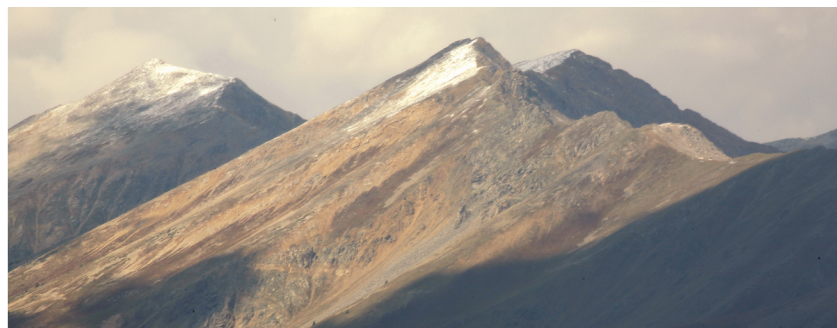


# PROFILES OF RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS AREAS

Prepared by the  
USDA Forest Service,  
Rocky Mountain Region

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# 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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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 whortlebeny 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 is 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

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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**

<b>2001 Inventory Acres</b>	<b>Colorado Roadless Area Acres</b>	<b>Reasons for the Change</b>
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.

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