Creek, #SJ004 (25,300 acres)

1. Description

Turkey Creek is located in Mineral and Archuleta counties, near the center of the Pagosa Ranger District. Roads adjacent to the area include: Highway 160, NFSR 648 (West Fork Road), 645 (Fourmile Road), 646, 037, and 738. NFST 580 accesses the area and is the only trail bisecting the roadless area and continuing into the Weminuche Wilderness, which borders the CRA. This CRA falls within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,600 feet, near the mouth of Turkey Creek, to 12,137 feet at the summit of Eagle Peak No.2. Another prominent mountain peak and well-known landmark in the Pagosa Springs area is Saddle Mountain at 12,033 feet. A highly dissected slope descends from the higher peaks along the Weminuche Wilderness boundary. Turkey Creek and Quien Sabe Creek are the two main drainages and are tributaries of the San Juan River. The geology of the area is a variety of Quaternary Period deposits and is fairly unstable. The area is marked by many prehistoric slumps and slides. The soils are primarily shale, varying in depth, and considered fairly susceptible to erosion as evidenced by the amount of slips, slides, and gullies. There is a full range of forest cover types represented starting with ponderosa pine in the lower elevations, changing to spruce and fir at the higher elevations. There is some alpine tundra near the summits of Saddle and Eagle peaks. Since the area is generally a southern exposure there is a minimum of tree species that are usually found at comparable elevations on northern exposures.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The varied elevations and topography of this CRA provides a wide array of habitat types from Gambel oak/ponderosa pine woodlands to alpine tundra. In particular, the extent and variety of understory vegetation provides for a large diversity of animal

habitats, making the area very rich in all the common fauna species. Animals that inhabit this area are typical of the Southern Rocky Mountains. The area is used extensively by deer and elk in the spring, summer, and fall months. It comprises an important big game migration corridor. Stable populations of Merriam’s turkeys are expanding their range here. A healthy range of bighorn sheep use higher elevations habitats. The CDOW has confirmed that both bald eagle and peregrine falcon nests are within the Turkey Creek CRA or on large, privately owned parcels adjacent to it. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and is part of the Canada lynx linkage area between the South San Juan and Weminuche Wilderness area. Lynx presence has been documented by radio telemetry data. Habitat is also available for the wolverine, a Forest Service Sensitive species. This CRA contains a population of pure Colorado River cutthroat trout, a federally listed species (threatened) as well as a Forest Service sensitive species. This population is only one, of just a few, pure populations in the state. Mountain lions rely heavily on prey animals that are abundant in this area. After exiting their dens in the spring, many black bears use the aspen habitat type for spring foraging. In the fall black bears rely on the Gambel oak in the southern edge of the unit as essential forage before hibernation.

A key attraction to the area is Turkey Creek. Recreational use of the area is mostly hiking, horseback-riding, and hunting. Fishing opportunities exist in Turkey Creek. The area is closed to motorized use except for snowmobiling on ungroomed routes. However, a motorized trail runs about three miles up Turkey Creek from the trailhead. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Isolated lithics and lithic scatters do occur. Based on data from surrounding areas, there is a moderate to high likelihood of sites occurring in open parks and meadows, along drainages, and in level areas.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are a number of fences erected for the control of livestock in the area. The area also contains a number of livestock water-ing ponds. The southern two-thirds of the area have low potential for coal development. Regional studies indicate that the area may contain limited hard-rock minerals. The southern two-thirds of the CRA has moderate to high potential for oil and gas development. There are currently no existing oil and gas leases. There are currently 3,900 acres of suitable timber lands in this area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sheep Mountain – 3,800 | | |
| Turkey Creek – 22,300 | | |
| Total – 26,100 | 25,300 | GIS mapping. |

Weminuche Adjacent, #SJ020 (22,700 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is a combination of numerous roadless areas which occur as narrow bands along the west and north sides adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness Area. It is appropriate to look at all of these roadless areas adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness together because they have similar characteristics. Each area has an irregular shaped boundary that includes ridge areas, major river drainages and tributaries. The areas are located on both the Columbine and Pagosa Ranger Districts. There are many points along the boundaries of these areas where a Forest Service road or trail is located within one-quarter mile of the roadless boundary. This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G) with elevations ranging from 8,000 and 12,000 feet above sea level. These roadless areas represent the toe slopes descending from the wilderness boundary. Geology of the area is the rocky moraines along the ridges and colluvial sedimentary rocks and shale along the narrow portion at top of the area. The soils are shallow to deep and subject to mass erosion along the cliffs, as evidenced by the large mud flow that covered NFSR 640 (Williams Creek) and 644 (Poison Park) in 1979. Soils along the ridges are shallow and are not prone to mass wasting. The major overstory vegetation cover is mixed conifer (spruce, white fir, Douglas fir) with aspen in the higher elevations and ponderosa pine at the lower elevations. These areas also contain some open grassy parks. Vegetation types do not significantly vary except for elevation changes, aspect, and slope orientation.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species inhabiting this area are typical of the species that are found throughout the San Juan portion of the Southern Rocky Mountains. The mixed conifer vegetation type with its large variety of understory vegetation types makes this a prime area for many species. There are permanent streams that support fisheries habitat. Bald eagles are the only known threatened species in the area. Cliffs provide peregrine falcon habitat. Bighorn sheep are known to winter in the area around Poison Park. Much of the CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened).

The Monk Rock area has three major scenic rock features and the Keyhole, which provides a scenic backdrop. It also possesses a segment of the Piedra River’s Middle Fork that is proposed for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (along the western boundary of the area). Williams Creek White Fir Research Natural Area and Martinez Creek Research Natural Area are located within

this CRA. Hiking and hunting are the two most popular dispersed recreation activities. The areas provide fishing streams, four large campgrounds, the state recreation area at Williams Creek Reservoir, and three trailheads for wilderness users. Nature study is also a significant use of the area. The private lands are used for ranching, and these operators also have many grazing permits for grazing on the Forest around and in the roadless area. The area is closed to summer motorized travel. Southern portions of the area along roads are open to winter snowmobile. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A small number of cultural resource sites have been located in the area. They consist primarily of isolated lithic artifacts and lithic scatters. The likelihood of finding additional sites is moderate to high along the streams and in the open meadows. The probability of finds in all other areas is moderate.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are several active livestock allotments in the area. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 320 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Weminuche Adjacent CRA. The Martinez Creek portion has 1,113 acres that are suitable timber lands.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| West Needles Wilderness IRA 5,900 | 7,000 | GIS mapping. |

West Needle, #SJ012 (7,000 acres)

1. Description

The West Needle CRA is located on the Columbine District in San Juan and La Plata counties, east of Highway 550 from Molas Pass to the southeast of Electra Lake. Access to the area is available via Colorado State Highway 950, NFSR 591 (Lime Creek Road), 671 (Haviland Lake Road), and an un-numbered four-wheel trail to Forebay Lake near Haviland Lake. The area is also accessible by the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad at Needleton, NFST 511 (Cascade Creek trail), and NFST 623 (Crater Lake trail). This CRA is within the South-Central Highlands Ecoregion (M331G), with elevations ranging from 7,200 feet, near the Animas River at the southern end, up to 9,676 on northern end. The San Juan uplift has characterized this roadless area, which contains rugged and steep terrain in the northern part and then slopes down to the southwest in a series of sedimentary benches. The mountains have been uplifted and subjected to glacial erosion and shaping. The geology of the area consists mostly of pre-Cambrian metamorphic and intrusive igneous rocks. Lower flanks of the mountains and canyon walls are veneered with talus, landslide deposits, and thin gravels. Rocks of the western half of the area are metamorphosed lava flows, called twilight gneiss. The southern two-thirds contain metamorphosed volcanics and sediments. Soil characteristics and production potentials within the area vary considerably as a function of landform, slope and parent material. The area has a great amount of natural ecological and vegetative diversity resulting from variations in landform, soils, and geology. The drainage patterns, steep slopes, and rocky areas which are characteristic of the area preclude the possibility that large continuous areas of a single vegetation type will ever dominate the area. Vegetation is mainly alpine and sub-alpine intermixed at lower elevations with deciduous and coniferous trees, with large natural openings and a mosaic of rock outcrops.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife species presently found in the West Needle CRA include the typical species of the Southern Rocky Mountains. This CRA provides known habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides habitat for bighorn sheep, and pine marten, both Forest Service sensitive species. Bald eagle, a federally listed species, and osprey nest and forage near Electra Lake. Most lakes and streams in the roadless area contain fish. East Lime Creek is the only stream that has previous fisheries habitat improvement projects. The West Needle CRA provides one of the most scenic backdrops along Hwy 550 (the San Juan Skyway, the narrow gauge railroad along the east Animas, and the Durango Mountain Resort. Electra Lake is a proposed RNA in the area. Dispersed non-motorized recreational activities take place within the CRA including backpacking, rock-climbing, backcountry skiing, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. There are no developed recreation sites in the area and no recreational structures other than trails. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It borders the Weminuche Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are two dams within the IRA. There are some historic logging cabin (tie production) remnants in the area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA contains a vacant cattle allotment. Current mining activity, which is limited to a number of unpatented mining claims, is minimal. There are no applications or existing leases for leasable minerals. The potential for mineral deposits exists in the area, although there is little activity on existing claims. The geology indicates low potential for leasable minerals such as oil, gas, and geothermal

resources. This section is completely surrounded by National Forest System lands and has been identified as highly desirable for acquisition by the Forest Service. Low potential for oil, gas, and coal exists in this area. There are no existing oil and gas leases within the area. There are 204 acres of suitable timber lands within the roadless area. However, timber harvesting has not been encouraged due to scenic qualities of the area.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| West Needles Wilderness IRA 5,900 | 7,000 | GIS mapping. |

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

Adam Mountain, #49 (8,200 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located south of Eagle in Eagle County, about three miles west of Holy Cross Wilderness. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. Adam and Eve Mountains are highly visible. Motorized access to the unit's western and eastern portions is provided by NFSR 400 (Brush Creek) and NFSR 415 (East Brush Creek). NFST 1872 (Sneve Gulch) provides non-motorized access. This CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,600 feet to 11,158 feet (Eve Mountain). The area falls within the Hardscrabble ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. The area is characterized by high-relief mountains and hills. The northern slopes of Adam Mountain are covered with dense stands of pole-sized lodgepole pine. At higher elevations these pine stands transition into spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides primarily subalpine to montane landscapes, with habitats for a variety of wildlife species. This CRA contains potential habitat for the Canada lynx, a federally listed species. The area has been classified as potential habitat for lynx foraging and denning. A viable population of Colorado Cutthroat trout, also a federally listed species, occupies Hat Creek on the southeastern border of the unit. The CRA includes habitat for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: pine marten, wolverine, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. A small herd of elk rely on this area for year round habitat. The south facing slopes and the lower elevations on the north end of the CRA provide extremely important severe winter range habitat. Elk production areas occur in the Braderich and Voorhies Creek drainages. South-facing slopes of some of the secondary drainages in West Brush Creek are also important elk habitat during most winters. Mule deer and black bear use the entire area in the spring, summer, and fall. The recently reintroduced Merriam's turkey also uses the area during the non-snow months.

During the summer, most recreation use is concentrated around East Brush Creek, Yeoman Park, and Sylvan Lake. The primary uses are camping, hiking, backpacking, and some horseback riding. The area receives a substantial amount of hunting pressure during big game season. Fishing occurs at Sylvan Lake and Yeoman Park. Winter use is high due to the accessibility of the area. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling are very popular in the area. However, due to the steep terrain and heavily wooded areas, this CRA is more conducive to non-motorized winter activities. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is part of the West Brush Creek and East Brush Creek active cattle allotments. Standard range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present in the area. There is suitable timber in the area, including some areas that meet ASQ qualifications. Access to these areas could be challenging. A network of timber sale roads occurs along the southeastern boundary. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

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

Ashcroft, #83 (900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is a narrow stripe of land along the southeastern boundary of the Maroon-Bell Snowmass Wilderness. It is located in the Castle Creek Valley, just north of the historic town of Ashcroft. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,400 feet, in the valley floor along Castle Creek, and reaches up to 11,600 feet. It is characterized by steep slopes facing east and a valley comprised of rolling hills. Pine Creek and Devaney Creek flow through the area. The vegetation is composed of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir; aspen stands on the slopes, open meadows, and willow riparian communities along the valley floor.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains potential habitat for bighorn sheep and wolverine, Forest Service Sensitive Species. Other species that occupy the area include deer and elk. It is marginal winter range for elk and deer because of the deep snow. However, elk winter along the ridge above the historic town site of Ashcroft. This CRA provides summer range for elk, mule deer, and black bear. Recreational opportunities in the area consist of cross country skiing and hiking. There is an existing motorized access road outside of the CRA which leads to

a wilderness trailhead. This trailhead receives heavy use during the summer. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress, and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Maroon Bells Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A Nordic skiing center is operated under a special use permit outside of the CRA. There are two patented mining claims located within this area that have the potential for development. This CRA is within management area prescription 4.3 (Dispersed recreation).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

Assignment Ridge, #69 (13,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Pitkin County, southwest of the town of Carbondale. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The unit is bordered on the north by the National Forest boundary, which adjoins BLM lands; on the east by private lands along State Highway 133 (Crystal river); on the south by NFSR 307 (Coal Basin road); and on the west by private lands along Lake Ridge, as well as lands near Dexter Park that have been acquired by the Forest Service. NFST 1949 (Perham Creek), a non-motorized trail, runs through the unit. There is existing private land development along State Highway 133. There is also the potential for private land development on the inholdings along Thompson Creek and Lake Ridge. This CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from about 7,000 feet, near the Crystal River, to about 10,600 feet. There is a variety of terrain from rolling hills to steep and precipitous slopes at the Crystal River Canyon.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. It also contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive species: wolverine, pine marten, river otter, Townsend’s big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA provides overall summer and winter range for mule deer and elk. Specifically, it is a severe winter range, winter concentration area for elk, elk production area, and summer concentration area. It also provides summer range and fall concentration areas for black bear, winter foraging areas for bald eagles, overall range for turkey, as well as habitat for a variety of avian and small mammal species. It is adjacent to the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway, which has been designated as a State of Colorado scenic and historic byway and a national forest scenic byway. A moderate-to-heavy amount of hunting occurs, primarily for elk. Outfitter use, associated with hunting, is present. Trails in the unit receive moderate use by hikers, horses, and mountain bikes. NFST 1949 is becoming increasingly popular with hikers and horse users. Some snowmobiling occurs, but very little cross-country skiing due to the distance from plowed roads. There is a popular rock-climbing site on the edge of the unit, across from Redstone Campground. The landscape of the CRA has a high degree of naturalness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are parts of two active cattle allotments in the unit, Lake Ridge and Coal Basin. Normal range improvements such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are found. The potential for locatable minerals is low. However, there has been exploration in this unit in the past (a historic, closed copper mine in the Perham Creek area). There is medium to high potential for coal in the area. The potential for oil and gas development is medium. The Forest has processed oil and gas leasing applications for this area, and some seismic exploration has occurred in the last 15 years. Although coal and copper are known to exist in the area, there has been no recent economic activity to extract locatable minerals. The southwestern portion of the area has both suitable and Allowable Sale Quantity timber values identified. The historic town site of the 19th century coal-mining town of Coal Basin is located within and adjacent to the southwest edge of the unit. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.2 (Recommended wilderness), 4.23 (Scenic byways), and 5.12 (General forest and rangeland).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 13,300 | 13,300 | No change. |

Baldy Mountain, #67 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

This area is administered by the Rifle Ranger District. It is approximately 19 miles southeast of New Castle, Colorado. This CRA is surrounded by roads. The northern boundary consists of NFSR 812 and 843 while the south, east, and west are bordered by NFSR 800. The west is bordered primarily by private lands. There is a system trail that runs through the eastern part of the CRA. This CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,000 ft, at West Divide Creek, to 10,200 ft at Baldy Mountain. Slopes range from fairly flat to 40%. The vegetation in the area is fairly diverse, ranging from sagebrush and gambel oak to aspen, spruce, and fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Baldy Mountain CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. It also contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and purple martin. Little Rock Creek, within this CRA, is identified as a Colorado River cutthroat trout conservation area. This CRA is summer range and production area for mule deer and elk. It is also contains habitat for black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, and a variety of raptors and bird species. Non-motorized recreational opportunities are readily available within this CRA which is easily accessed by surrounding roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There may be a future need to build a bypass road to connect the Roaring Fork Valley to Divide Creek / Silt for a secondary access from Aspen to I-70 as there are times when places like South Canyon are prone to slides and closures. The route would also allow for commercial vehicles to access I-70 from the Four-mile area through Silt instead of through Glenwood Springs. There are 21 current oil and gas leases, encompassing approximately 6,000 acres, in the Baldy Mountain CRA. There suitable timber land in the northeast portion of the CRA, some of which meet ASQ qualifications. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6,000 | 6,000 | No change. |

Basalt Mountain A, #51A (14,000 acres)

1. Description

Basalt Mountain CRA is located north of Basalt in Eagle County. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by NFSR 514 (Red Table Road); on the southeast by the NFST 1909 (Cattle Creek Trail), a mechanized trail; and on the south by NFSR 524 (Basalt Mountain Road) and timber harvest impacted areas. The CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,000 ft to about 10,800 ft. The terrain is characterized by rolling hills to steep slopes and cliffs. The dramatic red sandstone buttes found at Seven Castles are a unique landform, unusual for the mountain topography of the area. Vegetation includes sagebrush, open meadows, pinyon-juniper, oak, aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and spruce/fir. The variety of vegetation provides a diversity of habitats important to wildlife.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as the Canada lynx (threatened) and greenback cutthroat trout (threatened). Lynx have been documented traveling through this CRA. Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American three-toed woodpecker, and purple martin. Cattle Creek is home to a conservation population of cutthroat trout. Management Indicator Species that occupy the area include: bighorn sheep, deer, elk, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. The steep slopes and red sandstone buttes at Seven Castles provide protection and production areas for bighorn sheep, and winter habitat. Mule deer and elk winter habitat, as well as transitional and summer range exists in this unit. The area is used for elk calving at appropriate times of year. There have been peregrine sightings in the Seven Castles area. This CRA provides summer and fall range for black bear. It provides overall range for Merriam's turkey and mountain lion. The area is bordered by two trail systems NFST 1909 (Cattle Creek) and NFST 1912 (Red Hill) that are not open for motorized use, but used primarily for mountain biking. Because of the mechanized uses on the single track trails, opportunities for solitude are limited, with the exception of cross-country skiing in the winter. Water developments found within the area include the Toner Reservoir impoundment, Association Gulch, and Bowers Gulch. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is one active cattle allotment within the area. A moderate to heavy amount of hunting occurs, primarily for elk. Outfitter-guide use occurs for summer horse rides and hunting. Mineral potential is believed to be low in this CRA. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.3 (dispersed recreation) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 14,000 | 14,000 | No change. |

Basalt Mountain, #51B (7,400 acres)

1. Description

This area is located north of Basalt in Eagle County. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The unit is bordered on the north by NFST 1909 (bicycle trail) and historic timber harvest areas, on the east by NFSR 510 (Taylor Creek Road), and on the south by private and state (Colorado Division of Wildlife) lands. One cherry-stem road, NFSR 105 (Toner Creek Road), provides private land and Colorado Division of Wildlife access. Two non-motorized system trails border the area NFST 1909 (Cattle Creek) and 1912 (Basalt Mountain). This CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,000 feet, near the Fryingpan River, to about 10,800 feet. There is a variety of terrain, from rolling hills to steep slopes and cliffs. Basalt outcrops and talus are characteristically associated with Basalt Mountain. Dramatic red sandstone buttes at Seven Castles are a landform not usually associated with mountain topography. The wide variety of vegetation in the unit includes: sagebrush, open meadows, pinyon-juniper, oak, aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and spruce/fir. The only lake within the unit is Toner Reservoir, a small, mostly dry impoundment.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened).Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: wolverine, pine martin, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin, Brewer's sparrow, and Colorado River cutthroat trout and Harrington's beardtongue. Species that occupy the unit include bighorn sheep, deer, elk, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. The area contains overall range and winter range for bighorn sheep. The steep cliffs in the Seven Castles area are imperative for bighorn sheep production. The unit provides elk calving areas and winter range, and overall range for mule deer. Colorado River cutthroat trout are managed in the adjacent Cattle Creek area. Peregrine falcons have historically been seen in the Seven Castles area. The CRA also contains overall range for black bear, mountain lion, and wild turkey. NFSTs 1909 and 1912 receive a moderate amount of mountain bike use. A moderate-to-heavy amount of hunting occurs, mainly for elk. Outfitter-guide uses include summer horse rides and hunting. There is some viewing of bighorn sheep. Some winter use occurs, mainly snowmobiling and a small amount of cross-country skiing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are two active cattle allotments (Basalt Mountain and the west half of Taylor Creek) in this unit. The potential for minerals in this CRA is believed to be low. The unit is adjacent to recent and proposed timber harvest areas at Basalt Mountain and Red Table Mountain. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.3 (dispersed recreation) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7,400 | 7,400 | No change. |

Berry Creek, #25 (8,600 acres)

1. Description

This area is located north of Edwards. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. Access is limited as the southern end is surrounded by private land subdivisions. This CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,400 feet to 11,000 feet. The unit features a range of landscapes. Extensive stands of oakbrush cover the majority of the, with aspen and lodgepole in the upper elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the Canada lynx, a federally listed species (threatened). Habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: wolverine, pine marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, greater sage-grouse, Northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, American three-toed woodpecker, and Brewer's sparrow, Harrington's beardtongue. This area provides winter range and habitat for deer and elk. The area has been heavily used in the past by motorcycles. The Ranger District and local communities are trying to make the area more available for non-motorized activities such as mountain biking and hiking. Due to the southern exposure, there is little traditional winter use, most people hike from the nearby subdivisions year-round. At the higher elevations there is some snowmobiling. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no active mining, oil and gas leasing, or mineral claims in the unit. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 38 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Berry Creek CRA. The area east of the State Land Board parcel was part of a salvage timber sale in the 1960s. The sale occurred on an area approximately 100 acres in size. Some of the northern portions have some timber production potential. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), 5.41 (Deer and elk winter range), and 8.32 (Utilities).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 8,600 | 8,600 | No change. |

Blanco to South Fork A #5A (35,400 acres) and Big Ridge to South Fork B, #5B (6,000 acres)

1. Description

This area is located about 30 miles east of Meeker, in Rio Blanco County. It is administered by the Blanco Ranger District. Its eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness and the rim of South Fork Canyon. Private lands, County Road 10 (South Fork Road), and two relatively small, isolated parcels of BLM land border its western boundary. Unit B is located south of the South Fork Canyon. The western boundary of this portion is a small drainage named Cliff Creek. Rio Blanco County Road 8 and a strip of private land that parallels County Road 8 (Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway) make up the unit's northern boundary. County Road 8 provides motorized access to the northern part of the Unit A and County Road 10 provides motorized access to the western portion, Unit B. County Road 12 (Marvine Road) provides motorized access into the center of Unit A and dead ends at the Marvine Campground and trailhead. NFSR 283 provides access to the Ute and Papoose recreation residences; to NFST 1824 (Ute Creek); and NFST 2248 (Papoose Creek). There are some roads through private land to the west that come close to the boundary of the unit, but these roads are not open to the general public. There is motorized access to all of the private inholdings. A moderate amount of snowmobile use occurs in the northern portion NFST 1824 (Ute Creek), NFST 2248 (Papoose Creek), NFST 1820 (Big Ridge), 1825 (Bailey Lake), 2255 (Hill Creek), 2256 (Fowler Creek), 1826 (Peltier Lake) 1827 (South Fork), 1831 (Cliff Lake), and 1834 (Spring Cave) are within in whole or part of these CRAs. These trails are non-motorized. With the exception of the last three, the trails lead into the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,400 feet to 11,000 feet. The terrain is roughly broken and dissected by numerous drainages. The area ranges in character from flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes, cliffs, and high ridges. This CRA is dominated by steep forested slopes, fragile soils, and abundant stream/riparian areas. Lodgepole pine intermixed with aspen dominates the northern portion of the area above County Road 8, with the remainder of the area mostly comprised of spruce/fir stands intermixed with aspen stands and parks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for federally listed species such as Canada lynx (threatened) and the following Forest Service Sensitive species: wolverine, river otter, pine marten, Townsend's big-eared bat, pygmy shrew, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin (Big Ridge to South Fork A only), and Northern leopard frog (Big Ridge to South Fork B only). The higher-elevation portions of this unit provide summer habitat for deer and elk. Lower-elevation areas, especially those near the valley of the South Fork of the White River, provide fall and early winter habitat for deer and elk. In mild winters, some elk will inhabit these slopes throughout the winter months. The Hill Creek portion of the area is home to a herd of bighorn sheep that remains here throughout the year. This CRA contains habitats for the following: bald eagle (winter range, winter concentration, summer foraging, nesting sites), bighorn sheep (summer and winter range, concentration and production areas, especially for the South Fork bighorn herd), black bear (high use quality habitat), elk, especially the White River elk herd (including migration corridors and routes, production, migration, winter range), flammulated owl (suitable habitat), goshawk (suitable habitat, one nest documented), moose (suitable year-round habitat), mountain lion (high use

quality habitat), mule deer (production area, summer range), native cutthroat trout (native production streams), and wild turkey (overall range and winter range).

This area possesses a primitive, undeveloped character and beautiful scenery. It provides a continuum of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities with the adjacent wilderness area. Though natural appearing and primitive in nature, many features exist for water and grazing purposes. There are several outfitter guide operations in the area, especially for hunting. There are also outfitter guide operations for snowmobiling. Recreation use is non-motorized in the summer and allows for snowmobile use in the winter in the Big Ridge and West Marvine areas. The NFSR 245 (Buford-New Castle Road) on the western boundary is a marked and groomed snowmobile trail. Open snowmobile use is high in the many large open parks scattered throughout the northwestern part of the unit. Most recreation use occurs during hunting season, although dispersed summer use activities are increasing. Other activities include: horseback riding, hiking, viewing scenery, viewing wildlife, and fishing. These uses are at a moderate-to-high level. Limited mountain biking occurs on some of the trails. At least 12 outfitters operate 46 permitted camps during hunting season; other outfitters have permits for day-use, summer and winter use such as winter camping and snowmobiling. Big Ridge to South Fork A and Big Ridge to South Fork B are adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress, and listed in the Clean Air Act. This CRA is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. There are two reservoirs adjacent to the area, Bailey Lake and Swede Lake. Peltier Lake is within the area. Several ditches are adjacent to the area in the South Fork, Ute Creek, Papoose, West Marvine, and North Fork drainages. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are no known heritage resources in the area although the probability of occurrence of sites and isolated finds is high.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no permitted permanent land uses within this area. There are power withdrawals along the North Fork, Marvine, and South Fork drainages. No private land is found in the unit. The area contains several allotments, mostly cattle allotments. These have been active for about 100 years and are expected to remain in use. Associated developments include stock ponds, stock tanks, and several miles of fencing. There is also a cow camp on the West Marvine Allotment just outside the unit. There are no active mining, oil and gas leasing, or mineral claims in the unit. Historically timber sales thinned about 50 acres of lodgepole pine occurred on Big Ridge near Lost Creek. Lodgepole pine and aspen exist in the Big Ridge portion of the area. Stands of spruce/fir and aspen occur throughout a large portion of the remainder of the area. The Big Ridge to South Fork A and B CRAs are within the suitable timber base, but are not part of the ASQ. This CRA borders wilderness and is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized), 3.4 (scenic rivers), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), 5.42 (bighorn sheep), and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

Big Ridge to South Fork A:

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 35,300 | 35,400 | Updated GIS information. |

Big Ridge to South Fork B:

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6,000 | 6,000 | No change. |

Black Lake East, #20 (700 acres) and Black Lake West, #19 (900 acres)

1. Description

These two areas are located northwest of Silverthorne in Summit County. They are administered by the Dillon Ranger District. These units are adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness to the south and private land to the north. Motorized access is limited to a cherry-stemmed private road that does not provide public access. NFSR 1695 provides motorized access to the eastern boundary. NFST 60 provides non-motorized access to the southern portion of the units. These units are bounded by the Eagles Nest Wilderness and by private land. These CRAs are within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from about 8,600 feet, at Otter Creek, to 9,600 feet along the wilderness boundary. Vegetation includes subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce, alpine meadows with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lower elevations aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

These CRAs provide potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Forest Service Sensitive Species including: wolverine, pine marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American three-toed woodpecker. During the winter, these areas support a fairly large herd of elk and a moderately-sized mule deer

herd. These areas provide suitable habitat for blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, hawks, long-tailed weasel, owls, porcupine, skunk, and snowshoe hare. They also provide habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall, winter, and severe winter range, winter concentration, production area), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), and mule deer (overall range and movement corridor). There is limited access. Use includes summer backpacking, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, and winter skiing. Fishing is limited to Otter and Brush Creeks. The primary use of these CRAs is during the fall hunting season. Hunters access the area from NFSR 1695 and private property. Both of these CRAs are adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress, and listed in the Clean Air Act. They are adjacent to the Eagle’s Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

These areas are part of the active Black Creek cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, including fence lines and stock ponds, may be found. The CRA is within management area prescription 5.43 (Elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

Black Lake East:

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 700 | 700 | No change. |

Black Lake West:

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

Blair Mountain, #16 (500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Garfield County, Colorado and administered by the Rifle Ranger District. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness and is 16 miles northeast of New Castle, Colorado. The area is surrounded by roads, with the exception of a small section on the northeast side. NFST 2048 forms the northern border and the southern boundary is composed of NFSR 601. The western border is formed by a timber sale boundary and an open alpine meadow. This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311), with elevations ranging from approximately 10,600 feet to 11,400 feet. The slopes in the area are relatively shallow, generally 10-20%. The area is comprised mostly of alpine meadow with marginal spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Potential habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as: wolverine, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher. Management Indicator Species that occupy the area include bighorn sheep, and elk. The CRA also provides habitat for mule deer. The primary use of the area is for dispersed recreation. In general, as a whole, the CRA gets little recreation use except for big game hunting, horseback riding, and snowmobiling in the winter. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress, and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are sheep grazing allotments within this CRA. There are some patches of land suitable for timber in the area for which some meet ASQ qualifications. This CRA is within management area prescription 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 500 | 500 | No change. |

Boulder, #27 (1,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located northwest of the Town of Silverthorne in Summit County, Colorado on the Dillon Ranger District. The area is bounded on the west by the Eagles Nest Wilderness and on the east by private land. The northern boundary of the area is set by a timber sale boundary. Pebble Creek Road extends through the southwestern portion of the roadless area, providing access to private property owners only. NFSR 1350 provides access into this CRA and provides access to a public trail head. NFST 59 (Boulder Creek Trail) is

located within this CRA. NFST 59 provides non-motorized access into the area and the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,473 feet, at Boulder Creek, to 10,900 feet at South Rock Creek. The vegetation of the area is dominated by lodgepole pine with subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce at the higher elevations, with aspen and lodgepole pine forests intermittently at the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The riparian corridors along Boulder, Pebble, Rock, and Willow Creeks provide an excellent habitat for a diversity of song birds, neo-tropical migratory birds, and other wildlife. The Colorado Bird Observatory monitors the Rock Creek drainage. This CRA contains habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (documented presence and potential habitat). Potential habitat is present for Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, ferruginous hawk, Greater sage-grouse, Northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, American three toed woodpecker, boreal toad, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall and winter range, movement corridor, winter and summer concentration, production area), moose (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall range), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, hawks, long-tailed weasel, owls, porcupine, skunk, and snowshoe hare.

The current management for the area places an emphasis on semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. The primary recreational uses of the area are hiking, cross-country skiing, camping, and horseback riding. In the summer the Eagles Nest Equestrian Center provides guided horseback riding trips. In the fall hunting pack trips are provided. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is located within a vacant cattle allotment(s). There are a network of old timber sale roads remaining in the area from timber sales in the 1970's and early 1980's. The sales were initiated in response to a mountain pine beetle infestation and involved harvesting the dead trees in addition to some live lodgepole pines. This CRA is within management area prescription 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,300 | 1,300 | No change. |

Budges, #14 (1,000 acres)

1. Description

The Budges CRA is in Garfield County, northwest of Dotsero, and is managed by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. NFSR 600 cuts through the area going to the Budges/White River Resort. The CRA is adjacent to the Sweetwater A CRA (#15A) on the east, with an area cutout for road access on NFSR 600. The northern and western boundaries adjoin the Flat Tops Wilderness. The CRA is within the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H). The Budges CRA has areas of rolling hills to very steep slopes. Vegetation in the area includes Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, aspen, grassland and riparian meadows, and grass-shrub steppe. This CRA was victim to a spruce beetle infestation in the 1950s and as a result there are numerous dead stands with new trees beginning to grow. The northwestern portion contains old roadbeds from old timber sale roads.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx and the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and American three toed woodpecker. A native Colorado River cutthroat trout population occurs in Fawn and Buck Creek. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall range), deer (movement corridor, overall, transition, and winter range, summer concentration, production area), elk (overall, transition, and winter range, movement corridor, summer concentration, production area), and mountain lion (overall range). The area is popular for hunting, with moderate to heavy use. Fishing is limited to Buck Creek. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed, as designated by Congress, and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Budge's CRA is part of the Fawn Creek sheep allotment and the Budge's Horse allotment. The usual range improvements can be found in the area (stock ponds, salt, and fences). Big game hunting is moderate to heavy in this area. The southern boundary of the

area contained a number of timber sales. The area was home to a beetle infestation in the 1950s, which resulted in related timber sales in the northwestern portion of the area. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 4.3 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,000 | 1,000 | No change. |

Buffer Mountain, #33 (11,000 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in Eagle County, north of Vail and Avon, on the Holy Cross Ranger District. There are three system trails open to non-motorized use NFST 2107 and 2111 and 1896 (North Vail trail). The northern boundary of the area is NFSR 779 and 734. To the east the area is bordered by NFSR 700. The southern border is defined by private property. The southwestern portion of the area is accessed in part by private roads from the residential subdivisions. There is a potential for private development in the Nottingham Gulch area. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,700 feet to 10,532 feet. Buffer Mountain has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges. The area contains prominent landforms of high-relief mountains and hills. The vegetation is primarily spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and for the following Forest Service Sensitive species: wolverine, pine marten, pygmy shrew, northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, Brewer’s sparrow, and Harrington’s beardtongue. The CRA supports abundant wildlife; elk, deer, black bear, mountain lion, moose, blue grouse, and snowshoe hare. The lower slopes support a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer. In the winter the CRA provides deer winter range and migration corridor and for elk winter range, winter concentration areas, severe winter range and migration corridors. In the summer the CRA provides high quality elk habitat; summer concentration areas, summer range, production areas, and migration corridors. Moose have colonized this CRA on their own and use the riparian areas for overall range. The summit of Buffer Mountain is above treeline and offers views of Gore Range and the Vail Valley. The area is managed with an emphasis on semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. The area encompasses NFST 2701 (Nottingham Ridge Pack Trail) which has been used for many years as a route for sheep herding. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is an active part of the Red and White Allotment, which is currently annually permitted for sheep grazing. A power line that backs up the power supply to Vail and Avon is located in this area. There is suitable timber in the upper elevations of the area for which some met ASQ qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 5.13 (forest products), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), and 8.32 (utilities).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11,000 | 11,000 | No change. |

Burnt Mountain, #76 (1,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Pitkin County, on the Aspen–Sopris Ranger District. It is just a few miles west of the city of Aspen, and the town of Snowmass Village is to the northwest. The northern boundary is defined by private land. To the west the area borders the Snowmass ski area. The Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness and private lands make up the southern boundary. Private lands and the Buttermilk ski area border the area to the east. The CRA is in close proximity to highly developed properties such as Snowmass and Buttermilk ski areas and private housing developments. NFST 1980, Government trail bisects the area with heavy biking and hiking use. There is non-motorized access to the southern portion of the area via the Buttermilk ski area roads. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,500 feet at its lowest point to 11,300 feet. Generally the terrain is rolling and slopes to the north. Vegetation in the area generally consists of mixed stands of aspen, spruce/fit and lodgepole, with some natural openings.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides a valuable dispersal and movement corridor for the federally listed Canada lynx (confirmed in this area) with the potential for winter foraging. The CRA contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten, bighorn sheep, northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, flammulated owl, and American three-toed woodpecker. Burnt Mountain provides a critical migration corridor for elk which is restricted and confined by an active ski area and adjacent residential development. There are no alternative migration corridors. In addition, it provides an elk production area, summer solitude, and transition range. There is heavy use of the trail running through the area by hikers and bikers in the summer and people snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter. Hunting is another recreational use for the area with both big game and grouse hunting. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Maroon Bells Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is part of the Owl Creek cattle allotment and contains the associated water developments and fences. The area is located between two four-season resorts and receives outfitter/guide permitted use in the summer. Mineral and energy: There is low potential for mineral and energy in the area. Access for timber cutting in this CRA is poor. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.2 Scenery, and 5.43 Elk habitat. The 2001 Inventory contained approximately 130 acres of 8.25 (ski area).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,700 | 1,600 | Ski areas. |

Chicago Ridge, #59 (5,100 acres)

1. Description

This area is located south of Camp Hale and north of Tennessee Pass in Eagle County. It is administered by the Eagle–Holy Cross Ranger District. NFST 2108, the Colorado Trail, bounds the western portion. NFSR 731 on the western side is used year round to access private residences on inholdings in the Taylor Gulch area. This road was buffered out of the CRA. Additionally, the Chicago Ridge area is accessed from Ski Cooper during the winter for snow cat ski touring. NFSR 714 defines the northern boundary. The western boundary is defined by US Highway 24 and the southern boundary adjoins a CRA on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. The eastern boundary is defined by private land boundaries around the town of Climax. Holy Cross Wilderness is about three miles to the west, across US Highway 24. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,400 feet at Camp Hale to 12,714 feet on Chicago Ridge. The area contains alpine landscapes with beautiful vistas of the surrounding mountains. Chicago Ridge is a striking above-treeline landform that runs north to south. The Chicago Ridge CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, high alpine meadows (tundra), mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows. The dominant vegetation type is spruce/fir forest, followed by grassland/ meadow and lodgepole forest.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx which has also been documented in the CRA. The CRA also had potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: Mexican Spotted owl, wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Brewer's sparrow. The CRA supports abundant wildlife: black bear, blue grouse, deer, elk, mountain lion, pine marten, ptarmigan, and snowshoe hare. Due to its high elevation winter wildlife use is limited to blue grouse, lynx, pine marten, ptarmigan, and snowshoe hare. In the summer the CRA provides high quality elk habitat; summer concentration areas, summer range, production areas, and migration corridors. Recreation use is concentrated during the winter season with cross-country and snow cat skiing. The area is also a popular snowmobile destination. Summer use is low with some hiking. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Camp Hale, along the northern boundary, has been designated a National Historic Site and was used by the 10th Mountain Division as a high-altitude training area during World War II. Vance's Cabin, a 10th Mountain Hut Association cabin, is located on private property within the area. Chicago Ridge Snowcat Tours is a commercial outfitter and guide operation run on National Forest System lands by Ski Cooper. The Chicago Ridge CRA is part of the Tennessee Pass grazing allotment that is vacant at this time. There has been significant residential development on private property parcels in the western portion of the area. Mineral and energy: Extensive mining in the western part of this area led to selective timber harvesting throughout much of the Chicago Ridge area. Climax Mine is located to

the east. Some ASQ has been identified in the very northern portions of the CRA. The CRA is within 1.32 and 3.32 management area prescriptions which are recreation with some winter motorized, 5.5 Forested landscape linkages.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5,100 | 5,100 | No change. |

Corral Creek, #37 (3,100 acres)

1. Description

It is located in Eagle County on the Holy Cross Ranger District. It parallels the I-70 corridor from Officers Gulch to East Vail along the north side of the interstate. There are no roads that access the area. NFST 2013, 2014, 2015, 1897 and 60 access the area. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from approximately 9,000 ft to 11,860 feet. Vegetation in the area consists of subalpine-fir, Engelmann spruce, alpine meadows, with scree, tundra and snowfields above the treeline. At lower elevations aspen and lodgepole pine forests are found intermittently.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) which have been documented in the area. Potential habitat is also available for Forest Service Sensitive species such as wolverine, pine marten, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and boreal toad. Corral Creek contains a genetically pure and a slightly hybridized population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. This CRA provides overall habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer. The western part of the CRA is known as habitat for bighorn sheep and mountain goat. The CRA provides overall and summer range for elk and is part of a movement corridor for this species. The lower elevations provide for limited elk winter and transition ranges. It also is a migration area for mule deer. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall range), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall and summer range), mountain lion (overall range), ptarmigan (overall range, potential habitat), badger, blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various hawks and owls. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 4.23 (scenic byways).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,100 | 3,100 | No change. |

Crystal River, #70B (6,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located primarily in Pitkin County east of the town of Redstone and a small part is contained in Gunnison County. It is administered by the Sopris-Aspen Ranger District. The north border adjoins the Hay Park CRA. The east side it is bordered by the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. The west is bordered by state highway 133 and private lands. The south is bordered by private lands. There is one cherry stemmed road that was buffered outside the unit, NFSR 310, which serves the Avalanche campground, the Avalanche Creek trailhead, a working alabaster mine, and a Colorado Division of Wildlife bighorn sheep management station. A cherry stem spur leads up Bulldog Creek to private property. The system trails in the unit are NFST 1959 (Avalanche Creek), 1963 (East Creek), and 1966 (Placita). The northern portion of the CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) and the southern portion is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The CRA consists primarily of west-facing slopes of varying habitats types, including mountain shrub, aspen, oak, and pockets of spruce/fir and Douglas fir. There are extensive areas of sandstone and granite rock outcrops and cliffs. Some slopes are unstable and prone to debris flows or slumps, especially in the north side of Avalanche Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides movement, winter forage and winter habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). There is also potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive species: wolverine, pine marten, river otter, Townsend's big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift, American peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, and American

3-toed woodpecker. A maternity roost for Townsend’s big-eared bat occurs in the CRA. Species within the CRA include bighorn sheep, mule deer, and elk. The area to the north of Avalanche creek is winter range and a concentration area as well as a production area for Bighorn sheep. The herd supported here is actively managed by Colorado Division of Wildlife. Part of the CRA has a closure to all human use for Bighorn sheep habitat preservation and to provide an area of solitude with no human disturbance. Elk summer, winter, and severe winter range, winter concentration, and production areas occur at various locations throughout the CRA. This CRA also provides habitat needs for, black bear (summer range, fall concentration), and mule deer (summer range). There is a major mixed trout fishery in Avalanche Creek. Potential peregrine habitat occurs in the cliff areas of this CRA.

Recreational uses for the area include hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. NFST 1959 (Avalanche Creek) is heavily used for hiking and by stock users. NFST 1963 and 1966 receive lower amounts of hiking and horseback riding use. NFSR 310 is heavily used by cross country skiers. Hunting for deer and elk is also a popular activity. The local communities have been proposing a hard surfaced bike trail along Highway 133. This is only in the preliminary planning stages at this time. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Maroon Bells Wilderness. Several important water developments are found within the unit. The water diversion for the Town of Carbondale’s main water plant at Nettle Creek and the water diversion for the Town of Redstone at East Creek are both located within the unit along with a few other ditches. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is an electronics site under special use permit to Pitkin County on top of Elephant Mountain. The site is serviced by helicopter. There is an active alabaster mine, the Maree Love in lower Avalanche Creek. There is a potential that one to two miles of road access may be needed to provide access to the mine. There was historic hardrock mining in the Bulldog creek areas and on Elephant Mountain. Geothermal resources exist along the Crystal River corridor especially at Penny Hot Springs, Elephant Mountain, and Placita. There is an abandoned coal mine near Placita. There is no current or recent timber activity. There is a possibility that timber in lower Avalanche Creek could be harvested to support the alabaster mining operation. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.23 (scenic byways), 4.4 (dispersed recreation), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), and 5.42 (bighorn sheep habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,100 | 6,100 | No change. |

Deep Creek, #23 (9,900 acres)

1. Description

The area is located northwest of Dotsero in Garfield County, about three miles south of the Flat Tops Wilderness. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. Access is primarily by non-motorized trails NFST 1852 (Johnson Pasture) and 2031 (Ute-Deep). Deep Lake is located northwest of the unit. The area is bounded on the southwest by NFSR 600 and on the northeast by NFSR 618. BLM lands border the eastern boundary. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,200 feet to 10,000 feet. This CRA is composed of a broad uplifted plateau of uplands and mountains and steeply flanked canyon side slopes. The dominant feature of this area is the Deep Creek Canyon. This 2,000-foot deep, mile-wide canyon starts just below Deep Lake and continues to deepen and widen until ending just before Deep Creek empties into the Colorado River. The Deep Creek CRA has areas of rolling hills to very steep slopes and high cliff bands and scree fields; high ridges with stands containing spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, Douglas-fir, grassland meadows, and riparian areas. Douglas-fir dominates the entire canyon below the rim. Open meadows occur on the uplands with stands of spruce/fir. Standing dead spruce trees are evidence of the 1940s beetle infestation.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the following federally listed and Forest Service Sensitive species: Canada lynx (federally threatened), wolverine, pine marten, spotted bat, river otter, fringed myotis, Townsend’s big-eared bat, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and purple martin. Boreal toads breeding habitat has been documented in the CRA. A native population of Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in Deep Creek. Pine martens have recently been sighted. This area is used primarily for deer and elk as overall range, winter range, summer concentration, production, and movement corridors. It provides overall concentration, summer and winter range, and production areas for bighorn sheep. The CRA is part of a bighorn sheep supplemental transplant to rebuild the historical bighorn sheep herd on the Flattops and in the Flattops Wilderness. This CRA provides habitat needs for bald and golden eagle (winter range), black bear (overall range), fringed myotis and other bat species, mountain lion (overall range), peregrine falcon (active nesting area, part of buffer for nesting areas), snowshoe hare, and wild turkey.

Deep Creek has been proposed for wild river designation. The area also has a high concentration of caves—more than 40 caves have been identified in Deep Creek Canyon. Groaning Cave is the longest explored cave in Colorado. Fall is the primary recreation use season. Big-game hunting pressure is moderate to heavy. Summer use is light because of steep terrain and the lack of trails. There are recreation opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, viewing scenery, and hiking. Limited caving and off-trail hiking also occur in the canyon. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There is a potential for some cultural sites on some of the vistas and caves.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the Deep Creek and Coffee Pot active sheep allotments and the Lake Creek/Deep Creek active cattle allotment. The southeastern portion of the area has been withdrawn from mineral entry to protect cave resources. A network of timber sale roads from the Tenmile, Ute, and Cross Creek sales defines the northeastern boundary. As were many areas within the Flat Tops, this area was affected by the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle epidemic, and thus numerous dead standing and downed trees are present. Access would be very difficult into the area for timber production though there is Allowable Sale Quantity identified. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.5 (wild rivers), 3.4 (scenic rivers), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9,900 | 9,900 | No change. |

Dome Peak, #6 (12,000 acres)

1. Description

The area is northwest of Burns in Eagle and Routt Counties. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The area is bounded on the west by the Flat Tops Wilderness and by the north and east by National Forest, BLM, or private land. NFSR 610 defines the southern boundary. This area is adjacent to the 2,100 acre Dome CRA (#21123) on the Routt National Forest. The dominant feature in this unit is Dome Peak (12,172 feet). The area historically has been used for grazing, fishing, hunting, and dispersed camping. NFSR 610, 615, and 915 provide motorized access to the CRA. NFST 2034 (Ute-Sunnyside) and NFST1861 (Sunnyside Lakes) provide non-motorized access. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,608 feet (Dry Fork of Cabin Creek) to 12,172 feet (Dome Peak). This CRA is composed of a broad uplifted plateau composed of uplands and mountains and steeply flanked canyon sideslopes. The plateau is a complex of mountain groups, rolling hills and plateau lands, deeply dissected valleys with some scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls, and glaciated ridgelines. Covered by large expanses of primarily Engelmann spruce, the forest is broken up by large patches of aspen and open parks. Vegetation along major streams consists of cottonwoods, alders, willows, and other riparian species. As were many areas within the Flat Tops, it was affected by the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle epidemic, and thus numerous dead standing and downed trees are present. The area is recovering and young vegetation is returning.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provide potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for Forest Service Sensitive Species such as wolverine, pine marten, greater sage grouse, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Brewer's sparrow. The Dome Peak CRA provides habitat needs for wildlife species including, but not limited to, black bear, elk, mule deer, and Northern goshawk. Additional species found in this CRA include a variety of passerine bird as well as a number small mammal species. The area is used primarily for deer and elk summer range. Sunnyside Lake is stocked by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and provides fishing opportunities.

There are places where the land is undisturbed, but there are also signs of management and man's presence with trails and range features. Fall hunting season is the primary use, at moderate-to-heavy levels. Stump Park and Cedar Creek receive heavy motorized use during this time. There is limited summer use of the area for hiking, fishing, and horseback riding. Sunnyside Lakes provide fishing opportunities. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). No known cultural or sacred sites, but the potential exists, especially on the peak.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is on the boundary of the National Forest. The Colorado Army National Guard under the High Altitude Army Training Site uses Dome Peak for training helicopter pilots under an MOU with the National Forest Service. The Sunnyside cattle allotment is active throughout the CRA. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are found in the unit. The entire CRA

is within the suitable timber base. Various sections also qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity. In the White River Forest Plan, small portions of this CRA were recommended for wilderness (management area 1.2). Other portions of the CRA are within management area prescriptions 5.12 (general forest and rangeland) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12,000 | 12,000 | No change. |

East Divide/Fourmile Park, #60 (8,700 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on Sopris and Rifle Ranger Districts in the Four Mile Park area. NFSR 801 (Uncle Bob Road) borders the west side (with some minor roads buffered into the west side of the CRA). NFSR 300 (Four-mile road) borders the east and southern sides. The northern portion is along the National Forest boundary. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,000-11,500 feet. This area is characterized by generally rolling terrain with some open meadows and a variety of vegetation from spruce/fir to aspen, to some forbs and grass fields.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The East Divide/Four Mile Park CRA provides an important area of low human impact in a larger area that is seeing significant increases in human activity. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. The East Divide/Four Mile Park CRA is designated as summer range and production area for elk and mule deer. It is important habitat for black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, various raptors and other bird species. There are dedicated snowmobile trails in the CRA. The Sunlight-to-Powderhorn snowmobile trail system and associated trails cross through the area. This area is heavily used for dispersed recreation, particularly snowmobiling, camping, and hunting by horseback or foot. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is part of two active cattle allotments and contains numerous range improvements. There are numerous snowmobile play areas in the unit and a snowmobile trail system crosses through the area. A local outfitter holds a special uses permit to conduct snowmobile trips in the unit. Hunting use is heavy. There are ten current oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 8,600 within the East Divide/Four Mile Park CRA. Two of these leases, with approximately 400 acres in the CRA, were issued prior to January 12, 2001. The remaining eight were issued after January 12, 2001. The majority is suitable timber in the area for which most met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 5.12 (general forest and rangeland), 5.13 (forest products), and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 8,700 | 8,700 | No change. |

East Vail, #36 (8,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located southeast of the Town of Vail in Eagle County, Colorado on the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. NFST 2005 (Two Elk National Recreation Trail) transects the unit. There are no additional National Forest system trails in the CRA. There are heavily utilized trails in winter that access the ice climbing routes in East Vail and the Commando Run and East Vail Chutes skiing routes. NFSR 710 is a four wheel drive jeep road that bounds the western portion of the area. The eastern boundary is defined by I-70 and the western boundary is defined by the Vail Ski area permit boundary. The southern boundary is established by the NFSR 709. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,600 feet to 11,089 feet. Varied topography typifies the unit. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages and ranges in character from steep slopes and cliffs and rolling valleys. The dominant vegetation type is spruce/fir forest, followed by grassland/meadow, and lodgepole pine forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the following listed species: Canada lynx (federally listed as threatened) and the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided

flycatcher, black swift, American peregrine falcon, American 3-toed woodpecker, and boreal toad. The CRA supports habitat for black bear, blue grouse, deer, elk, mountain lion, and snowshoe hare. Due to its high elevation, winter wildlife use is limited to blue grouse, lynx, pine marten, and snowshoe hare. The Dowd Junction-Two Elk Creek Herd of elk utilizes the area transitionally between summer and winter range. Elk calving and rearing usually occurs at lower elevations on the south facing clips within the Two Elk Creek drainage. The CRA provides high quality elk habitat in the summer with concentration areas, summer range, production areas, and migration corridors. Closures are to be expected on any system trails for the protection of elk calving. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads and its associated disturbance. There is approximately 2,850 meters of Black Gore Creek, adjacent to I-70 within the East Vail CRA, on the 303(d) list for impairment. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The East Vail CRA is part of the Two Elk allotment for grazing, which is currently vacant. The East Vail cellular communication site and access road are located within the area. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 8,000 | 8,000 | No change. |

East Willow, #73 (7,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Mesa County Colorado, on the Rifle Ranger District. The area is approximately 24 miles southeast of New Castle. Roads surround the area, with the exception of a small corner on the south side. Several trails traverse the area. The northern boundary is NFSR 800. NFSR 841 and private land compose the western boundary. NFSR 268 and the Forest boundary form the southern boundary and the remainder of the western boundary. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,800 feet to 10,200 feet. Slopes fluctuate between being relatively flat to over 40%. Vegetation ranges from sagebrush and Gambel oak to aspen and spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx and the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and purple martin. The East Willow CRA is important summer and fall range for black bear, elk, mountain lion, and mule deer. The existing roads accessing the area are often steep and difficult to travel. It is currently utilized by those hunters and hikers that are up to the challenges of a steep and rugged area. It provides quality opportunities to hunters or hikers who want to get off of the beaten path and enter an area where they are less likely to run into human traffic. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is presently used for horseback riding, hunting, range management, outfitting, and water diversion. There are twelve oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 5,700 acres within the East Willow CRA. Seven of these leases, with 4,800 acres within the CRA, were issued prior to January 12, 2001. Five leases, with 900 acres within the CRA, were issued after January 12, 2001. There is one lease nomination encompassing approximately 100 acres of the CRA. The majority is suitable timber in the area for which most met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7,100 | 7,100 | No change. |

Elk Creek B, #17B (7,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Garfield County Colorado on the Rifle Ranger District. The area lies approximately 10 miles northeast of Silt. Roads totally surround the area which accounts for the irregular shape. The area is bounded by NFSR 245 on the west, and numerous NFS roads on the north and east outside the CRA. Meadow Lake, a developed recreation area, is adjacent to the north end. Since 1985,

the area has been administratively closed to off road motorized travel, with the exception of snowmobiles. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) elevations ranging from 7,000-9,500 feet. It is made up of steep canyon topography with several riparian zones along Deep, Meadow, and Main Elk creeks. The vegetation types in this area vary with elevation, but are mainly comprised of Douglas fir, spruce-fir, aspen, pinyon-juniper, oakbrush, and service berry.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, pine marten, fringed myotis, Townsend’s big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin and peregrine falcon (potential nesting habitat). This CRA provides habitat requirements for the following species: black bear (overall range, summer concentration), bighorn sheep (overall range, summer range, production areas, winter range and winter concentration areas), Brazilian free-tailed bat (overall range), elk (overall, winter, and summer range, winter and summer concentration, production), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (winter and summer range), and turkey (overall range). The Clinetop bighorn sheep herd resides in the CRA. This small herd of sheep has maintained a population within the canyons of Deep, East Elk, Main Elk, and Meadow Creeks. The herd is sensitive to many factors regarding land use on the National Forest. The entire area is utilized heavily during the big game hunting season. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of two existing range allotments. The area has seen some leasing in the past. However, there is low potential for oil and gas development in the area. There is almost no Allowable Sale Quantity within the CRA. Timber management would likely not occur in the RNA or Special Interest areas. The CRA is within a small amount of management area prescriptions 2.1 (special interest areas), 2.2 (Research Natural Areas), and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

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

Elliot Ridge, #13 (3,100 acres)

1. Description

The area is located southwest of the Town of Heeney and Green Mountain Reservoir in Eagle and Summit Counties. It is administered by the Eagle–Holy Cross and Dillon Ranger Districts. Eagles Nest Wilderness is adjacent to the southern boundary. The northern boundary is bordered by previous timber treatment areas and private land. NFS roads define the eastern and western boundaries. Some or portions of these roads have been closed and/or converted to trails. The interior has a polygon of non-CRA lands due to a timber sale that was conducted there. The main road, Spring Creek road is closed to motorized use. The other buffered stems that make up the interior polygon were from other timber roads that have since been decommissioned. The Spring Creek road does cross through the CRA to the interior polygon. The CRA is within both the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) and the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,596 feet to a high point on Elliot Ridge at 11,645 feet. Elliot Ridge is a highly visible landmark. Landform features included scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls and floors. U-shaped valleys, couloirs, talus slopes, and rounded mountain slopes represent the remnants from past mountain glaciations. Vegetation species include subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce, alpine meadows, with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lowest elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forest are interspersed with mountain shrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The area covers a variety of forested montane, subalpine, and alpine communities. The area supports both elk and deer habitats. The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, loggerhead shrike, Lewis’s woodpecker, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. A genetically pure strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in Elliot Creek. This CRA provides habitat needs for black bear (overall range), elk (overall, winter, and severe winter range, production), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall and summer range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall and winter range), badger, blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, and various species of hawks and owls.

The NFST 60 (Gore Range Trail) is in this CRA and is designated for only non-motorized use; the NFST 1895 (Elliot Ridge Trail) bypasses the western side of the CRA. The primary use of the area is in the fall during hunting season, though more and more are using it for hiking, horseback riding, and access to surrounding features such as lakes. There is a moderate use of snowmobiling in the winter. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles

Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). No known cultural or sacred sites are known, but the potential exists especially along the ridgeline.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a small portion within an active grazing allotment. The Mahan Lake and Spring Creek areas north of the CRA have been recently harvested. Allowable Sale Quantity is identified in the western portion only of the CRA. Recent outbreaks of mountain pine beetle have killed or have the potential to kill any lodgepole pine in the area. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3,200 | 3,100 | Updated GIS information. |

Fawn Creek–Little Lost Park, #3 (5,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is on the Blanco Ranger District in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. It is bounded on the north, east and south by NFSR 290, which separates it from the adjacent Morapos A and Morapos B CRAs. The remainder of its boundary consists of areas that have potential for continued timber production and range management activities. Motorized access to the area is provided by NFSR 290, NFSR 280, NFSR 292, and NFSR 270. ATV and motorcycle use occur within the area on designated routes. Many of these routes were buffered out of the CRA. Snowmobile use is heavy during the winter. Historically this area was part of an open motorized area. Motorized activity is now limited to designated routes only. Grazing, mineral exploration, camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, trapping, timber sales, and water storage have occurred in the past. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,800 feet at the bottom of Fawn Creek to 10,100 feet along the northern boundary. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages and ranges in character from large, flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges. The unit is covered with extensive stands of aspen, with its associated understory vegetation, interspersed with open parks. The upper reaches of drainages are covered with stands of spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the following Forest service Sensitive Species: wolverine, martin, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. A genetically pure population of Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in a natural production stream within the CRA. The Fawn Creek/Little Lost Park CRA provides habitat for bald eagles (summer foraging), black bear (overall), elk (high quality summer habitat, winter range, White River elk herd) and mule deer (production, summer range), as well as many avian and small mammal species. The area is heavily used by elk during the calving period. The area is undeveloped, natural appearing and has a high scenic quality. There is evidence of trails, roads, and range improvements. Past timber management has resulted in new healthy young stands. There is at least one developed stock pond in the area. There are no major water developments within the area and a low potential exists for future development other than range improvement. The CRA provides dispersed and primitive recreational experiences. The CRA is used primarily by hunters. There are moderate levels of summer use by hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and anglers. There are moderate levels of winter recreation, primarily snowmobile use. Winter and summer activities are a mix of motorized and non-motorized. Although, all modes of transportation occur in the area, non-motorized is encouraged. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no permitted permanent land uses within the area. There are no private lands within the area and no active mining claims or other encumbrances within the area. There are active allotments in this CRA. There are no active mining or oil and gas exploration operations in the area and there is low potential for minerals other than uranium. In the past (prior to roadless designation) there was logging activities. No logging has occurred since designation. There is suitable timber in the area for which very little qualified for Allowable Sale Quantity. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.31 (backcountry year-round motorized), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5,500 | 5,400 | Updated GIS information. |

Freeman Creek, #28 (1,000 acres)

1. Description

This area is located north of Vail in Eagle County. This CRA is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. NFSR 700 is a primitive road that provides the primary access. Piney River Ranch, a resort operated by Vail Associates, is located on private property on the northeastern boundary. The unit's northern boundary is the Eagles Nest Wilderness, the southern boundary is NFSR 701, and the western boundary is defined by private land. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 9,200 feet at Dickson Creek. Landforms associated with the area are high- and low-relief mountain slopes. Vegetation types consist primarily of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and aspen. A large lower-montane willow carr has been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as significant and in relatively good condition. Freeman Creek has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contain potential habitats for the Canada lynx, a federally listed species; and potential habitats for Forest Service sensitive species: Colorado River cutthroat trout, and pine marten. It provides important summer, winter range, migration corridors and production areas for mule deer and elk. The area provides elk and deer summer range. Elk calving occurs in the surrounding area, generally associated with aspen and mixed conifer stands adjacent to natural meadows and drainages. The CRA supports abundant wildlife, including, but not limited to, black bear, blue grouse, moose, mountain lion, and snowshoe hare (primary prey item of Canada lynx). Moose colonized this CRA on their own and use it as overall habitat. The CRA is significant for its lack of roads which provides excellent solitude for the abundant wildlife. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads and its associated disturbance. This area has a heavy summer and fall recreation emphasis because of its close proximity to the town of Vail. NFSR 700 is a major transportation corridor for visitors to Piney River Ranch. There is extensive camping, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and horseback riding along the road, trail, and water corridors in these sections. These areas also have extensive big-game hunting use in the fall. NFSR 410 has been closed to motorized travel for many years and currently is managed as a non-motorized trail. Piney River Ranch has permits for various guided activities in this area, including snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is an active part of the Red and White Allotment that is permitted for sheep grazing. Three private parcels border the area. While some of the CRA falls within the suitable timber base, none of the CRA is part of the Allowable Sale Quantity. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.2 (recommended wilderness) and 1.31 (backcountry year-round non-motorized).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1,000 | 1,000 | No change. |

Gallo Hill, #82 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

This unit is located in Gunnison County northwest of the town of Marble, on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The CRA is bordered on the north by the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, on the east by private lands and Carbonate Creek, on the west by private land, and on the south by the Crystal River. Development is progressing in Carbonate Creek and below Gallo Hill as the town of Marble expands. There are no roads into the CRA. There are two system trails in the unit, NFST 1964 (Lily Lake) and 1971 (Carbonate Creek). Both are non-motorized and provide access to the Wilderness. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,000 feet to about 10,800 feet. The Gallo Hill CRA consists mainly of south-facing slopes. Vegetation is dominated by oakbrush with aspen, spruce/fir, and some pinyon-juniper complex at the lowest levels. There is one small pond in the unit. Some of the terrain is unstable and prone to land slumps and debris flows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for wolverine and bighorn sheep, both Forest Service Sensitive Species. The area provides severe winter range, winter concentration, and possibly some lambing habitat for bighorn sheep. There is a resident population of elk in the CRA. The area also provides summer and winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration habitat for elk as well as elk calving areas. The area provides good quality hunting. There is some cross-country skiing in winter. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area contains part of the Upper Crystal sheep allotment, which is vacant, and a small part of the Lead King sheep allotment, which is active. There are no other known special uses. The potential for locatable minerals in this area is low. There has been no recent harvest, and potential is limited due to steep slopes and limited access. The CRA is within management area 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,400 | 1,400 | No change. |

Game Creek, #39 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. It is adjacent to Colorado Division of Wildlife property (Vail Underpass). The eastern boundary of the areas is defined by the Vail Ski Area Permit boundary. The northern, southern, and western boundaries border private property. The southeastern boundary is bordered by NFSR 709, NFST 2130 (Game Creek), and NFST 2005 (Two Elk) cross the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 11,000 feet. Game Creek has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, riparian habitat and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides potential habitat for the Canada lynx, a federally listed species, and potential habitats for Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, Brewer's sparrow and peregrine falcon. There is an active peregrine falcon nest on the southwest edge of the CRA, which also contains part of the ½ mile buffer for nesting areas. This CRA is important habitats for elk and mule deer. The CRA contains elk habitat (winter and severe winter range, winter concentration areas) near Minturn on the western boundary of the Game Creek area. Elk that are seasonally present are part of the Dowd Junction-Two Elk Creek Herd. The area provides a transitional area for the herd in between their summer range and winter range locations. Elk calving and rearing usually occurs at the lower elevations of south facing slopes within the Two Elk Creek drainage. The Eagle Valley deer migration corridor runs through this CRA. In the 1970s the Colorado Division of Wildlife purchased 119 acres to protect this corridor from development. Deer use this CRA as a staging area before migrating under I-70 at the Vail Underpass. Other species with habitats in the CRA include black bear, mountain lion, blue grouse, and snowshoe hare.

The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. The NFST 2130 (Game Creek) offers a popular intermediate back country skiing. NFST 2005 and 2130 are both used for hiking and mountain biking in the summer. The Holy Cross Ranger District office has a Colorado Division of Wildlife Watchable Wildlife elk viewing station that allows winter viewing of elk in the area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Game Creek roadless area is a part of the Two Elk allotment for grazing, which is currently vacant. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 142 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Game Creek CRA. The CRA contains identified Allowable Sale Quantity timber near Two Elk. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), 5.5 (forested landscape linkages), and 7.1 (intermix). The 2001 Inventory has approximately 800 acres within the 8.25 (ski area).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,900 | 6,100 | Acres were removed due to Vail ski area permit. |

Grizzly Creek, #26 (6,700 acres)

1. Description

The area is located northeast of Glenwood Springs in Garfield County Colorado. It is located on both the Eagle and Rifle Ranger Districts. The area is bounded by I-70 on the south, on the east by the National Forest/BLM land boundary, and to the west by NFSR 602. Above the western boundary on the canyon rim is one historic road, NFSR 602 Transfer Trail Road that receives heavy use. A portion of NFST 1851 (Deadhorse) provides two wheeled motorized access from the rim south. Non-motorized access is provided by a portion

of NFST 1851 (Deadhorse), 1850 (Hanging Lake), 1847 (No Name), 1862 (Defiance), and 2605 (Grizzly) trails. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,800 to 10,806 feet. It is composed of steep and rocky canyons with high plateaus. It has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high cliff bands and scree fields, high ridges containing spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, grassland meadows and riparian meadows. Vegetation along streams consists of cottonwood, alders, willows, and other riparian species. Landscape character is characterized by broad uplifted plateaus composed of uplands, mountains, and steeply flanked canyons.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and Mexican spotted owl, both threatened; and for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, spotted bat, fringed myotis, Townsend’s big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift, flammulated owl, purple martin, Colorado River cutthroat trout (native populations), and potential nesting sites for peregrine falcons. This CRA provides habitat needs for bald eagle (winter range), bighorn sheep (quality habitat, overall concentration, winter and summer range, production), black bear (overall range), black swifts, brown trout (spawning tributaries), deer and elk (overall and summer range, production, summer concentration, migration corridors), elk (critical winter and severe winter range, winter concentration), mountain lion (overall range), rainbow trout (spawning tributaries), and wild turkey. There are several non-motorized trails in the CRA that offer hiking, and are heavily used by locals and visitors alike. Horseback riding also occurs on the No Name Creek trail and along the rim. Fishing occurs along most of the banks of the creeks. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the Coffee Pot and Grizzly Creek active sheep allotment. Private inholdings from patented mining claims are found in the southeastern portion of this unit. Motorized access by NFSR 623 to one of the parcels is authorized. There is no Allowable Sale Quantity within the CRA. The CRA is in management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 4.4 (recreation rivers).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6,600 | 6,700 | Updated GIS Information. |

Gypsum Creek, #48 (17,900 acres)

1. Description

This area is south of Gypsum in Eagle County, about 10 miles west of the Holy Cross Wilderness. This CRA is located on both the Aspen-Sopris and Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger Districts. The area borders Red Table Mountain and has good views along the ridge. The northern and eastern boundaries of the CRA are Forest Service lands, the southern and western boundary are BLM with some private parcels. The CRA has limited motorized access to the majority of the area with the exception of the boundary roads. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,600 feet to 11,161 feet. The area is characterized by high-relief mountains and hills. Most of the area is covered with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Lodgepole pine occurs on the slopes of Red Table Mountain. Some blue spruce occurs along Gypsum Creek, but is mostly found on private land. Vegetation in the unit ranges from mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine with the dominant species being spruce/fir habitat.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Even though there are several motorized access points to this CRA, because there are no motorized roads or trails within it, the CRA provides a large, unfragmented, undisturbed area of wildlife habitat. It contains potential foraging and denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Potential habitat also occurs for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, Townsend’s big-eared bat, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, leaser panicied sedge, and Harrington’s beardtongue. Mule deer and elk use this area for transitional and summer range. The recently reintroduced Merriam’s turkey population has been sighted in this area in the spring, summer, and fall. Black bear use the area as summer range. The limited road and trail access to this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities in this area for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and hunting. Overall, summer use in the area is low, but increasing use of the area has led to conflicts between recreation users. The highest use of this area occurs on the eastern boundary from the Red Creek Road. The unit receives moderate hunting pressure during the fall and hunters are able to disperse throughout the unit. Historically parts of the area had timber sales and motorized access of which evidence still remains. Some of the old roads were converted to non-motorized trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the Cottonwood and Gypsum Creek active cattle allotments. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present. Outfitters and guides include OFC Outfitting, John Jodrie, and Colorado Outward Bound. An FAA communications tower is located at the head of the Sugarloaf drainage (in the western portion of the unit) and is highly visible from the Red Table Mountain ridgeline. A Public Service 230 KV transmission line traverses the area on the eastern side. Sundell Reservoir and Gould Creek Ditch are also under permit. At the northern end of the Red Table road system is an area that has been permitted for oil and gas drilling in the past. It is not active at this time. A network of old timber sale roads developed to harvest beetle-killed spruce trees defines the southern boundary of this area. There also have been small sales in the area for fuelwood. The CRA does have suitable timber lands, but Allowable Sale Quantity only in the very northern section. The majority of the CRA is within management area prescription 1.2 (recommended wilderness) and management area prescription 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) make up the northern end.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 18,000 | 17,900 | Updated GIS Information. |

Hardscrabble, #44 (11,700 acres)

1. Description

The area is located south of Eagle and Gypsum in Eagle County about six miles west of the Holy Cross Wilderness. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. Hardscrabble Mountain is a visible feature of the area. The northern boundary is defined by National Forest and BLM boundaries. NFSR 412 provides motorized access into its western portion. NFST 2222 (West Hardscrabble), 1865 (Dry Miller), and 1864 (Yates Gulch) provide non-motorized access. The area is bounded on the southwest by NFSR 412, NFSR 413 to the south and east, and old timber sales on Hardscrabble to the northeast. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,600 feet to nearly 10,500 feet at the summit of Hardscrabble Mountain. The area is characterized by high-relief mountains and hills. Most of the area is covered with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Lodgepole pine occurs on the slopes of Red Table Mountain. Some blue spruce is present along Gypsum Creek, but is mostly found on private land. Mountain shrub and aspen are also present.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx with potential lynx foraging and denning habitat. Potential habitat occurs for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, Brewer's sparrow, and Harrington's beardtongue. Deer and elk graze this area during the summer months and portions of the area are used as winter range. Deer graze the lower and steeper bare slopes during the winter months. This CRA has mule deer and elk winter habitat, as well as transitional range, and also black bear summer habitat. The recently reintroduced Merriam's turkeys use the area during the spring, fall and summer. The limited road and trail access to this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Overall, summer use in the area is low with opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Increased use of the area has led to increased conflicts between recreation users. Several miles of roads in the northern part of the unit have been obliterated. The area receives a moderate amount of hunting pressure during the fall. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the Gypsum Creek active cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present. Copper King, an unpatented mining claim, is located within the unit. Currently it is not operating. The CRA is within the suitable timber base but has less than 50 acres of Allowable Sale Quantity within. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), and 8.32 (utility corridor) goes along the southwestern portion.

4. Alternative Designations

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

Hay Park, #70A (11,100 acres)

1. Description

This unit is located in Pitkin County south of Carbondale and El Jebel, on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger Districts. This CRA borders the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. The unit is bordered on the north and east sides by the Forest boundary, with private lands and BLM lands. The south and southwest are bordered by the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. There are two cherry stemmed roads into the area. One is unnamed and administratively closed to motorized use. The other is NFSR 316 which serves the Capitol Creek trailhead and is open to motorized use. System trails in the area are not open to motorized use, and include NFST 1957 (Hay Park), 1958 (Thomas Lakes), and 1961 (Capitol Creek). The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 6,700 feet near the Crystal River to about 10,300 feet at lower Thomas Lake. Glacial moraines are evident at higher elevations. The Hay Park CRA is mostly north-facing slopes and spruce/fir, aspen-meadow and mountain shrub. It contains aspen, spruce/fir, open meadows, and riparian corridor along West Sopris, Prince, and Thomas creeks.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Potential habitat also occurs for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, river otter, Townsend's big-eared bat, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. There have been peregrine sightings in the western portion of the area. In addition, there is a cutthroat trout fishery in the West Sopris Creek. This CRA also provides habitat needs for the following species: bighorn sheep (summer range), black bear (summer range, fall concentration), blue grouse, elk (production, winter and summer range, solitude, summer concentration), and mule deer (summer range, solitude). The area is used for elk calving. The west edge of the unit is the north edge of the Crystal River bighorn sheep herd winter range. The Thomas Lakes trail is used heavily in the summer by hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. It is also a popular snowmobile trail in the winter. Many hunters access the CRA by horseback during big game season. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Maroon Bells Wilderness. The water diversion for the Town of Carbondale's main water plant at Nettle Creek is located within this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are three active cattle allotments (East Sopris, West Sopris, and Nettle Creek) in the area. Outfitter-guides hold permitted use for summer and hunting activities. There is a special use pasture in the unit. The mineral potential is believed to be low. There is no current or recent timber harvests in the area. The eastern portion falls within the Allowable Sale Quantity. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 4.23 (scenic byways), 5.12 (general forest and rangeland).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11,100 | 11,100 | No change. |

Holy Cross City, #58 (800 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is adjacent to the Holy Cross Wilderness. The area is located south of the town of Minturn and west of Camp Hale in Eagle County, Colorado on the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The area is west of the Homestake Reservoir. Motorized access to the area is provided by NFSR 759 and NFSR 727 (which defines the southeastern boundary). NFST 2006 provides non-motorized access into the southwestern corner of the area. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,200 to 11,200 feet. The Holy Cross City CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, high alpine meadows (tundra), lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Potential habitats also occurs for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, spotted bat, river otter, fringed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, and boreal toad. There is one breeding area for boreal toads. The area is utilized as summer and transition range for big game, including deer, elk, and bear. In the summer the CRA provides high quality elk habitat; The CRA also supports other species such as blue grouse, mountain lion, ptarmigan, and snowshoe hare. Holy Cross City, to the northwest of this area, is known for its historic mining significance and its gateway to the Holy Cross Wilderness. Recreation includes hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and camping as primary activities in the summer months. There is some snowmobiling in the winter. There is a moderate amount of hunting in the fall. Fancy Creek and French Creek have diversion dams

within this unit and an aqueduct on the border of this unit to provide water to the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are nine unpatented mining claims in the area that currently have minor amounts of prospecting (with hand tools) annually. There are no suitable or ASQ timber lands in the CRA due to the lack of access and surrounding wilderness areas. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.1 (special interest area-emphasis on interpretation) and 4.3 (dispersed recreation).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 800 | 800 | No change. |

Homestake, #54 (4,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is south of Minturn and west of Camp Hale in Eagle County. Holy Cross Wilderness is adjacent to the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is defined by NFSR 705 and the western boundary by NFSR 703. US Highway 24 and the railroad corridor define the northern boundary. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. NFSR 703 on the western side and NFSR 705 on the eastern side provide motorized access. There is a network of roads and bridges that cross Homestake Creek to reach two summer home tracts and private property along the creek that border outside the CRA. There are no system trails within the unit. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,000 feet to 11,520 feet. Most of the unit lies below treeline. The CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing s primarily subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, riparian habitat and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx have been documented in the CRA. Potential habitats also occur for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, and boreal toad. The western boundary is winter habitat for a large herd of elk and a moderately sized herd of deer. In the summer, the CRA provides high quality elk habitat; summer range, production areas, and migration corridors; and even with its high elevation, the CRA provides elk winter range, severe winter range, and winter concentration areas. The CRA supports black bear, mountain lion, ptarmigan, blue grouse, snowshoe hare, and moose. Moose have colonized the CRA on their own and use it for year round habitat. The unit is significant for its lack of roads and trails and for its opportunities for solitude. Recreation use occurs year-round. Use is primarily on and around the NFSR 703 (Homestake) and NFSR 705 (No Name) road corridors and along Homestake Creek. The primary-use season is during the summer with driving, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and camping being the primary activities. Blodgett and Gold Park Campgrounds are located along the western boundary. There is a moderate amount of hunting pressure during the fall. Use is low during the winter, but Homestake and No Name Roads are used as routes for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are multiple parcels of private property along the western boundary. The Forest Service has five recreation residences under permit along this boundary. The southwest corner has several patented and unpatented mining claims. A jeep road that starts at Gold Park Campground accesses these claims. The CRA has very little Allowable Sale Quantity, some on the very southeastern end and some on the very northeastern end. The CRA is within management area prescription 3.1 (special interest area-emphasis on interpretation) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4,100 | 4,100 | No change. |

Hoosier Ridge, #56 (6,100 acres)

1. Description

The unit is south of Breckenridge and north of Hoosier Pass in Summit County about five miles south of Eagle's Nest Wilderness. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by NFSR 693, on the south and east by the

White River and Pike-San Isabel National Forest boundaries, and on the west by US Highway 9. Development on the western boundary includes the town of Blue River, Quandary Village Estates, Tordal Estates, and Spruce Valley Ranch. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,600 feet to Red Peak’s summit of 13,215 feet. Major peaks include Red Peak, Red Mountain, and Mount Argentine. Hoosier Pass and Boreas Pass mark the unit’s southern and eastern boundaries. Vegetation includes subalpine-fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine at the lower elevations which covers about two-thirds of the unit. There are also alpine meadows with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened), and potential habitats for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Brewer’s sparrow. This CRA has several Forest Service Sensitive Plant species: Penland alpine fen mustard, sea pink, smooth rockcress, clawless draba, Gray’s Peak, whitlow-grass, slender cotton-grass, Hoosier Pass Ipomopsis, Kottbue’s grass-of-Pamassus, Porter’s needle grass, Ice cold buttercup, and Sphagnum moss. This CRA provides habitat needs for mammals, birds, herptiles, fish, etc., including, but not limited to, black bear (overall range), elk (overall range, summer concentration, and migration area), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall and summer range), mountain lion (overall range), and mule deer (overall range). This CRA also provides suitable habitat for blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, and various species of hawks and owls.

The Hoosier Ridge Research Natural Area is located in the southern portion of the CRA. NFSR 10 and US Highway 9 provide motorized access. Recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, hunting, skiing, snowshoeing, camping, dog walking, and driving to view scenery. There is a system of marked cross-country ski trails in the Bemrose drainage. Limited public access due to bordering private lands deters some recreation use. The primary access points are from Hoosier Ridge and Boreas Pass. There is currently no public easement on Indiana and Pennsylvania Creek Roads. The Boreas Pass Road from Breckenridge to Como is a historic railroad grade with an extremely high amount of use year-round. The newly restored Boreas Pass Section House is located on the eastern boundary of the unit. The Dyersville town site is another historic cultural feature. Historic timber harvesting occurred throughout the area to support mining operations. Isolated cabins from the mining era are found throughout the area. Warriors Mark Mine and Dyersville, on the eastern boundary, also contain historic structures from the mining period. Less than 0.5 miles of Illinois Gulch is identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A communication site is located on Hoosier Ridge, a power line corridor crosses the unit’s eastern portion and there are some private lands generally from mining claims in the interior but are not considered part of the CRA (the boundaries go around these features). There is no Allowable Sale Quantity in the CRA. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 2.2 (Research Natural Areas).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,100 | 6,100 | No change. |

Housetop Mountain, #62 (12,700 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in Mesa County on the Rifle Ranger District. The area lies approximately eight miles south of Parachute, Colorado. The area is bounded on three sides by the Forest Boundary. The eastern boundary is defined by Wallace Creek. Since 1985, the area has been administratively closed to motorized travel. Motorized access to the area is limited to the adjacent private land. There is limited non-motorized access to the CRA. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 5,200 feet to 9,289 feet. The area is very steep with slopes over 60%, often barren and with many cliffs. The Housetop Mountain CRA has a wide variety of plant systems that vary with elevation including Douglas fir, spruce/fir, aspen, pinyon-juniper, and oak-serviceberry. At the upper elevations and ridge tops, aspen, spruce/fir, and mountain shrub offer a wide variety of habitats.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, Great Basin Silverspot, Rocky Mountain thistle, and DeBeque phacella. This CRA provides habitat needs black bear

(overall range, fall concentration), bighorn sheep (Battlement Mesa Rocky Mountain bighorn herd resides in this CRA), bobcat, elk (year-round use), mountain goat (overall and summer range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (winter and summer range, winter concentration), and wild turkey (overall range, winter concentration, production). This CRA also provides suitable habitat for blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, and various species of hawks and owls. Recreation uses in the area are primarily hunting and horseback riding. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are twelve oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 8,300 acres within the Housetop Mountain CRA. Two of these leases, encompassing approximately 300 acres within the CRA, were issued prior to January 12, 2001. Ten leases, encompassing approximately 8,000 acres within the CRA, were issued after January 12, 2001. All twelve leases within the CRA have a No Surface Occupancy stipulation covering portions of the acres within the CRA due to either the roadless designation and/or the presence of bighorn sheep, or steep slopes (which is only applicable on slopes >60%). There is a small amount of Allowable Sale Quantity located on the eastern side of the CRA. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 2.2 (Research Natural Areas) and 5.43 (elk habitat), along with an overlay of 5.42 (bighorn sheep) in parts.

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12,700 | 12,700 | No change. |

Hunter, #75 (1,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Pitkin County about two miles east of the city of Aspen, adjacent to Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness on the east and south boundary, the Warren Lakes peat bogs on the southeast corner, and Hunter Creek on the north. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. NFSR 130 borders the area on the north and NFSR 131 (Smuggler Road) on the south and southwest. Warren Lakes are located at its southern tip. NFST (Hunter Creek Trail) crosses the unit in the north. County Road 130 and Smuggler Road mark the area's northern and southern boundaries. Along its western side are private residential properties. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,800 to 11,000 feet. The major feature of this unit is the Hunter Creek valley, which runs east to west. Most of the terrain is steep. The main vegetation types are spruce/fir, aspen, and lodgepole pine with willows along the creeks. Oakbrush and sagebrush are found in lower elevations. There exists some wet seeps and steep north facing slopes above Hunter Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, Atal Cotton-grass, russet cotton-grass, slender cotton-grass, and Sphagnum moss. This CRA provides summer range habitat for black bear, elk, and mule deer, elk. Small game species such as blue grouse and snowshoe hare also occupy the area. It lies above Colorado River cutthroat habitat in Hunter Creek. A unique feature to this CRA are the high-elevation wetland bogs located in the Warren Lakes area. Due to the steep nature of the CRA, there is only one foot and horseback trail which crosses it. This trail receives heavy use during summer and fall. The area receives much hiking use and some mountain biking and cross-country skiing, especially by local residents. Some hunting and fishing occurs. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This unit includes part of the vacant Red Mountain Allotment. There is a moderate potential for mineral development overall. The potential may be high near the Smuggler area on the west central boundary. The CRA is not part of the Allowable Sale Quantity. The CRA is under management area prescription 1.2 (Recommended wilderness).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,500 | 1,100 | No change. |

Little Grand Mesa, #41 (6,500 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in Garfield County, Colorado, east of Glenwood Springs. It is located on the Aspen-Sopris District and the Eagle-Holy Cross District. The unit is bordered on the north by the Colorado River/I-70/railroad corridor, on the east by the Forest boundary which is mainly with private lands, on the south by NFSR 535, and on the west by a power line. There are several cherry stemmed roads into the unit. One provides access for a private inholding on the Eagle District. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 6200 feet to 8600 feet at the summit of the mesa. The terrain is rolling, up the rim of Glenwood Canyon where cliffs plunge a thousand feet to the river. Glenwood canyon exposes limestone bedrock and many limestone caves are found along the rim. There are a variety of vegetation types on top of the mesa including sagebrush, oak, aspen, and spruce/fir. Vegetation in Glenwood Canyon includes Douglas-fir, oak brush, and riparian species such as boxelder.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Mexican Spotted owl and Canada lynx; as well as the following Forest Service Sensitive species: wolverine, marten, spotted bat, river otter, fringed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin and peregrine falcon. The unit contains elk calving habitat, and bat habitat. The area includes the south half of the spectacular Glenwood Canyon. The top of the rim offers canyon vistas. The area contains an abundance of limestone caves. There may be prehistoric cultural sites associated with some of the caves. A moderate amount of hunting occurs in the area, mostly for elk. Caving at Hubbard's Cave and other sites is popular. The Hubbard's Cave trail is used by hikers. Mountain bikers use the cherry stemmed roads in the unit. A limited amount of snowmobiling occurs and very little cross country skiing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are two active allotments in the unit, Grand Mesa (cattle) and Ike (sheep). There is very little Allowable Sale Quantity that spills over into the southern boundary of the CRA. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 4.4 (recreation rivers), and 5.12 (general forest and rangeland).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 13,400 | 13,400 | No change. |

Lower Piney, #12 (13,400 acres)

1. Description

This area is located northeast of Wolcott in Eagle County. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. NFSR 404 makes up the northern boundary. The eastern boundary abuts the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The southern boundary is defined by NFSR 700. The western boundary is mainly defined by the National Forest boundary. Within the area are parcels of private land through which the Forest Service does not have easements, including the Marma Lake parcel. The following roads were cherry-stemmed from within the CRA and provide motorized access to the CRA boundaries: NFSR 405, 767, 406, 744, and 784. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from about 7,800 feet at Piney River to 11,107 feet at Chimney Rock, a major peak in the area. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages, and ranges in character from flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges. Vegetation consists of aspen and lodgepole pine forests interspersed with mountain shrublands at the lower elevations moving into subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce at higher elevations. Alpine meadows with scree, tundra and snowfields exist above treeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Because of the limited vehicle access and system trails, the CRA provides a large area of undisturbed habitats for wildlife. The area offers high quality habitat for both elk and deer including summer range, production areas, and migration corridors and supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of mule deer. It also contains extensive winter habitat for both deer and elk; winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration areas, and migration corridors. The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, ferruginous hawk, Greater sage-grouse, northern harrier, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Brewer's sparrow. Colorado River cutthroat trout are found in Piney River, Lava Creek, and Elkhorn Park. The CRA supports abundant wildlife including black bear, mountain lion, moose, wild turkey, blue grouse, and snowshoe hare, a major prey item of the lynx. Moose colonized this area on their own and use the CRA as overall range. Turkeys colonized the CRA from the Radium area and have since been supplemented with a transplant.

This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The Piney Guard Station, built in 1940 and used by the Forest Service as an administrative site, has the potential to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The CRA provides non-motorized recreational experiences. The area is used primarily during hunting season and is heavily hunted for elk and deer in the fall. There is good access to the CRA, and from the boundaries excellent hunting and fishing can be experienced by foot or horse. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is an active part of the South Piney, South Fork, and Slate Allotments that are permitted for sheep and cattle grazing. The current landowner manages most of the private property within the area as a large ranch and wildlife reserve. The potential for development is high and would significantly affect the area. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 200 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Lower Piney CRA. The Piney timber sale area east of Marma Lake borders the area. Much of the area was used for homesteading about 100 years. Portions of the CRA are within the suitable and Allowable Sale Quantity timber base. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitat) and 5.41 (elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 25,300 | 25,400 | Updated GIS information. |

Mamm Peak, #55 (25,400 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in Garfield and Mesa County, Colorado, approximately eight miles south of Rifle, Colorado. It is administered by the Rifle Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north and south by the National Forest boundary, on the west by Wallace Creek, and on the east by NFSR 270. Several pieces of private land are interspersed throughout the area. Motorized access to the area is provided by NFSRs 847, 824, 818, 271, and County Road 58.60. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) and Divide/Plateau Creeks ecosystem subsection with elevations ranging from 7,100 feet to 11,123 feet. Slopes range from a gently 10-20% to over 60% in some places. The area is generally flat-to-rolling terrain with some oil shale cliffs. Vegetation ranges from pinyon/juniper and sagebrush to Gambel oak, to large areas of aspen, and spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Mamm Peak CRA is steep and rugged. The vegetation is very different supporting much more biomass and therefore a much greater array of wildlife species. The CRA contains potential habitat and has been used by Canada lynx, a federally listed species. It also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, spotted bat, river otter, fringed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin, Brewer's sparrow, Colorado River cutthroat trout, clawless draba, Sphagnum moss, and sun-loving meadowrue. This CRA provides habitat needs for many other species such as black bear (overall range, fall concentration), Colorado River cutthroat trout (conservation areas), elk (year-round use, production, and migration), mule deer (overall range, production, migration), wild turkey (overall range, winter concentration, production), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, and various species of hawks and owls. Approximately eight miles of tributaries to the Colorado River, Roaring Fork to Parachute Creek identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Recreational uses of the area include horseback riding, hunting, outfitting, snowmobiling, and some hiking.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are twenty oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 11,900 acres within the Mamm Peak Mountain CRA. Ten of the leases, encompassing approximately 5,000 acres within the CRA, were issued prior to January 12, 2001. Ten of the leases, encompassing approximately 6,900 acres within the CRA, were issued after January 12, 2001. Five of the leases issued after January 12, 2001 have a No Surface Occupancy stipulation covering all of their leased area (4,100 acres) due to either inventoried roadless or steep slopes (which is only applicable on slopes >60%). Historically there has been logging the area. The forested lands within the CRA are considered suitable for timber and some, especially the eastern and northern portions, qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity. This CRA is in management area prescriptions 3.31 (backcountry year-round motorized), 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 25,300 | 25,400 | Updated GIS information. |

Maroon East, #79 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

Maroon East is located in Pitkin County, Colorado on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. This very long, narrow, picturesque CRA is adjacent to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, Maroon Creek, and the heavily-used Maroon Creek road corridor. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,400 feet to 12,300 feet. There is very steep sandstone country in the area. There are several avalanche chutes in the unit. The area contains Maroon Lake and Maroon Creek. This steep CRA contains aspen, spruce/fir, avalanche chutes with willow and mountain shrub, and cliffs.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for Canada lynx, a federally listed species. It also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, and American 3-toed woodpecker. Colorado River cutthroat trout occur within the CRA. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (summer range), and elk and mule deer (summer range). The area is valued for bighorn sheep winter range habitat. The area receives a high volume of visitors for sightseeing. NFSR 125 (Maroon Creek Road) lies to the west of Maroon Creek and is heavily used once open in the spring. NFST 1975 (East Maroon Trail), a foot and horseback trail is one of the main accesses to the Maroon Bells Wilderness. Most public use is along the trail and very seldom do people hike up the extremely steep hillside and ridge. There is also very heavy hiking and sight seeing around Maroon Lake. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Maroon Bells Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Many outfitters and guides work in the area. Bus rides are mandatory to the Maroon Lake Trailhead in the summer. There is a highly developed recreation area outside but along the edge of the CRA which includes bathrooms, campgrounds, picnic areas, etc. Various commercial photography permits are issued for the unit. This unit contains a water ditch used in the later 1800s and early 1900s. There is very low mineral potential. The CRA contains spruce/fir and aspen stands with very limited harvest potential due to high recreational values at lower elevations and steepness at higher elevations. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.2 (scenery) and 5.42 (bighorn sheep).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,400 | 1,400 | No change. |

Maryland Creek, #31 (1,500 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located northwest of the Town of Silverthorne in Summit County. It is administered by the Dillon Ranger District. This CRA is adjacent to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. NFSR 1350 (North Rock Creek) provides motorized access to the northern boundary. The southern boundary is defined by the Maryland Creek timber sale. NFSR 1350 separates this CRA from the Boulder CRA. Private lands border the eastern portion. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,473 to 10,090 feet. The dominant vegetation type is lodgepole pine with subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce at the higher elevations. At lower elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands. The riparian corridors provide excellent wildlife habitat.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx presence has been documented in the CRA. The CRA contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, and olive-sided flycatcher. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall and winter range, summer concentration, production, and movement corridor), moose (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall range, migration area), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various hawks and owls. The primary recreational uses in the area are hiking, cross country skiing, camping, and horseback riding. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by

Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This unit is located on vacant cattle allotments. Eagles Nest Equestrian Center provides guided horseback riding in the summer. Most of the CRA is in suitable timber and most met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescription 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,500 | 1,500 | No change. |

McClure Pass, #80 (2,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is a small parcel located between the Raggeds Wilderness and Highway 133. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. This CRA is bordered on the north and east by the Crystal River and Highway 133, on the south by the Raggeds Wilderness, and on the west by forest and private land. The area can be accessed from Highway 133 and Gunnison County Road 314. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The area is primarily north and east-facing slopes dominated by rocky outcroppings at the higher elevations and spruce/fir and aspen-meadow at the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx presence has been documented in the CRA. The CRA contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. A nesting site of purple martins is located within the CRA. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (summer range, fall concentration), elk (summer and winter range), mountain goat (overall and summer range), and mule deer (summer range). Opportunities for recreation in the area include cross-country skiing, and a small amount of hunting. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 4.23 (scenic byways).

4. Alternative Designations

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

McFarlane, #78 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is adjacent to Aspen Mountain and Richmond Hill, highly-used areas which have a dense network of roads and trails and are used year-round. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. McFarland Creek and the Collegiate Peak Wilderness are along the eastern boundary. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,800 to 10,400 feet. This CRA is made up of aspen, spruce/fir, and open meadows. Slopes are steep and face east. Avalanche chutes are present. The CRA contains aspen, spruce/fir, open meadows, and a riparian corridor along McFarland Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA has limited access which provides a large, undisturbed area beneficial to wildlife. The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and boreal toad. This CRA provides habitat needs for black bear (summer through fall, fall concentration), elk (summer and severe winter range, production), and mule deer (summer range). The CRA is heavily used by deer, elk, black bear, and songbirds throughout the summer and fall. A variety of avian species, including blue grouse, inhabit the area. The best recreational opportunities are for hunting and backcountry skiing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Moderate mineral potential exists based on past mining activities. There is a low potential for timber management because of steepness and limited access. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.2 (scenery), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range), and 7.1 (intermix). Under the 2001 Inventory 50 acres are within 8.25 (ski area).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1,400 | 1,400 | 50 acres from within Aspen Mountain Ski area permit boundary were removed from the inventory. |

Meadow Mountain A, #40A (1,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located south of the Town of Avon in Eagle County, and is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. This CRA is adjacent to the Holy Cross Wilderness. The north and eastern boundaries of the area are defined by the Town of Avon, community of Eagle-Vail, and I-70 boundaries. The western boundary is the Beaver Creek Ski area and the southern boundary is the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary. NFST 2127 (Grouse Creek), NFST 2129 (West Grouse), NFST 2128 (Martin) and NFSR 748 (Meadow Mountain) and NFSR 790 (Grouse) provide access to the area. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,226 feet to 11,073 feet. The CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges. The vegetation consists of spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, and lodgepole pine. Several drainages occur in the CRA, and the associated riparian habitat provides for a diversity of wildlife and important big game habitat.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The McCoy Park and West Grouse Creek areas are relatively free from disturbance and the open meadows and riparian habitats provide habitats that are limited in many CRA's. These types of habitats allow natural processes to continue and undisturbed species interactions to occur. The Whiskey and Stone Creek drainages have been identified as elk calving habitat. The CRA contains potential overall range for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, and American 3-toed woodpecker. The CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall distribution, summer range, fall feeding), blue grouse, elk (high quality habitat, overall distribution, summer range and concentration, production, winter range, migration corridors), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (high quality habitat, overall distribution, summer range, production, migration corridors), and snowshoe hare. The McCoy Park area offers open meadows with vistas of the Gore and Sawatch Ranges. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. A heavy amount of mountain biking also occurs in the area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Identified Allowable Sale Quantity timber exists in the eastern half and southern portions. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2,100 | 1,600 | Acres removed from within the Beaver Creek Ski Area permit boundary. |

Meadow Mountain B, #40B (3,100 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located south of the Town of Avon in Eagle County, and is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. This CRA is adjacent to the Holy Cross Wilderness. The north and eastern boundaries of the area are defined by the Town of Avon, community of Eagle-Vail, and I-70 boundaries. The western boundary is the Beaver Creek Ski area and the southern boundary is the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary. NFST 2127 (Grouse Creek), NFST 2129 (West Grouse), NFST 2128 (Martin) and NFSR 748 (Meadow Mountain) and NFSR 790 (Grouse) provide access to the area. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7, 226 to 11,073 feet. The CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges. The vegetation consists of spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, riparian habitat and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential overall range for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. West Grouse Creek provides open meadows and riparian habitats that offer relatively undisturbed areas where natural processes can continue and undisturbed species interactions to occur. The Whiskey and Stone Creek drainages provide important elk calving habitat. The CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall distribution, summer range, fall feeding), blue grouse, elk (high quality habitat, overall distribution, summer range and concentration, production, winter range, migration corridors), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (high quality habitat, overall distribution, summer range, production, migration corridors), and snowshoe hare. The major attractions of the area are Grouse and Waterdog lakes which are located near the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary. The West Grouse area offers open meadows with vistas of the Gore and Sawatch Ranges. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads and the associated disturbances. A heavy amount of mountain biking also occurs in the area. Cross-country skiing and some snowmobiling are popular winter activities. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Meadow Mountain B CRA is part of the Meadow Mountain Sheep Allotment that is annually utilized. Most of the CRA is in suitable timber and most met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,100 | 3,100 | No change. |

Morapos A, #1A (23,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 18 miles east of Blanco. It can be accessed from the Morapos Creek trailhead off of Rio Blanco County Road 53. It is administered by the Blanco Ranger District. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,400 to 10,848 feet. There is a variety of terrain from flat open parks to rolling valley floors and very steep slopes and high ridges. Vegetation is widely varied including sagebrush, oakbrush, and aspen at lower elevations to spruce/fir and lodgepole pine at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This portion of the CRA has varied vegetation which provides for a diversity and abundance of wildlife. The CRA contains potential overall range for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, fringed myotis, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin, Brewer's sparrow and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The CRA has a naturally producing native population of Colorado River cutthroat trout and a natural production stream. This CRA provides habitat for bald eagles (winter, summer, year-round use), black bear (high use quality), elk (production, summer range, major migration route), mule deer (summer range, production), mountain lion (high use quality habitat), as well as many avian and other species. It is considered to be important habitat for elk calving in the spring. Use of the system trails is mainly during hunting season. Outfitter guide use occurs for summer and hunting seasons. Snowmobile use occurs in winter throughout much of the area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are all or portions of six sheep allotments in the area. There is outfitter guide use in the summer and hunting seasons. A snowmobile club is permitted to maintain a marked trail through the area. There are two oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 400 acres within the Morapos A CRA that were issued after January 12, 2001. The area has high potential for oil and gas. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 27,600 | 23,600 | Updated boundaries between Morapos A and Morapos B. |

Morapos B, #1B (14,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is approximately 18 miles east of Blanco. It is administered by the Blanco Ranger District. It is accessible by foot or horseback from the west by NFSR 290 (Moeller Creek Road), from the south by NFST 1805 (Long Park/Lost Creek trailhead), and from the east by NFSR 231 (Long Park). The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,400 to 10,848 feet. There is a variety of terrain from flat open parks to rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges. Vegetation is widely varied ranging from sagebrush, oakbrush, and aspen at lower elevations. Higher elevation vegetation includes spruce/fir and lodgepole pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA offers large, unbroken areas essential for maintaining the ecological health, productivity, and diversity of the habitat for wildlife species. The CRA contains potential overall range for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, fringed myotis, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The CRA contains natural production streams with genetically pure, naturally producing populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. This CRA provides habitat for bald eagles (summer foraging), black bear (summer concentration), elk (production, summer and winter range, major migration route, White River herd), mule deer (summer range, production). This area has been identified as an important habitat for elk calving in the spring. This CRA is used primarily by hunters. There are moderate summer use levels by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. There are also moderate levels of winter use, primarily snowmobile use. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 10,100 | 14,000 | Updated boundaries between Morapos A and Morapos B. |

Mormon Creek, #64 (3,000 acres)

1. Description

The CRA unit is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. It is located in Pitkin and Eagle Counties. Thomasville is approximately seven miles to the west. The CRA is contiguous with the Holy Cross Wilderness along the east and southeastern boundary; NFSR 501.1B forms the southern boundary; NFSR 510 forms the northern boundary. The southwestern side is delineated by NFSR 532 and 538. The unit is bisected by a cherry-stem road for the Cunningham water diversion. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,500 to 12,100 feet. Lower elevations contain lodgepole with spruce/fir and small aspen patches at the upper elevations. The terrain is generally steep. There are no major lakes. This CRA has a variety of habitat types ranging from willowed riparian areas to lodgepole with spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential foraging habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pine marten (overall range), pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. The CRA is adjacent to Cunningham Creek, established as a self-sustaining Colorado River cutthroat fishery. This CRA provides habitat for a variety of species including black bear (overall range), elk and mule deer (summer, winter, transitional range), Merriam's turkey (overall range). Trails include the beginning of NFST 1918 (Savage Lakes) and 1919 (Lyle/Mormon). Some fishing, hiking, and hunting occur, but there is very little winter use. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The unit is within the vacant Ivanhoe sheep allotment. The Mormon tunnel runs under the unit. There is low mineral potential and no historic mineral use. There is low potential for timber harvest because of steep slopes. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.2 (recommended wilderness) and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,000 | 3,000 | No change. |

No Name, #57 (3,800 acres)

1. Description

The area is south of Minturn and west of Camp Hale in Eagle County. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. It borders Holy Cross Wilderness on its southern boundary. The eastern boundary is defined by NFSR 705 and the western boundary by the Continental Divide and the Pike-San Isabel and White River National Forest boundaries. NFSR 705 provides motorized access on the eastern side. There are no system trails within the unit. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,800 feet to 12,696 feet at the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary. Homestake Ridge, along the Continental Divide, is a significant feature. The CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing subalpine-fir, Engelmann spruce, high alpine meadows (tundra), scree, and snowfields above treeline. Mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine forests and grassland meadows are found in the lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains migration corridors across the Continental Divide and potential range for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA provides habitat for bighorn sheep (overall summer, winter range, migration corridors across the Continental Divide), black bear (overall distribution, summer range), blue grouse, elk (overall distribution, summer range and concentration, production, migration corridors), moose (overall, summer, winter range, migration corridors), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall distribution, summer range, production, migration corridors), ptarmigan, and snowshoe hare. The CRA is part of a bighorn sheep transplant to rebuild the historical herd in the Holy Cross Wilderness. Though roads surround the north and eastern portions, recreation within the CRA itself is limited to hiking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is some identified Allowable Sale Quantity timber lands along the eastern portion. The CRA is within management area prescription 5.5 (forested landscape linkages).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,800 | 3,800 | No change. |

North Elk, #7 (9,900 acres)

1. Description

The North Elk area is in Rio Blanco County approximately 20 air miles southeast of Meeker, Colorado. It is administered by the Blanco Ranger District. The northern boundary of this area is bordered entirely by private lands and approximately half of its western boundary is bordered by private lands. Its eastern boundary is designated by NFSR 245 and its southern and upper western boundary borders past timber harvest areas. Motorized access to the perimeter of the area is provided by NFSR 245 on the east, the NFSR 211 on the south and NFSR 248 and NFSR 212 on the east. The area includes NFST 1836 (the Prospect Draw Trail) and NFST 1835 (North Elk Trail). The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 600 feet to 10,000 feet. The area is typical of the Flat Tops area with ridge tops being flat and wide and steep slopes falling to the drainages below. The elevation range covers different vegetation types which is typical of the mesa-canyon topology. It contains approximately ten miles of the various forks of North Elk Creek. This area contains a wide variety of vegetation. It ranges from sage brush, oak brush, scattered ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. Open grassland meadows are throughout the area. The northern most portion of the area contains large sage brush-grass meadows, while the higher areas are generally tree covered with small grass meadows scattered throughout.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides a large, unfragmented, and undisturbed area essential for maintaining the ecological health and diversity of habitats required by many wildlife species. The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat

for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, fringed myotis, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and purple martin. Colorado River cutthroat trout is found in three forks of North Elk Creek. The area provides valuable summer habitat for deer and elk, with the northern most portion providing a minor amount of winter habitat during mild winters. The North Elk CRA provides habitat needs for black bear, the White River elk herd, wild turkey, mule deer, mountain lion, as well as many avian and small mammal species. Though activities have occurred in the past and certain activities such as grazing and hunting continue to occur; Soils, water, and air in the area remain in good condition. Water at the spring source is of good quality, but is diverted for use.

The northern portion of the area receives a moderate amount of motorized use, including all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles. All around the area there is road access. Large numbers of elk can be found in the area, which attracts big game hunters. Most of the activity in the CRA occurs during the fall hunting season. Snowmobile use occurs during the winter. The remainder of the area is for the most part non-motorized. Hiking, fishing, and big game viewing are the popular activities for the area. There are outfitters that utilize the area during hunting season. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are known heritage resources in the area and the probability of occurrence of sites and isolated finds is high. Known resources include the Ute travel corridor (Ute Trail) and numerous isolated finds and quarries.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are four parcels of private land, located in the northern most portion of the area. All of the private land is accessible by roads and the private land is serviced by power and telephone utilities. One of the parcels is an exclusive guest ranch, one contains several cabins for guest use, one is a cow camp, and the last contains summer residences. The northern most portion of the area contains a power and telephone right of way. The CRA contains active grazing allotments throughout for both cattle and sheep. Range developments include stock ponds, spring development, and fences. The Hamilton Cow Camp in the North Elk Drainage is used for the administration of grazing in the area. There are two water developments within the CRA. Gilly Lake is a small special use water storage facility used to replenish the reservoirs on the Seven Lakes Lodge, on private property located just outside the southern boundary of CRA. Additionally, a pipeline runs from Big Ridge to the Smizer Gulch and fills stock ponds in an effort to better distribute grazing use throughout the area. There are no active mining operations in the area and there is low potential for mineral development. There is a drainage in the CRA named Prospect Draw because of old gold mining operations still evident. The CRA contains both suitable and Allowable Sale Quantity acres. Traditionally the area has had previous timber activity, however little or no evidence exists at this time. The CRA is within management area prescription 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10,000 | 9,900 | Updated GIS information. |

North Independent A, #77 (4,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located east of the city of Aspen in Pitkin County just west of Independence Pass, and the historic mining town of Independence. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. North Independence A is a long and fairly narrow CRA located between The Roaring Fork River, Highway 82 along the southern border and contiguous with the Hunter Frying Pan Wilderness along the north. Hunter Creek and Warren Lakes peat bogs are located along the northwestern boundary. Private parcels border the western ends of the unit. There are no existing roads or trails within the CRA. Access to the area is from Highway 82 along the unit's southern border and NFSR 131 (Smuggler Mountain Road) is on the northwestern border. A trail head to NFST 1996 (Lost Man Creek) leads into the adjacent Hunter Frying Pan Wilderness and is located just outside the southeastern boundary of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 12,000 feet. The unit consists mainly of steep, rocky, south-facing slopes. Vegetation varies with elevation from oakbrush to lodgepole pine to spruce/fir and aspen to alpine tundra. It contains primarily alpine tundra with alpine willows and some Krummholz. The north-northwest section of the unit is drier and less steep with more oakbrush.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides winter foraging and summer habitat and movement corridors for the federally listed Canada lynx. Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also has potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, Atal Cotton-grass, russet cotton-grass, slender cotton-grass, and Sphagnum moss. It is adjacent to Hunter Creek which has Colorado River cutthroat trout populations. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (summer range, fall concentration), elk (winter and summer range, migration corridor which crosses it just east of the city of Aspen), mule deer (summer range, travel corridor), and white-tailed ptarmigan (summer range). Golden eagles

and goshawks have been sighted. Uses include backcountry hiking and camping, small and big-game hunting, and fishing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Slope stabilization work has been done to mitigate movement from highway cuts. There is one springbox and waterline, and one private access road. The potential for mineral development is high in the northwestern corner near Smuggler Mountain. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.2 (recommended wilderness) and 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4,500 | 4,500 | No change. |

North Independent B, #81 (900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located east of the city of Aspen in Pitkin County at the top of Independence Pass. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The unit is separated from North Independence A by only a small piece of land. It is contiguous with the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness to the north and west. The Continental Divide/Forest Boundary forms the eastern boundary. The unit is accessed by Highway 82 along the southern border. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 13,700 feet. The area is characterized by steep south facing rocky slopes and contains glacial formations. Vegetation varies from oakbrush to lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, and aspen to tundra.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly (endangered). The CRA also contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, pygmy shrew, white-tailed ptarmigan, and Gray's Peak whitlow-grass. This area provides summer range and travel corridors for deer and elk. Golden eagle and Goshawk sightings have occurred in the area. The CRA provides scenic views from Independence Pass. An old stock driveway is located in the northwest section. Recreation opportunities in the area include rock climbing, hiking, camping, fishing at Lost Man Reservoir, small and big game hunting, and backcountry skiing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Lost Man Reservoir and associated water diversion structures are located within this unit. The Gravel Pit Road (cherry stemmed out of the CRA) is located on the southeastern boundary. There is slope stabilization work to mitigate movement from highway cuts. There is one springbox and waterline. There is a microwave reflector in the unit. There is one private access road in the area. There is high mineral potential in the northwestern corner near Smuggler. The CRA is in management area prescriptions 3.1 (special interest areas-emphasis on interpretation) and 4.2 (scenery).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

North Woody, #71 (8,500 acres)

1. Description

The unit is in Pitkin County north of the city of Aspen. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. At its southeast corner is the community of Lenado. Woody Creek runs along the south boundary with a considerable amount of private lands with rural residential development along NFSR 102 (Woody Creek Road). BLM land and the Forest boundary are on the west side. Kobey Park, a year round multiple use recreation area forms the north boundary, and NFSR 526 (Larkspur Road) is to the east. Cherry stems are created by Collins Creek and Little Woody Creek drainages. Access is by way of NFSR 102 from the south, NFSR 508, 513, 521, 528 from the north, and NFSR 526 from the east. Hannon Creek and Collins Creek are non-motorized trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 10,300 feet (Vagner Mountain). The North Woody CRA is a steep and rugged CRA with mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce/fir habitats.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American three-toed woodpecker. This CRA provides habitat needs for black bear (summer range, fall concentration), elk (winter and summer range), and mule deer (summer and winter range). The unit primarily provides summer range for deer and elk; however, some winter range occurs on the west side. Some hunting occurs, but other uses are limited by steepness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The north part of the area includes a portion of the Red Canyon Allotment. The Woody Allotment is vacant. There are some patented mining claims along the east boundary. There is low potential for oil and gas development. Although this area is adjacent to the Kobey Park timber area, the North Woody section has limited timber potential because of its dryness and steepness. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 8,500 | 8,500 | No change. |

Pagoda Peak, #2 (9,200 acres)

1. Description

The majority of the Pagoda Peak area is in Rio Blanco County, with a very small amount overlapping into Garfield County along its southeast boundary. It is administered by the Blanco Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by the Pagoda Peak CRA on the Routt National Forest. The remainder of its boundary consists of Rio Blanco County Road 8, which lies along its southern edge from Dead Horse Creek to the top of Ripple Creek Pass along the eastern boundary. The western boundary is NFSR 230. This CRA is accessible by foot or horseback from the west by NFSR 230, and from the south and east by Rio Blanco County Road 8. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,100 feet to 11,120 feet at the top of Pagoda Peak. The area is characterized by varied topology. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by several drainages and ranges in character from flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges. The unit is covered with extensive stands of aspen, with its associated understory vegetation, interspersed with open parks. The upper reaches of the drainages are covered with stands of spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. A genetically pure natural production stream of Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs within the CRA. The Pagoda Peak CRA provides high quality elk habitat (production, summer range, migration route); it encompasses part of the elk production for the White River herd. The area around Pagoda Peak is also a key elk production area. Parts of the CRA are in a major migration route (from the Flat Tops Wilderness to Maybell, Colorado). This CRA provides habitat needs for bald eagles (high quality summer foraging), black bear (summer concentration, high quality summer forage), mule deer (production, summer range), and many avian and small mammal species. The area offers is undeveloped and offers high quality natural scenic values with its variety of trees and open park vegetation. This CRA is used primarily by hunters, with moderate levels of summer use by hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. Moderate to high levels of winter use (snowmobile) also exist. Motorcycle and ATV use has historically been allowed on certain trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Although there are no known heritage resources in the area, the probability of occurrences of sites and isolated finds is high.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no private lands within this area and no active mining claims at this time. There is a shared Forest Service/Rio Blanco County radio repeater site at the top of Sand Peak. Some of area is currently under lease for oil and gas development but there are no active mining or oil/gas drilling operations at this time. Historically there has been uranium exploration and several gold placer mining claims. There have been some logging activities within the CRA in the past. There is suitable timber in the area for which some met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.31 (backcountry recreation year-round motorized) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9,200 | 9,200 | No change. |

Piney Lake, #30 (900 acres)

1. Description

This area is located in Eagle County north of the town of Vail on the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The area is adjacent and bounded to the north by the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The southern and western boundaries of these areas are composed of National Forest and private land boundaries. NFST 1893 (Lost Lake Trail) defines the southern boundary. NFSR 700 is the primary access for the area. Piney River Ranch, a resort operated by Vail Associates is located on private property on the northeastern boundary of the area. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 9,200 feet to 10,518 feet. The Piney Lake CRA has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, riparian habitat and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx, and potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive Species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift and American 3-toed woodpecker. Populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout occur in Piney Lake, Piney River and Red Sandstone Creek. This CRA provides habitat for black bear, elk, moose, mountain lion, and mule deer. It supports abundant wildlife, including, but not limited to, blue grouse, pine marten, and snowshoe hare. Piney and Lost Lakes are main destinations within the Piney Lake CRA. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. There is opportunity for hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Piney River Ranch has permits for various recreational activities. The area is an active part of the Red and White Allotment permitted for sheep grazing annually. There are three private parcels bounding the area. The potential for the development is high. The CRA is within management area prescription 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

Porcupine Peak, #35 (7,700 acres)

1. Description

The area lies north of the Town of Montezuma and west of A-Basin Ski Area in Summit County, Colorado. It is administered by the Dillon Ranger District. The area is bounded to the north by US HWY 6, to the east by the Continental Divide, to the south by NFSR 260, and to the west by County Road 5. This area is remarkable for its multitude of craggy peaks (many of which follow the Continental Divide) including Porcupine Peak. Views from the peaks and ridgelines are very scenic and include views of other distant peaks. Motorized access into the area is provided by NFSR 260 and 263. County Road 5 and US Highway 6 also provide access to the southern and northern portions of the unit respectively. Non-motorized access into the area is provided by NFST 34 and 78. NFSR 60 is not plowed in the winter months and residents access their property by snowmobile. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from approximately 9,400 to 14,270 feet. Vegetation types in this unit vary from lodgepole pine at lower elevations to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at the higher elevations. At the highest elevations, above the treeline, there is alpine meadows and tundra. Chihuahua and Peru Creeks provide excellent riparian habitat.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The high alpine nature of this unit provides excellent habitat for mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Deer and elk utilize the area in the summer and for transition ranges. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, American 3-toed woodpecker, clawless draba, Gray's Peak whitlow-grass, and ice cold buttercup. The CRA provides overall range for Boreal toads which have also been document breeding in the Peru Creek drainage. This CRA provides habitat for bighorn sheep

(overall range), black bear (overall range), elk (overall range, summer concentration), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall and summer range, concentration area), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (movement corridor), ptarmigan (overall range), badger, blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various hawks and owls.

Approximately 0.3 miles of Peru Creek, source to the Snake River, has been identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. The area offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities due to the diverse terrain. Recreation in the area includes hiking, camping, fishing, snowshoeing, skiing, snowboarding, and peak climbing. Peak climbing, especially for 13,000 foot peaks and higher is very popular. Hunting use is limited and consists primarily of lottery drawn mountain goat permits. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A historic wagon road parallels US HWY 6 to Loveland Pass within the area. Peru Creek road was part of a historic toll road to Montezuma from Argentine Pass.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the Deer Creek Sheep Allotment. There are several outfitters that utilize the area including: Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (winter), Keystone Science School (winter and summer), and Tiger Run Tours (summer). There is an underground water diversion permitted by the Viddler Water Company that pipes water from Chihuahua Lake to Argentine Pass. This unit is extremely fragmented with patented mining claims. The potential for further development is high. Currently, there are approximately six claims that are occupied year round. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 4.32 (dispersed recreation high-use), and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages). Under the 2001 IRA there were approximately 1,000 acres in 8.25 (ski areas).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 8,700 | 7,700 | Acres removed from within the Arapahoe Basin Ski area permit boundary. |

Ptarmigan A, #21A (2,700 acres), B #21B (1,800 acres), and C #21 C (900 acres)

1. Description

The CRA includes three sub-units, located northeast of the Town of Silverthorne in Summit County. It is administered by the Dillon Range District. These CRAs are adjacent to the Ptarmigan Wilderness. Portions of this area adjoin the Williams Fork CRA on the Routt National. Motorized access is provided by County Road 15 (Ute Pass) to the north and I-70 to the east. National Forest System trails include: NFST 71 (Acorn Creek), and NFST 69 (Ptarmigan Peak/Ptarmigan Pass). Public access and parking is available at Ute pass, Acorn Creek, Ptarmigan, Pioneer, and Laskey drainages. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,600 to 12,757 feet. Vegetation in this unit varies from aspen and grass shrub steppe on the lower slopes, lodgepole pine, and alpine tundra and meadowlands above the treeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented in units A and B. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine (South Fork Area), marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl (CRAs Ptarmigan A and Ptarmigan B only), olive-sided flycatcher, and Harrington's beardtongue (CRA Ptarmigan A only).

Ptarmigan A and B provide habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (movement corridor, overall, winter, and severe winter range, production, summer concentration), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall range and winter range, migration area), and ptarmigan (overall range). This CRA provides suitable habitat for badger, blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, pine marten, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various hawks and owls, and white-tailed jackrabbit.

Ptarmigan C is located on a deer and elk migration corridor and deer and elk winter range. It includes habitat that serves as overall range, severe winter range, production area, summer concentration area, and movement corridor for elk. It includes habitat that serves as overall range, winter range, and migration corridor for mule deer. In particular, the lower portion of the Acorn Creek drainage has been identified as being excellent winter range for elk and deer.

From the Williams Fork ridgeline there are outstanding views of the Gore Range. Major peaks in the area include Ute Peak and Coon Hill. The area receives moderate to heavy use year round. The southern slopes offer back country access earlier than the surrounding areas. Other recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, mountain biking, fishing, cross country skiing, Snowmobile use in the area is limited due to the southern exposure and limited access. Snowmobile use is not allowed

in Ptarmigan B or Ptarmigan C. Hunting pressure is high from the Acorn Creek and Laskey Gulch drainages. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Bar T and Eagles Nest Equestrian Center are outfitters who utilize the area during hunting season. Ptarmigan A is within management area prescriptions 5.41 (deer and elk winter range) and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages). Both Ptarmigan B and C are within management area prescription 1.2 (recommended wilderness).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ptarmigan A | 2,700 | 2,700 | No change. |
| Ptarmigan B | 1,800 | 1,800 | No change. |
| Ptarmigan C | 900 | 900 | No change. |

Ptarmigan Hill A, #47A (13,100 acres)

1. Description

This section of the Ptarmigan Hill CRA is located in Eagle County at Pearle Creek. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. Ptarmigan A is divided into two sub-units located on either side of Ptarmigan Unit B. All are contiguous, creating a large, undisturbed roadless area. The southern boundary of the southern sub-unit of this CRA is NFSR 714 (East Fork Road), the western boundary is State Hwy 24, the northwestern boundary is the Forest Service lands, and the northeastern boundary is Ptarmigan Unit B. The northern sub-unit of A is approximately two miles east of the town of Redcliff, and is completely surrounded by Forest Service land. It is just north and adjacent to Ptarmigan B. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,500-11,000 feet. Ptarmigan Hill has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, high alpine meadows (tundra), mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Due to the lack of roads the area provides fairly pristine habitat for many wildlife species as well as forested landscapes for wildlife linkage areas. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall distribution, summer range, fall feeding), blue grouse, elk (high quality habitat, overall distribution, summer and winter range, concentration, migration corridors), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall distribution, summer range, production, migration corridors), ptarmigan (overall, summer, and winter range, production and brood areas), and snowshoe hare. There is a mix of opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation ranging from snowmobiling and cross country skiing to hiking, horseback riding, camping, and hunting. There is a high opportunity for visitors to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, and self reliance. There is a moderate opportunity for solitude in the summer and lower opportunities in the winter due to an emphasis on high alpine winter recreation in the area. There is several system hiking trails. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 13,100 | 13,100 | No change. |

Ptarmigan Hill B, #47B (7,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located in Summit County at Searle and Stafford. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The southeastern portion borders Copper Ski area. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,000-10,500 feet. Ptarmigan Hill has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, high alpine meadows (tundra), mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Due to the lack of roads the area provides fairly pristine habitat for many wildlife species as well as forested landscapes for wildlife linkage areas. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, RM bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA contains elk summer range, a movement corridor, and production areas. It also has ptarmigan overall range and winter concentration areas, and has suitable habitat for lynx. There is a mix of opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation ranging from snowmobiling, and cross country skiing to hiking, horseback riding, camping, and hunting. There is an emphasis on high alpine winter recreation in the area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is within management area prescriptions 3.32 (backcountry non-motorized with winter motorized), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), 5.5 (forested landscape linkages), and 8.32 (utility corridor). Under the 2001 IRA a small portion was within 8.25 (ski area).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 7,700 | 7,000 | Adding acquired private land and removing acres from within the Copper Mountain Ski Area permit. |

Red Dirt A, #8A (10,200 acres)

1. Description

This area is located west of Burns and north of Dotsero in Eagle and Garfield counties on the Eagle Ranger District. The Red Dirt CRA is bounded on the west by the Flat Tops Wilderness and functions as a buffer between private lands and the Flattops Wilderness. There is sufficient access to the CRA from the north by NFSR 613 and 616, and 611 from the south, as well as five pack trails. Motorized use occurs to the north on USFS lands, as well as to the east and south on adjacent federal and private lands. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 11,411 feet. The CRA is composed of uplands, mountains, and steeply flanked canyon side-slopes. The plateau is a complex of mountain groups, rolling hills, plateau lands, and deeply dissected valleys with some scoured bowl like cirque headwalls and glaciated ridgelines. The majority of slopes are east-facing. This CRA contains piñon-juniper, mountain shrub, grass-forb communities at the lower elevations. Cottonwood and Douglas-fir are found along drainages and pockets of aspen, ponderosa pine, sagebrush, and spruce/fir make up the remainder.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, RM bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. A native population of Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in the CRA. The CRA contains winter range for deer and elk. Crescent and Mackinaw Lakes are stocked by Colorado Division of Wildlife and provide for fishing opportunities. This CRA provides habitat for bighorn sheep (migration corridor), black bear (overall range), elk (overall, severe winter, and winter range, winter and summer concentration), moose (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (summer and winter range, migration route). It provides potential habitat for the bald eagle. The primary attraction to the area is Crescent and Mackinaw Lakes. The recreation opportunities in the area include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and limited snowmobiling. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is a part of the active Derby cattle allotment. The eastern boundary has several parcels of private property that are currently utilized as working ranches. There are multiple ditches under special use permit throughout the area that provide water to the adjacent ranch lands. Two outfitters operate in the area. The majority is suitable timber in the area for which some met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

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

Red Dirt B, #8B (2,500 acres)

1. Description

This area is located west of Burns and north of Dotsero in Eagle and Garfield counties, the Eagle Ranger District. There is sufficient access to the CRA from the north by NFSR 613 and 616, and 611 from the south, as well as five pack trails. The Red Dirt CRA is bounded on the west by the Flat Tops Wilderness. Motorized use occurs to the north on USFS lands, as well as to the east and south on adjacent federal and private lands. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 11,411 feet. There subsections are composed of uplands, mountains, and steeply flanked canyon side-slopes. The plateau is a complex of mountain groups, rolling hills, plateau lands, and deeply dissected valleys with some scoured bowl like cirque headwalls and glaciated ridgelines. This CRA contains piñon-juniper, mountain shrub, grass-forb communities at the lower elevations. Cottonwood and Douglas-fir are found along drainages and pockets of aspen, ponderosa pine, sagebrush, and spruce/fir make up the remainder.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, and flammulated owl. The CRA contains winter range for deer and elk. Crescent and Mackinaw Lakes are stocked by Colorado Division of Wildlife and provided fishing. The primary attraction to the area is Crescent and Mackinaw Lakes. The recreation opportunities in the area include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and limited snowmobiling. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is a part of the active Derby cattle allotment. The eastern boundary has several parcels of private property that are currently utilized as working ranches. There are multiple ditches under special use permit throughout the area that provide water to the adjacent ranch lands. Two outfitters operate in the area. The majority is suitable timber in the area for which some met Allowable Sale Quantity qualifications. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.12 (general forest and rangeland) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2,400 | 2,500 | Updated GIS information. |

Red Mountain, #74 (6,500 acres)

1. Description

This unit is located in Pitkin County, on the Aspen Ranger District. The parcel is north of the city of Aspen. The forest boundary and private land form the western border. NFSR 103 (Woody Creek Road) forms the northern boundary. Lendado is on the NE border. The Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness defines the eastern boundary. County Road 130 is on the SE side. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 11,000 feet. Red Mountain at 10,400 feet is the most prominent feature in the CRA. The eastern half has gentle terrain with open parks. The west section has steep terrain. Vegetation consists of Gambel oak on the SW-SE aspects; aspen and spruce/fir predominate on the northern aspects at higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. The unit has been identified as deer and elk summer range. There is some winter range on the southwestern portion. The open parks of the eastern half of the area are a special feature of the unit. There is heavy hiking and mountain biking use, as well as deer and elk hunting and outfitting/guiding. There is winter use of the McNamara hut system. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The McNamara hut system is located partially within this CRA. There are two communication sites on Red Mountain (upper and lower). There is one spring box and waterline for a home in Starwood. The Red Mountain Cattle Allotment was vacated in the late 1980s. There is potential for hard rock minerals along the North-South mineralized belt. There has been logging in the area in the past. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.32 (dispersed recreation high-use), 5.41 (deer and elk winter range) and 8.32 (utility corridor).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,500 | 6,500 | No change. |

Red Table, #53A (39,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located north of the communities of Meredith and Thomasville, and southwest of Gypsum in Eagle County. It is on both the Aspen-Sopris and the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger Districts. The unit is bordered on the north by NFSR 412, on the east by NFSR 414 (Gypsum Creek Road), on the south by private lands along the Fryingpan River and a power line, and on the west by NFSR 425, NFSR 514. There are private land developments on the north and south sides of the unit. With the closing of NFSR 425 (Red Creek Road), a motorized/mechanized route, Red Table and Gypsum Creek CRA are now a contiguous roadless area. There are several roads bordering the unit that are associated with private property near Ruedi Reservoir, Downey Creek, and Spring Creek. Other roads that border include the NFSR 512 roads and spurs associated with a timber sale area on the east. NFSR 412 cherry-stems in the northern half of the area and provides motorized access to LEDE Reservoir. Non-motorized system trails through the unit include NFST 1870, 1912, 1871, and 2224. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from about 7,000 feet at Taylor Creek to more than 12,000 feet at Ruedi Peak on Red Table Mountain. Red Table Mountain is a large red sandstone mountain of the Maroon formation with extensive area above timberline. There is a variety of terrain from rolling to steep slopes and cliffs. The Red Table CRA is composed of a variety of habitat types ranging from willowed riparian areas, to timber lands, to alpine scree fields. Vegetation includes sagebrush, open meadows, piñon-juniper, oak, aspen, and spruce/fir. Numerous cirque lakes are found below the ridge of Red Table Mountain, mainly on the north side of the ridge on the Eagle Ranger District.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat and foraging for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, Townsend's big-eared bat, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, purple martin, and Harrington's beardtongue. There may be habitat for peregrine falcons in cliff areas. The area is overall range, summer range and some winter range for bighorn sheep, and summer and winter range for elk. Elk calving occurs in the unit. This CRA also provides habitat for the following species: black bear (overall range), elk and mule deer (summer and transitional range), mountain lion (overall range), osprey (nesting area), wild turkey (overall range), badger, blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various hawks and owls. Spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and valleys both near and far are to be found all along the length of the summit of Red Table Mountain. The area is now designated for hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing only. Access is currently available throughout the CRA which allows dispersal of big game hunters and high quality hunting experiences. Historically the area was used for a variety of recreation including some ATV, motorcycle, mountain bike and snowmobile use. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a special-use isolated cabin under permit to Colorado Division of Wildlife and a special-use pasture. An FAA tower is located at the head of the Sugarloaf drainage (immediately to the west of the area). There are parts of three active cattle allotments on the Sopris side (east half of Taylor Creek, Downey-Frenchman, and a small part of Lime Park Allotment). This is also part of the Gypsum Creek active cattle allotment on the Eagle Ranger district. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present. The CRA includes large areas of private property inholdings near Taylor Creek and Ruedi Creek. The potential for minerals is believed to be low. Under the forest plan, there is no timber cutting allowed in this CRA. The majority of the CRA is within management area prescription 1.2 (recommended wilderness).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 39,100 | 39,100 | No change. |

Reno Mountain, #66 (12,400 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in Mesa County on the Rifle Ranger District. The area lies about 19 miles south of New Castle. The north and south boundaries are consistent with National Forest boundaries. A portion of the southern boundary adjoins the Grand Mesa National Forest. NFSR 800 and private land form the eastern boundary. NFSR 270 defines the western border. NFSRs 270, 816, 800, and 268 surround the CRA. Several non-motorized trails traverse the area. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,000 feet to 9,700 feet. Slopes range from relatively shallow to 40%. Vegetation varies from sagebrush and Gambel oak to aspen and spruce/fir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, Northern goshawk, flammulated owl, purple martin, and northern leopard frog. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear, elk (winter and summer range, production), mule deer (summer range, production), wild turkey, and a wide range of raptors and other birds. Recreation opportunities in the area include horseback riding, hunting, outfitting, and snowmobiling. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are 18 current oil and gas leases at least partially within the Reno Mountain CRA. Nine leases encompassing approximately 2,000 acres were issued prior to January 12, 2001. Nine additional leases encompassing approximately 9,610 acres were issued after January 12, 2001. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.12 (general forest and rangeland) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12,400 | 12,400 | No change. |

Ripple Creek Pass–Trappers Lake, #4 (600 acres)

1. Description

The unit is located in Garfield County approximately 41 miles east of Meeker. It is administered by the Blanco Ranger District. Rio Blanco County Road 8 lays one-fourth to one-half mile west of the unit and NFSR 205 lies just to the south providing motorized access to the area. NFST 1803 lies to the north and the NFST 1811 follows along the southern edge. No forest trails enter the Ripple Creek unit. The Flat Tops Wilderness borders the unit to the east. Ripple Creek is adjacent and to the east of Pagoda Peak CRA (9,200 acres). The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,800 feet to 10,000 feet toward the top of Ripple Creek Pass. The topography is varied from gradual slopes to very steep slopes and high ridges. The terrain is dissected by the forks of Ripple Creek. The unit is covered with stands of aspen and their associated understory vegetation, interspersed with open parks, stands of lodgepole pine and mixed spruce/fir with an understory of spruce/fir regeneration.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA contains a genetic purity natural production stream of Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. The CRA provides high quality elk habitat (production, summer range, migration route); it encompasses part of the elk production for the White River herd. This CRA provides habitat needs for bald eagles (high quality summer foraging), black bear (summer concentration, high quality summer forage), mule deer (production, summer range), and other avian and small mammal species. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness.

The surrounding area's scenic beauty attracts many people. The main attractions to the general area are the Flat Tops Wilderness, the Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway (County Road 8) from Meeker to Yampa, and Trappers Lake. Near the unit are two recreation residences and two lodges, all under special-use permit. There also are two Forest Service campgrounds and six trailheads outside the CRA but in the general vicinity. Recreation use within the unit is entirely non-motorized. Snowmobile trails border the western and southern portions of the unit. Steep terrain and the limited area available limit recreation use within it. Most use occurs during hunting season, although some dispersed summer use occurs. Other activities include horseback riding, hiking, viewing scenery, dispersed camping, viewing wildlife and fishing. There are no outfitter camps, although several outfitters have day-use permits and may travel through the

area to fish or to reach other camps. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are no known heritage resources in the area, although the probability of occurrence of sites and isolated finds is high.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area lies within the Ripple Creek Allotment that has been active since the 1900s and is expected to remain in use. A stock driveway lies about one-half mile north of the unit. Developments in the general area associated with the range program include the sheep corrals at the Chinese Wall /Pagoda Trailhead and a horse pasture and fence used by Ripple Creek Lodge. There are currently no active mining operations. Some exploration for gold likely occurred to the north of the unit because of its proximity to placer gold claims west of County Road 8. Though there are suitable timber lands identified none qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity. The majority of the CRA is in management area prescription 1.2 (recommended wilderness).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 600 | 600 | No change. |

Ryan Gulch, #38 (600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is adjacent to Eagle’s Nest Wilderness and lays between it and the I-70 corridor Between Frisco and Silverthorne. It is administered by the Dillon Ranger District. The CRA surrounds approximately 2,500 single and multifamily units in the Wilderness and Mesa Cortina subdivisions. There are several non-motorized system trails in the CRA serving the nearby populous. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from approximately 9,000 feet to 10,000 feet. This CRA is typified by U-shaped valleys, couloirs, talus slopes, and rounded mountain slopes. This subsection is composed of north-south lying high relief mountains. The dominant vegetation type in the area is lodgepole pine with subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce at higher elevations. At the lower elevations vegetation includes aspen and lodgepole pine forests intermixed with mountain shrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened).Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, spotted bat, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, and olive-sided flycatcher. The area provides winter range for a large elk herd and a moderate sized deer herd at the Salt Lick Gulch drainage. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall and winter range, production, and summer concentration), moose (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall range, migration area), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, skunk, snowshoe hare, various hawks and owls. The CRA has five trailheads, and many walking and biking trails. This area receives a high amount of use for hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act.It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is a part of the Willow creek cattle allotment which is vacant at this time. A majority of the CRA is in suitable timber and qualified for Allowable Sale Quantity. The CRA is within management area prescription 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 600 | 600 | No change. |

Salt Creek, #42 (5,600 acres)

1. Description

The Salt Creek CRA is in Eagle County; it is approximately 1 mile northwest of the Holy Cross Wilderness. It is close to several large residential developments. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,400 feet to 11,074 feet. The area falls within the Hardscrabble Ecological Subsection of the White River National Forest Landscape Character descriptions. It is composed primarily of forested montane and subalpine communities, and mountain shrub, lodgepole pine, aspen, and spruce/fir habitats.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat and foraging areas for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. The CRA is primarily used as summer range for deer and elk but provides habitats for many other species including overall range and high quality forage for black bear. Recreation in the area is a mix of primitive and semi-primitive opportunities. Recreation opportunities include hiking, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

While there have been no timber sales in the area in recent history, much of the area was homesteaded at the turn of the 20th century and has had some timber harvesting to support those endeavors. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.3 (dispersed recreation) and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5,600 | 5,600 | No change. |

Sloan Peak, #61 (20,000 acres)

1. Description

This is a large CRA containing varied habitat types lying between the Roaring Fork River and Frying Pan River and Ruedi Reservoir. The northern part is bordered by the Frying Pan River valley and the southern part is bordered by an intense network of roads and trails. A few non-motorized trails bisect the CRA. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The CRA lies primarily within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 7,000-10,000. The CRA is made up of a variety of vegetation types due to the different elevations and aspects that are within the CRA. Oakbrush, aspen, lodgepole pine, spruce/fir stands are found through-out. There are some open meadows as well that provide good winter and summer range.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, river otter, RM bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. Rocky Fork provides native cutthroat populations and the world renowned Frying Pan River borders this CRA on the north. This CRA provides important winter range for mule deer and elk as well as small game. Outstanding views of the surrounding valleys can be seen from Sloan Peak. The CRA provides substantial high quality hunting and fishing opportunities. There are a few non-motorized trails which provide access throughout the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Timber harvesting has mainly occurred to the south of the CRA. There is a little bit of suitable timber lands within the CRA but none qualified for Allowable Sale Quantity. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20,100 | 20,000 | Updated GIS information. |

Spraddle Creek A, #29A (900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA adjoins the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. The western boundary is Forest Service land. Spraddle Creek is located north of the town of Vail. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,800-10,500. Spraddle Creek A has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains potential habitat for the following Forest Service Sensitive species: wolverine, bighorn sheep, and olive-sided flycatcher. This CRA supports an abundance of wildlife and provides habitat for bighorn sheep (overall, summer, and winter range, production), black bear (overall distribution, summer range, fall feeding), blue grouse, elk (overall distribution, summer range and concentration, production, and migration corridors), mountain lion (overall range), and mule deer (overall distribution, summer range, production, migration corridors), and Rocky Mountain mountain goat (overall habitat). This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The CRA is significant for its lack of roads which provides excellent solitude for the abundant wildlife. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There would be no timber harvested in the unit. The CRA is within management area prescription 1.2 (recommended wilderness).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 900 | 900 | No change. |

Spraddle Creek B, #29B (6,500 acres)

1. Description

This CRA adjoins the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. The western boundary is Forest Service land. The CRA is bordered by the town of Vail and other private lands along the I-70 corridor on the southern end. Spraddle Creek B is located north of the town of Vail. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,800-10,500. Spraddle Creek B has areas of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges containing spruce/fir, mountain shrub, aspen, lodgepole pine, riparian habitat and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, RM bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA provides habitat for bighorn sheep (overall, summer, and winter range, production), black bear (overall distribution, summer range, fall feeding), blue grouse, elk (overall distribution, summer range and concentration, production, and migration corridors), moose (colonized the area on their own, use riparian areas as overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall distribution, summer range, production, migration corridors), and snowshoe hare. The CRA is significant for its lack of roads which provides excellent solitude for the abundant wildlife. The CRA provides quality big game and small game hunting away from roads. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The majority of the CRA is in suitable timber lands and most qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.42 (bighorn sheep).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6,500 | 6,500 | No change. |

Sweetwater A, #15A (11,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA includes acres above Sweetwater Lake and several tracts of private land. The CRA is in Garfield County, and is managed by the Eagle Ranger District. The Deep Creek and Sweetwater area connects the lower elevation areas to the Flattops and adjacent Flattops Wilderness. It adjoins the Flattops Wilderness to the north and a BLM Wildlife Study Area to the east around Hack Lake, and the Red Dirt CRA (8A). On the south, it adjoins the Sweetwater B CRA. NFSR 642 (Triangle Mountain) is buffered into the

western interior of the CRA. Private lands up to and beyond the lake were buffered out of the CRA, leaving the eastern portion with a large interior residential block into the CRA. NFSTs 1854, 1855, 1816, 1854, 2031, and 2029 cross the interior of the CRA. These trails emphasize non-motorized use. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 6,800-11,500. The Sweetwater A CRA has areas of rolling hills to very steep slopes, alpine meadows, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, aspen, gambles oak and grassland meadows, riparian areas, and grass-shrub steppe.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, black swift, American 3-toed woodpecker, Brewer’s sparrow, and leaser panicked sedge. The CRA has documented breeding habitat for boreal toads and native populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout. This CRA also provides habitat for bald eagles (nesting, winter range), bighorn sheep (overall range), black bear (overall range), elk (overall and winter range, summer concentration, production, movement corridor), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall and winter range, summer concentration, movement corridor), osprey (nesting), and for a variety of bats. This area is provides winter range, as well as areas of winter concentrations for both deer and elk. The area typifies the unique qualities of the Flat Tops area which includes cliffs, forested and meadow lands, rolling terrain, and solitude. It provides high quality hiking and horseback riding opportunities that lead into the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA contains some suitable lands that qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity, however access would be difficult. The CRA is within management are prescriptions 1.2 (recommended wilderness) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11,900 | 11,900 | No change. |

Sweetwater B, #15B (4,300 acres)

1. Description

This CRA adjoins the Sweetwater A CRA. Located southeast of Sweetwater A, this CRA borders private lands to the north, the National Forest boundary is to the east, and a network of NFSR roads to the west. The CRA contains portions of NFST 2036 and 2033. These are non-motorized summer trails. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 6,800-11,500. The Sweetwater B CRA has areas of rolling hills to very steep slopes, alpine meadows, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, aspen, gambles oak and grassland meadows, and riparian areas. A tabletop ridgeline bisects this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The lack of roads and trails in the area provides excellent solitude for wildlife. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, Brewer’s sparrow, and leaser panicked sedge. The CRA has documented breeding habitat for boreal toads. This CRA also provides habitat for bald eagles (nesting, winter range), bighorn sheep (summer and winter range, overall concentration, production), black bear (overall range), elk (overall and winter range, summer concentration, production, movement corridor), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall and winter range, summer concentration, movement corridor), osprey (nesting), and for a variety of bats. CRA has a few system trails; however the majority of the summer hiking is dispersed, not on designated trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA contains some suitable lands that qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity, however access would be limited. This CRA is within management area prescription 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4,300 | 4,300 | No change. |

Tenderfoot Mountain, #34 (8,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located east of Silverthorne and Dillon and north of Keystone in Summit County. It is administered by the Dillon Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by Interstate 70 and on the east by the Continental Divide and US Highway 6. The power line corridor that parallels Highway 6 forms the western boundary. Past timber sale treatments areas define the southern boundary. The Continental Divide follows the eastern boundary. The Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness is the closest wilderness and is approximately one-half mile to the north. NFSR 66 and 65 provide motorized access. NFST 76 provides non-motorized access. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from approximately 9,400 feet at Straight Creek to 12,701 feet on the Continental Divide. This CRA is composed of high-relief mountains of the intermontaine basin complex. There are also uplifted hills with steep to moderately steep slopes. Tenderfoot Mountain is a major peak in this area. Vegetation types vary from lodgepole pine at lower elevations to Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir at higher elevations. Above treeline are alpine tundra and meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Tenderfoot Mountain CRA is part of the forested landscape linkage corridor linking northern forested areas to southern forested areas. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, bighorn sheep, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, American 3-toed woodpecker, boreal toad, northern, clawless draba, Gray's Peak whitlow-grass, and Ice cold buttercup. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk including the resident population (overall, winter, and severe winter range, production, summer concentration, migration corridor), moose (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (migration area), ptarmigan (overall range, potential habitat), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various species of hawks and owls. This area supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer. The rest of the unit is used as summer and transition range by elk and deer. The primary use of this area results from day use at Keystone Resort. Recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and dispersed camping. There is a low amount of snowmobiling. Pass Lake, near Loveland Pass, receives a high amount of use during the summer for hiking and viewing scenery. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is part of the Tenderfoot vacant cattle allotment. Outfitter/guides operating in this area include Keystone Stables, which offers summer horseback riding. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized), 2.1 (special interest areas-minimal use), 4.32 (dispersed recreation high-use), and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 8,400 | 8,400 | No change. |

Tenmile, #46 (6,200 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is south of Frisco and west of Breckenridge in Summit County. It is administered by the Dillon Ranger District. The area is bounded to the north by Frisco, to the east by private property and US Highway 9, to the west by Interstate 70, and to the south by the Continental Divide and the Pike/ San Isabel boundary. The AMAX mine is on the southwestern boundary. The Eagle's Nest Wilderness is about one-half mile to the north (across Interstate 70). Motorized access is provided by NFSR 1000, 1002, 751 (Breckenridge ski area), 803, 851, 850, 1178, 3, 290, and County Road 800. There is also motorized access from the McDill subdivision on the southeastern boundary. County Road 950 and Wheeler Flats provide motorized access along the northern end of the unit. There are no motorized trails within the CRA. NFSTs 38, 44, 45, 58, 58.1A, 79, 80 provide non-motorized trail access. The Vail Pass/Tenmile Canyon bike path provides access to the eastern side. Despite the many roads that access the periphery of this area, the unit is unroaded. Major peaks in the area include Quandary Peak, Fletcher Mountain, North Star Mountain, Pacific Peak, Crystal Peak, Mount Helen, Peak 10, Peak 9, Peak 8, Peak 7, Peak 6, Peak 5, Peak 4, Peak 3, Tenmile Peak, and Peak 1. There are abundant water resources including Blue, Mohawk, Mayflower, Crystal, and Rainbow Lakes. Most drainages have year-round stream flow. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from about 9,600 feet to 14,265 feet (Quandary Peak). More than 50 percent of this unit is above treeline and is composed of the craggy peaks of the Tenmile Range. Vegetation includes subalpine fir and Engelmann

spruce, and alpine meadows with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lowest elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly (endangered). Lynx presence and movement in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed ptarmigan, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Ice cold buttercup. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats are found along the Tenmile ridgeline. Big game (elk, deer, and bear) use the lower elevations for summer and transition range. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall range, summer concentration), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall and summer range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (migration area), ptarmigan (overall range, winter concentration), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various species of hawks and owls. In this CRA are the Wheeler National Recreation Trail, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and the Colorado Trail. Recreation use is heavy during the summer and winter seasons, but is low in the fall during hunting season. Much of the use stems from the Breckenridge ski area. Activities include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, and camping. Francie’s Cabin, part of the Summit Hut Association system, and is near the unit’s eastern boundary. Miners Creek is also a popular fishing area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This area is part of several miscellaneous allotments for recreational stock grazing. The U.S. Army has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest to perform winter maneuvers within the area. Numerous outfitters and guides are permitted to lead mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing trips. Throughout the area are isolated cabins and historic mining structures, including the Mohawk Lake sites owned by the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora. Colorado Springs is permitted for the McCullough and Quandary water diversion tunnels in the unit’s southern portion. Blue Lakes Reservoir and a variety of unnamed ditches are additional water projects. The private parcel in the northern part of this unit is owned by Summit County and the potential for development is low. The southern end of the unit has an active gold mining operation (McCullough Gulch). There has been select timber harvesting throughout the area to support the mining industry. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 2.1 (special interest areas-minimal use), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 5.43 (elk habitat), and 8.32 (utilities). Under the 2001 IRA approximately 200 acres are within 8.25 (ski area).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 6,400 | 6,200 | Acres removed from the Breckenridge ski area. |

Thompson Creek, #63 (18,500 acres)

1. Description

This unit is located in Pitkin and Mesa Counties southwest of the town of Carbondale. It is located on the Sopris and Rifle Ranger Districts. The unit is bordered on the north by the Yank Creek pipeline, on the east by NFSR 304 and private lands along Lake Ridge, and on the south by the GMUG National Forest and formerly private lands that have been acquired by the Forest Service. On the west NFSR 809 is the boundary. There is existing private land development in the North Thompson creek inholding, and potential private land development in the Lake Ridge property. There are several cherry-stemmed roads into the unit. These include roads associated with a private property inholding along North Thompson creek, and NFSR 306. System trails through the unit are NFST 1950, 1951, 1953, and 2093. NFSRs 300, 304, 305, 306 provide adequate access to the CRA and private property in the CRA. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,000 ft to 11,000 feet. Terrain is generally rolling. There is a variety of vegetation including open meadows, pinyon-juniper, aspen, and spruce/fir. There are pockets of oak, pinyon-juniper, and Douglas fir. The lakes in the unit are called Lake Ridge Lakes, which are very small and do not support fish. They are unique because they exist on top of a ridge. Streams include North Thompson Creek, Middle Thompson, South Branch Middle Thompson, Yank Creek, and the headwaters of West Divide Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides denning, movement and dispersal habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and purple martin. Colorado River cutthroat trout occur in North and Middle Thompson Creeks. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (summer range, fall concentration), elk (summer and winter range, production, summer concentration), and mule deer (summer range). Goshawks have been known to frequent this area.

Recreation in the area includes a moderate to heavy amount of hunting, moderate hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Some snowmobiling occurs. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are parts of three active cattle allotments in the area. There are known and potential coal deposits within the unit. The Wolf Creek Field is a storage field providing natural gas through out the Roaring Fork valley. There are eight oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 1,250 acres issued prior to January 12, 2001 in the Thompson Creek CRA. There are twenty oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 14,600 acres issued after January 12, 2001 in the Thompson Creek CRA. There are two lease nominations of approximately 1,400 acres within the Thompson Creek CRA. The CRA is within management area prescriptions management area prescriptions 5.12 (general forest and rangeland), 5.13 (forest products), and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 18,500 | 18,500 | No change. |

Tigiwon, #50 (2,000 acres)

1. Description

This area is located south of Minturn in Eagle County. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The Holy Cross Wilderness surrounds the unit on three sides. The northeastern boundary is defined by private property and National Forest boundaries near the Eagle River. NFSR 707 on the western side and NFSR 706 on the eastern side provide motorized access. NFST 2001 provides non-motorized access into the southwest. NFSR 707 is a major access route to Holy Cross Wilderness, particularly for visitors to Mount of the Holy Cross and Notch Mountain. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,200 feet at the Eagle River to 11,054 feet (an unnamed peak on the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary). This CRA is composed of rolling valleys to very steep slopes and high ridges. Part of the unit lies below treeline. Vegetation includes subalpine-fir, Engelmann spruce and alpine meadows, and scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lowest elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands, riparian habitat and grassland meadows.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. The area is used as summer and transition range for big game, including deer, elk, and bear. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall distribution, fall feeding), blue grouse, elk (overall distribution, winter range, concentration, production), mountain lion (overall range), and mule deer (overall distribution, production), ptarmigan, and snowshoe hare. Tigiwon Lodge, a community group cabin/site is located outside the CRA on the southwestern boundary of this area. Recreation use occurs year round. NFSR 707 accesses three trailheads for the Holy Cross Wilderness. These trailheads are for NFST 2006 (Cross Creek), NFST 2001 (Fall Creek), and NFST 2009 (Mount of the Holy Cross). The trails are for people climbing to the summit of Mount of the Holy Cross or to viewpoints on Notch Mountain. During the winter, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers use this road. Recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, camping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hunting. Primary use is to access the Holy Cross Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are no active grazing allotments. The potential is high for development of patented mining claims in the northeastern part of the area. There have been no recent timber sales in the area, but historically the unit had selected harvest throughout to support homesteading and mining. An old sawmill site is at the head of the Peterson Creek drainage. The highest potential for treatment would be along the road for safety. The CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.31 (backcountry recreation non-motorized) and 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2,000 | 2,000 | No change. |

Treasure Mountain, #84 (1,500 acres)

1. Description

The area is entirely in Gunnison County. It is administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. It is southeast of the town of Marble and adjacent to the Raggeds Wilderness. There are no system trails in the unit. Private property and steep slopes limit access. The unit is bordered on the north by private land along the Crystal River, on the east and west by private property, and on the south by the Raggeds Wilderness. Access is limited by steep terrain and by private property on three sides. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,900 feet near the Crystal River to almost 13,500 feet at the summit of Treasure Mountain. The terrain generally is very steep and mainly north facing. There are many rock outcrops. Vegetation consists mainly of spruce/fir and alpine tundra with some aspen and open avalanche chutes. There are two small, unnamed alpine lakes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides potential habitat for wolverine and bighorn sheep, two Forest Service sensitive species. This CRA also provides habitat for elk (summer range), mountain goat (summer range), mule deer (summer range), and white-tailed ptarmigan. This area is on the border with the Raggeds Wilderness and is in deep forested to alpine ecosystems. The area has not been disrupted by development and remains in a natural state. Due to the steep rugged terrain of forested and alpine lands and lack of access this CRA offers opportunities of solitude. A very light amount of recreation use, including backcountry skiing and very limited hiking and hunting, occurs. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The potential for minerals is low. There are no suitable timber lands and access would be extremely difficult. The CRA is in 1.2 (recommended wilderness).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1,500 | 1,500 | No change. |

West Brush Creek, #45 (5,700 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located southwest of the town of Eagle and approximately three miles from the Holy Cross Wilderness. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by NFSR 400. NFSR 413 forms both the southern and western border. A series of timber sale roads compose the western boundary. The northern border is the National Forest and BLM land boundary. NFSR 400 provides motorized access into the eastern portion of the unit. NFST 1869 provides non-motorized access into the area. The western boundary of the area is defined by a network of timber sale roads collectively known as the Hardscrabble timber sales. The area is located close to several developments. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 7,600 feet to 9,310 feet. The general landform is characterized by hilly forested terrain. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir occur on the northern and eastern slopes, as well as at the upper elevations. Lodgepole pine dominates the flatter benches in the uplands. Aspen and some Douglas fir cover the upper south and west facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential denning and foraging habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, spotted bat, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, American 3-toed woodpecker, and Brewer's sparrow. The area is utilized year round by a small band of elk and provides summer range for other big game including deer and bear. South facing slopes of some of the drainages are utilized by elk most winters. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall range), and Merriam turkey (overall range). Reintroduced Merriam's turkeys are establishing themselves and wintering on adjacent private property, moving onto the CRA as weather allows and using the area for the remainder of the year. Current access in the CRA allows for the dispersal of hunters and other users throughout the unit while still providing large tracts of unbroken habitat for the wildlife using the area. The area receives a high amount of hunting pressure and harvest from this area is good. Recreation use is a mix of primitive and semi-primitive. Opportunities include hiking, some horseback riding, fishing, and cross country skiing. Historically the area was harvested for timber. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the West Brush Creek active cattle allotment. This CRA is in management area prescriptions 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats) and 5.41 (deer and elk winter range).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5,800 | 5,700 | Updated GIS information. |

West Lake Creek, #43 (3,300 acres)

1. Description

The West Lake Creek CRA is in Eagle County. It is administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. West Lake Creek is a small CRA which shares its southern boundary with Holy Cross Wilderness and its northern boundary with a residential development, Cordillera. The CRA plays an essential role as the habitat link between the dedicated wildlife migration corridors from Cordillera to the high summer habitat in the Holy Cross Wilderness. Current access into the area is limited with seasonal restrictions in place to protect wildlife using the area from unnecessary disturbance and stress during critical time periods. The CRA is within North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain Eco-Section (M331H) with elevations ranging from 8,400 feet to 11,074 feet. The general landform is characterized by hilly forested terrain. Vegetation in the area consists of subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce, alpine meadows, with scree, tundra and snowfields above the treeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

West Lake Creek CRA is an important linkage area for wildlife wintering on private property and transitioning back to the higher elevation lands. This area is primarily used for summer range deer and elk. This CRA provides potential foraging and denning habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, flammulated owl, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall and summer range), elk (summer and transitional range, migration corridor), mule deer (summer and transitional range), and pine marten (overall range). Recreational use is a mixture of primitive and semi-primitive. The lack of access and system trails limits the amount of use for the area. NFSR 423 and the Beaver Creek Ski Area are the primary portals into this area. Recreation opportunities in the area include hiking, horseback riding, camping, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. There is a limited amount of snowmobiling. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are some small areas of suitable timber lands that qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity though access to the lands may be limited due to surrounding private lands. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 4.3 (dispersed recreation) and 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3,300 | 3,300 | No change. |

Wildcat Mountain, #65 (3,500 acres), Wildcat Mountain B, #68 (2,300 acres), and Wildcat Mountain C, #72 (4,700 acres)

1. Description

All of these units are in Pitkin County on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. They are located southeast of Thomasville. The units are bordered on the south by the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness; on the west by private property; on the north by the Fryingpan River Road with some private lands and a power line; and on the east by Ivanhoe Lake and Lily Pad Lake complexes, and the San Isabel National Forest. Multiple cherry stem roads transect the area, including NFSR 504 (Chapman Gulch Road) NFSR 505 (Lily Pad Lake Road), NFSR 105.4N (Nast Lake Road), NFSR 518 (Norrie Colony Road), and the Chapman Campground. Trails in the area include NFSTs 1907, 1921, 1920, 1926, and 1927. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 12,334 feet. Terrain is generally steep but there is some flat country along the north side by Fryingpan River Road. Vegetation mainly consists of spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, scattered aspen, some meadow vegetation, and some riparian areas. Gravel pit lakes include Twin Meadows and those pits east of Chapman. Natural Lakes include Lily Pad Lake and two small lakes below Wildcat Mountain.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildcat A, B and C provide potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Wildcat C also provides habitat for the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly (endangered). All three Wildcat CRAs provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species:wolverine, marten, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. In addition, Wildcat A provides habitat for boreal owls, and Wildcat C provides habitats for white-tailed ptarmigan, Atal Cotton-grass, russet cotton-grass, slender cotton-grass, and Sphagnum moss. The CRAs also provide summer range for deer and elk. Recreational uses include hiking, fishing, horseback riding, and mountain biking in the summer. Major summer uses include dispersed activities from visitors staying at Chapman campgrounds, the Nast and Norrie Recreation Residences, and the Betty Bear hut.Twin Meadows is a popular dispersed camping and fishing destination. Winter use mainly consists of cross-country skiing and snowmobiling along unplowed roads. There are a number of water diversions in the area. Ivanhoe reservoir is controlled by the Pueblo Water System.This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

In addition to the water developments in the area, special uses include the Diamond J pasture, Norrie Colony pasture, Fryingpan River Ranch Resort, and Nast recreation residences. The Tenth Mountain Division Hut Association uses a non-system trail. The area also contains parts of the vacant Ivanhoe Sheep Allotment and the Fryingpan Cattle allotment. There is high to moderate potential on the west side near private mining claims. There is low potential in the remainder of the unit. There has been past harvesting near the Lamont pasture on the ridge east of Chapman Campground. There is a historic logging railroad through the area. These CRAs are within management area prescriptions 3.1 (special interest area-emphasis on interpretation), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 5.4 (forested flora and fauna habitats), and 5.5 (forested landscape linkages).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10,500 total | 10,500 total | No change. |

Williams Fork, #9 (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The area is located in Summit County east of Heeney and Green Mountain Reservoir. It is administered by the Dillon Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by the White River National Forest/Arapaho National Forest boundary. The eastern boundary is the ridgeline that also marks the boundary between the two National Forests, as well as Grand and Summit Counties. The southern and western boundaries are defined by private land and National Forest boundaries. The closest wilderness is Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness about three miles to the southeast. NFSR 2950, 2855, 2850 provide motorized access. These roads cherry stemmed out of the CRA on the west side. There are no system trails within the area. There is a large private parcel in the middle of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from approximately 8,200 feet to 11,616 feet (Williams Peak). Vegetation types vary from aspen and grass shrub steppe on the lower slopes to alpine tundra and meadowlands above treeline. The predominant vegetation types are aspen/grass shrub steppe and lodgepole pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, Northern goshawk, Greater sage-grouse, northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, Brewer's sparrow, and Harrington's beardtongue. The area supports a large herd of elk and moderate deer numbers. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall, winter, and severe winter range, production, winter concentration, migration corridor), golden eagle (active nest sites), greater sage grouse (overall and winter range, brood), moose (overall range), mountain goat (overall and summer range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall, winter, and severe winter range, winter concentration, migration area), ptarmigan (overall range, potential habitat) and badger, blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, pronghorn, skunk, snowshoe hare, various species of hawks and owls, white-tailed jackrabbit. The ridgeline along the Williams Fork Mountains is visible from many points in Summit County. This ridgeline is outstanding because of its geologic features, which create a unique landscape character that defines the Lower Blue River Valley. Williams Peak and Williams Mountain are major peaks along this ridgeline and offer outstanding views of the Gore Range. This area receives light use throughout the winter and summer months and heavy use during the fall hunting season. Recreation activities in the area include hunting, hiking, camping, and horseback riding. During the winter, the NFSR 2950 (Williams Peak Road) has a limited amount of snowmobile use. Traditionally motorized activity has occurred in the area and a number of user-created routes have developed. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). No known cultural or archeological sites have been identified with this area, though the potential exists, especially due to the high vistas and traditional hunting the area provided.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The area is part of the Blue Ridge and Big Hole active cattle allotments. The usual range improvements are found within these allotments, including fences and stock ponds. Throughout the area is a network of roads, trails, fence lines, and water diversions that historically supported local ranches. A communications site on Williams Peak has motorized road access. A communications site on Williams Peak has single-purpose motorized road access during the summer, and either snowcat or snowmobile access during the winter. There is no current mineral or energy development, however there is potential (though low) for hard rock minerals. The eastern flank of this area contains a small amount of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. There has been no timber harvesting in this area because of difficult access and the small volume of merchantable timber. At higher elevations there are a few stands of bristlecone pine. The mountain pine beetle has hit epidemic proportions in the area and has killed or has the potential to kill lots of the lodgepole pine in this CRA. Most of the area is within the suitable timber base but with limited pockets of Allowable Sale Quantity mostly on the northern edge. The CRA is in management area prescriptions 5.43 (elk habitat), 8.21 (recreation complexes), and 8.32 (utilities).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6,700 | 6,600 | Updated GIS information. |

Willow, #32 (1,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located northwest of the Town of Silverthorne in Summit County, Colorado on the Dillon Ranger District. Public access to the area is extremely limited. There are no National Forest System Roads that access Willow Creek. The NFST 60 (Gore Range Trail) runs from west to east along the southern boundary of this CRA. The CRA is adjacent to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,473 to 10,090 feet. The dominant vegetation of the area is lodgepole pine with subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce at higher elevations. At the lower elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands. There are riparian corridors that provide habitat for those species that thrive on riparian features.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: marten, Northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. This CRA provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (overall and winter range, production, summer concentration), moose (overall range), mountain lion (overall range), mule deer (overall range, migration area), blue grouse, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fox, long-tailed weasel, porcupine, skunk, snowshoe hare, various species of hawks and owls. The primary recreational uses for this area are cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. This CRA is adjacent to a Mandatory Class I airshed as designated by Congress and listed in the Clean Air Act. It is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This unit is located within the Boulder and Maryland Creek vacant cattle allotments. Eagles Nest Equestrian Center provides guided horseback riding during the summer and hunting trips in the fall. The CRA contains suitable timber lands that qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity. This CRA is within management area prescription 5.43 (elk habitat).

4. Alternative Designations

| 2001 Inventory Acres | Colorado Roadless Area Acres | Reasons for the Change |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1,200 | 1,200 | No change. |

Woods Lake, #52 (9,500 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located south of Eagle and northeast of Meredith and Thomasville in Eagle and Pitkin counties. It is adjacent to Holy Cross Wilderness and administered by the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. The west boundary is formed by NFSR 506, NFSR 400 and logging roads in the Hat Creek area. NFSR 501 defines the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is the Holy Cross Wilderness. NFSR 646 in the Fulford Cave area makes up the northern boundary. Numerous cherry stems were created for mining access. These roads (NFSR 426, 418, and 646) access 30 to 40 patented mining claims near New York Mountain. NFST 1898, 2221, 1899, 1873, 1917, 1945, and 1915 access Holy Cross Wilderness through the unit. NFST 1928 is a system trail that is outside Holy Cross Wilderness.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 8,800 feet to 12,050 feet (Mount Charles). The area falls within the Sawatch ecological subsection of the Forest’s landscape character descriptions. The unit features karst topography. The terrain is generally rolling with some steep sections. The main creeks are Last Chance and Upper Lime. The vegetation is lodgepole in the mid-range, spruce/fir, aspen, and meadows in the upper sections, and willows in the riparian areas. Scree, tundra, and snowfields exist above treeline.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential foraging habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA also provides potential habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: wolverine, marten, Townsend’s big-eared bat, pygmy shrew, Northern goshawk, boreal owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and American 3-toed woodpecker. Colorado River cutthroat trout occurs in Hat Creek. This CRA also provides habitat for black bear (overall range), elk (summer, winter, and transitional range), Merriam’s turkey (overall range), mule deer (summer and transitional range), and peregrine falcon (historical nest site). Fulford Cave, a significant cave resource, is located on the western boundary. New York Mountain, Charles Peak, Craig Peak, and Burnt Mountain are major peaks that are on the eastern boundary of this unit. Old logging camps are found above Elk Wallow Campground. An old stamp mill is on the ridge between Lime Creek and Little Lime Creek, and several historic sawmill sites (one near Tellurium Trail) are scattered throughout the area. Uses include hiking, mountain climbing, hunting, mountain biking, hut use, snowmobiling, fishing, and horseback riding. Outfitter-guides provide summer and winter uses and hunting services. Winter and summer use in the northern section of this unit has greatly increased since the Polar Star and Estin Huts (10th Mountain Huts) were constructed. These year-round destinations are on private property. The Harry Gates Hut is located on National Forest System land adjacent to the unit and is also a focal point for winter and summer uses. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The unit is part of the Lime Creek Park cattle allotment with associated range improvements. The northern section is part of the East Brush Creek active cattle allotment with usual improvements, including stock ponds, salt, and fences. The CRA includes large areas of private property in holdings near Woods Lake. Commercial-building rock is collected under a mineral material sale permit along NFST 1917. There is moderate hard rock potential in most of the area. The patented mining claims in the New York Mountain area have a high potential for development. There are suitable timber lands within the CRA some in the very northern and southern portions qualify for Allowable Sale Quantity. This CRA is within management area prescriptions 1.2 (recommended wilderness), 4.3 (dispersed recreation), 5.4 (forested fauna and flora habitats), 5.5 (forested landscape linkages), and 8.32 (utilities).

4. Alternative Designations

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

INTENTIONALLY

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