



Forest
Service

Ashley National Forest

Supervisor's Office
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, UT 84078

File Code: 1920
Route To: 1920; 1950

Date: February 2023

1986 Ashley Forest Plan Administrative Change –
Subject: Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area Management Plan
To: Ashley National Forest Staff

This letter is to notify you that I have approved an administrative change to our existing 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). I am issuing this administrative change in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs).

The administrative change is needed for plan conformance to statutory requirements. The 2019 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9, also known as the Dingell Act) created the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area (NRGA) on the Vernal Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest. The Dingell Act mandated preparation of an NRGAs management plan. This administrative change incorporates the Ashley Karst NRGAs Management Plan into our Forest Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this administrative change, please contact Lesley Tullis, Environmental Coordinator (lesley.tullis@usda.gov; 435-781-5103) or Don Jaques, Recreation Program Manager (donald.jaques@usda.gov; 435-781-5119).

SUSAN R. EICKHOFF
Forest Supervisor

Attachment:
Administrative Change 2 to the 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan



ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE 2

1986 ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area Management Plan

This is an administrative change to our existing 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to comply with statutory requirements regarding the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area (NRGA). The 2019 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9, also known as the Dingell Act) created the NRGAs on the Vernal Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest. The Dingell Act mandated preparation of an NRGAs management plan. This administrative change incorporates the Ashley Karst NRGAs Management Plan into our Forest Plan. I am completing this administrative change in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs).

An administrative change, as defined at [36 CFR 219.13\(c\)](#) (2012 Planning Rule), is defined as any change to a plan that is not a plan amendment or plan revision. Administrative changes include the following:

- corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan;
- conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements; or
- changes to other content in the plan (§ 219.7[f]).

This administrative change falls under the “conformance to new statutory or regulatory requirements” category. All categories of administrative changes may be made at any time and, as long as they do not include proposed actions beyond the scope of the above categories, do not require the preparation of an environmental document under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures.

This administrative change may be made following public notice ([§ 219.13\(c\)\[2\]](#)). The public notice may occur in any way the responsible official deems appropriate ([§ 219.16\(c\)\[6\]](#)), but at a minimum must be posted online (§ 219.16[c], first paragraph). This public notification requirement for an administrative change was more than covered in our extensive public and interested party involvement in the NRGAs management plan. We developed the plan in accordance with direction in Section 1117 of the Dingell Act, including incorporating consultation and coordination with Uintah County, the State of Utah, and affected Indian Tribes, and providing for public input in the preparation of the plan. We provided a plan webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ashley/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd1033852>), a public meeting in December 2020, ongoing collaboration with interested parties, and circulation of the draft plan for comment in the summer of 2022. We also included the Ashley Karst NRGAs Management Plan in our quarterly project planning newsletters and in our quarterly schedule of proposed action (SOPA) reports from January 2021 to April 2022 as a potential environmental assessment (EA). In July 2022, we informed the public that because of a lack of site-specific proposed actions, there was no longer a need to complete an EA and we would instead be incorporating it as an administrative change to our Forest Plan.

Forest Plan Administrative Change

I am issuing the final February 2023 Ashley Karst NRG Management Plan as an administrative change to our Forest Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this administrative change, please contact Lesley Tullis, Environmental Coordinator (lesley.tullis@usda.gov; 435-781-5103) or Don Jaques, Recreation Program Manager (donald.jaques@usda.gov; 435-781-5119).

SUSAN R. EICKHOFF
Forest Supervisor

Attachment: 2/14/2023 Ashley Karst NRG Management Plan

Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area Management Plan



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Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Management Area Management Plan

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Chapter 1 – Introduction

Purpose of Management Plan

On March 12, 2019, the Congress of the United States approved Public Law 116-9, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (the Act). Section 1117 of the Act created the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area (NRGA) (Appendix A). The Act set aside an estimated approximate 173,475 acres within the Ashley National Forest, which after the legal description was completed, the official size of the NRGA (adjusting for ground elevation) was determined at 173,699 acres (see Figure 1). Section 1117 of the Act was created to protect the natural and cultural resources within the NRGA, with an emphasis on protecting and conserving the watershed and geologic resources that exist within the area. The Act directs that certain uses continue, including Tribal rights to utilize the lands in traditional manners. The Act also acknowledges the continuation of valid existing rights and uses, such as water infrastructure and utilities, and that the administration of these activities continues, but in a manner consistent with the purpose of the designation.

The Act declares that federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the NRGA are withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral leasing, with the exception of valid existing mining rights.

To the extent allowed by applicable law, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior shall manage valid Federal mineral rights existing within the NRGA as of the date of the establishment of the Act, and in a manner consistent with the proper care and management of those resources protected by the Act. The USDA Forest Service will respect the valid existing rights associated with mineral and energy resources within the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area.

The Act mandated the preparation of a management plan and that a winter use management plan be initiated after the establishment of the Ashley Karst NRGA. The Act further mandated the management framework is to be developed in a collaborative manner with Uintah County, affected Tribes, and public input.

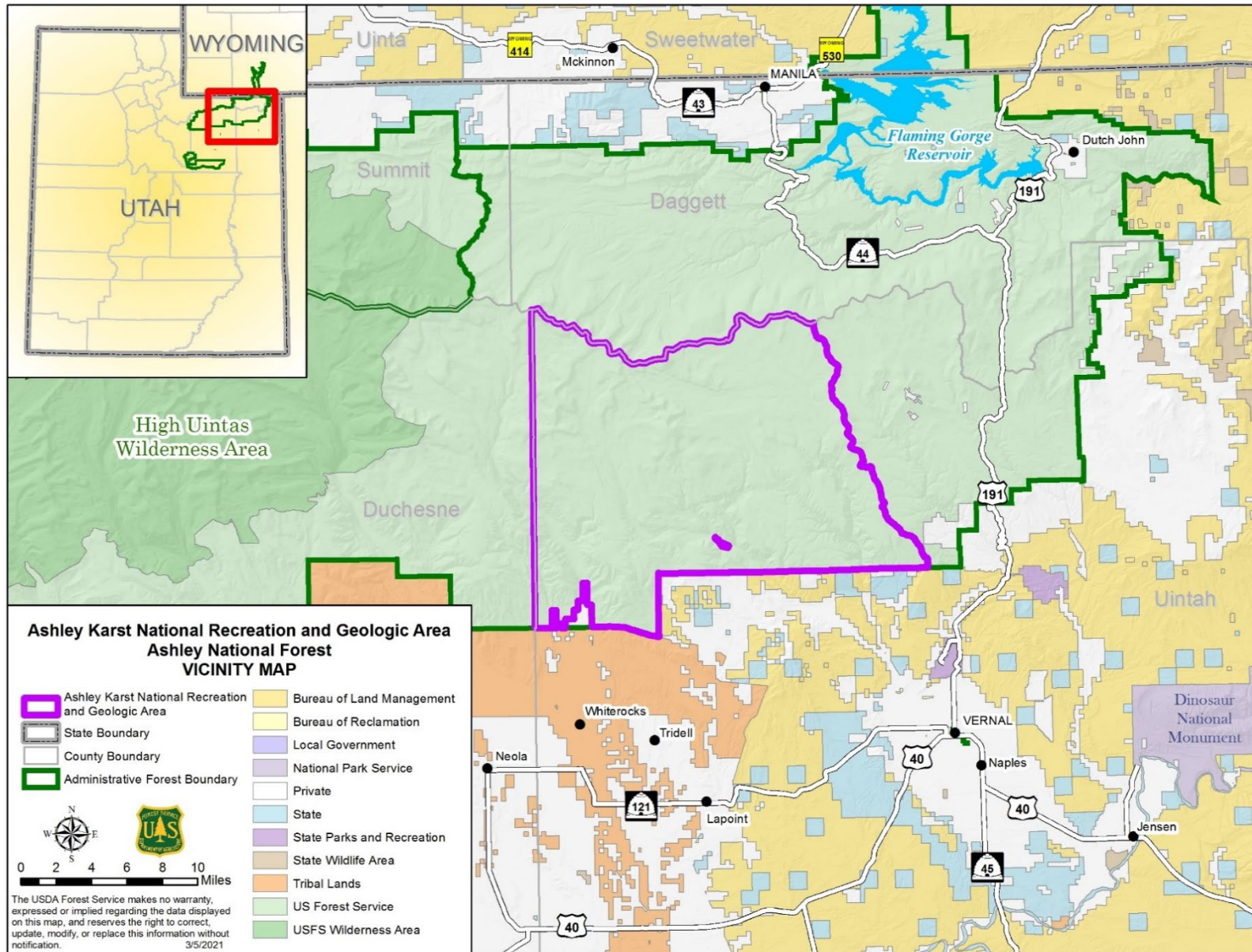
The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide broad strategic direction and guidance for future management of the NRGA. It provides a basis for informed decision making, while guiding resource management, practices, uses, and framework for project development. The Management Plan does not include specific projects and activity decisions. The Management Plan is adaptive in that it can be amended to update management direction based on new knowledge and information.

This first chapter provides the introductory information, while Chapter 2 provides the management direction for the Ashley Karst NRGA.

Background and History

The Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area (NRGA) is an area located within the Ashley National Forest (Ashley NF) that offers a variety of recreation opportunities for all seasons, including both motorized and non-motorized use. Recreation opportunities include primarily dispersed activities, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and dispersed camping. Developed campgrounds and recreation rental facilities are also available. In addition, the area is known for its historic multiple use, providing critical products and infrastructure for the surrounding area, such as water storage and delivery, timber harvest, grazing, wildlife habitat, and other benefits. The recreation opportunities and other uses contribute to the economic success of nearby communities.

Figure 1 – Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area Vicinity Map.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area Management Plan

A unique attribute of the NRGAs is its geologic formations and karst features. The karst features capture surface water and transport it through a series of underground cave systems to springs in the valley below, where it is used for drinking water and irrigation. "Ashley Karst" is the nickname for a large, well-developed karst groundwater system within the Ashley Creek drainage. The karst captures water from various branches of Ashley Creek and transports the water to Ashley Springs. The springs are a primary municipal water source for the Vernal area in Uintah County, Utah.

In 2012, the sale of mineral leases for phosphate mining on State of Utah lands near Ashley Springs created a greater awareness of the karst system and its water delivery. Residents expressed concern over whether extraction of the phosphate could cause harm to the karst system and impact their water supply. The importance of the Ashley Karst as a source for water in Uintah County led the county to engage in water study projects and create a water protection zone entitled the Ashley Springs Protection Zone.

Additional efforts to protect the Ashley Karst system were examined and local and state leaders petitioned Congress for a designation to protect the karst systems and water supply. As stated by Uintah County officials, "Uintah County has taken several steps over the past few years to ensure that our water system is not compromised by unhealthy land-use practices. . . . Uintah County is served by a sensitive watershed on the south slopes of the Uintas, and this watershed must be protected. The NRGAs were designed to protect our precious headwaters and it encourages safe recreation practices in our beautiful, forested mountains."¹

An initial proposal for an Ashley Karst National Geologic and Recreation Area, as well as designation of Ashley Spring and Dry Fork watersheds as special management areas, was introduced to congress in 2016 by Representative Rob Bishop. The designations were part of H.R. 5780, the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act. However, the legislation did not move forward.

Certain concepts introduced in H.R. 5780 were modified and later included as Section 1117 in the John S. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which became public law. Additionally, Section 1123 of the Act provided conveyance of 791 acres from the Bureau of Land Management to Uintah County to be managed as open space to protect the watershed, karst system, and aquifer.

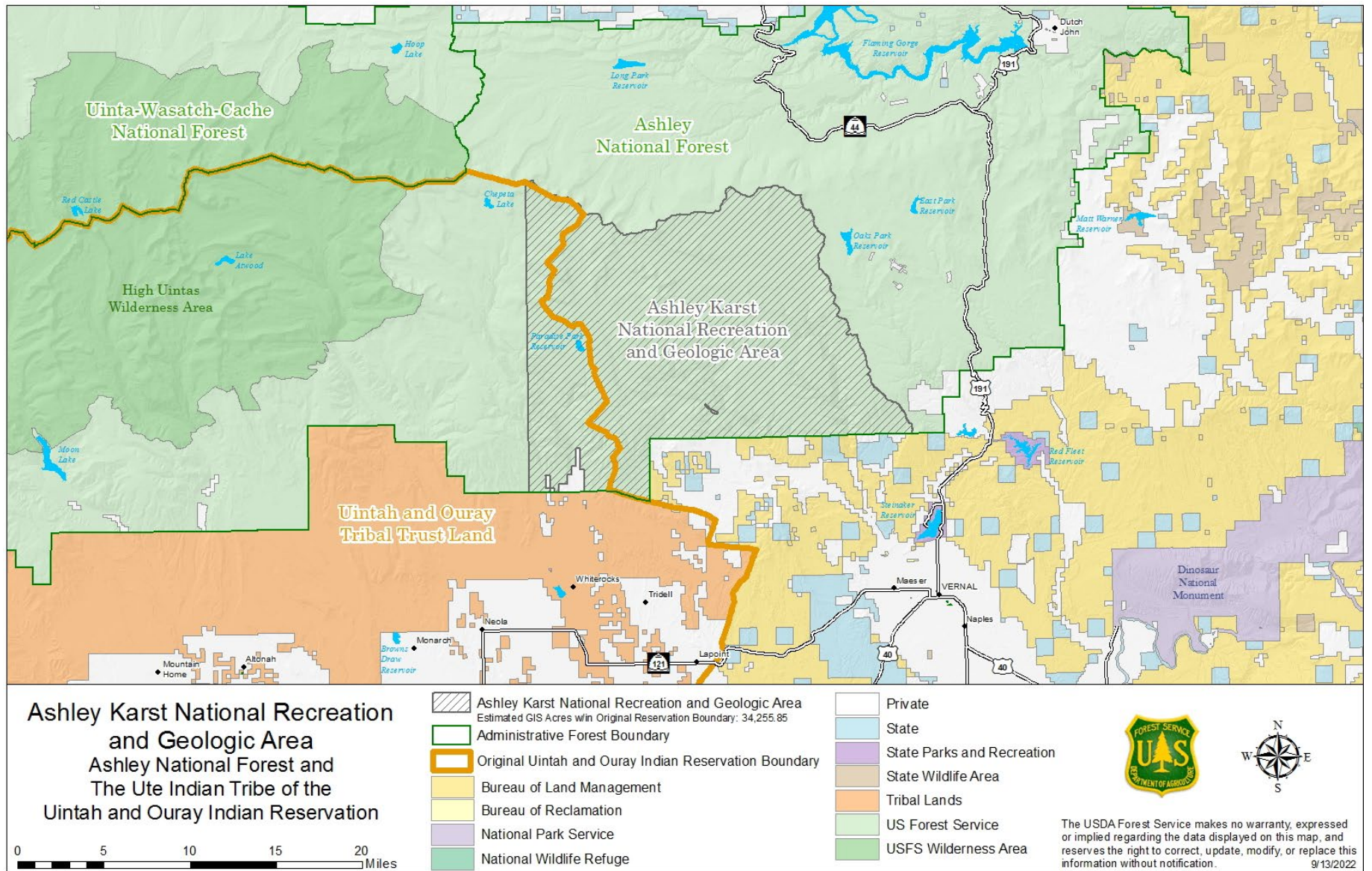
Scope and Applicability of the Ashley Karst NRGAs Management Plan

The Management Plan applies to all National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the Ashley Karst NRGAs. The Ashley Karst NRGAs is northwest of Vernal, Utah, along the southern slopes of the Uinta Mountains. It is 173,699 acres in size and within Uintah County. It begins at the western county line, extending east to roughly the divide of the Ashley Creek drainage, then follows the Taylor Mountain Road to the southern boundary of the National Forest (see Figure 2). Approximately 34,170 acres or about 20 percent of the NRGAs is also located within the original Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation Boundary. That boundary is illustrated on Figure 2.

Future projects will be proposed, likely in partnership with organizational stakeholders, to fulfill the vision and make progress toward the management approaches, desired conditions, goals, and objectives of the Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and this Management Plan for the Ashley Karst NRGAs. Whenever a specific project or activity is proposed, additional public involvement will occur, site-specific effects will be analyzed, and separate decisions will be made within the framework of this Management Plan. This

¹ Quote from Uintah County officials.

Figure 2 –Original Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation Treaty Boundary.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2022

Management Plan does not reiterate other existing laws, regulations, and policies that provide protection for Ashley Karst NRGAs resources identified within the Act, such as heritage resources, federally listed species (threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate) or Regional Forester sensitive species and species of conservation concern.

Management Plan Organization

The Management Plan comprises management direction to provide the principal strategies and program priorities the Ashley National Forest intends to use to carry out projects and activities under this Management Plan. The management direction, derived entirely from the required provisions of the Act, are presented in Chapter 2. There are four appendices that follow Chapter 2. These include the exact transcribed language of the Act, current and existing resource information and inventory, Congressional Grazing Guidelines, and a legal description of the NRGAs.

The Management Plan is and will continue to be consistent with the Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended, or any future approved revised Forest Plan.

Chapter 2 – Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area Management Plan

Introduction

The Act requires a management plan be written for the Ashley Karst NRGAs and directs the NRGAs to be managed “...to conserve and protect the watershed, geological, recreational, wildlife, scenic, natural, cultural, and historic resources...”. The Act also requires that uses within the Ashley Karst NRGAs are such that they:

- further the purposes for which the NRGAs were established; and
- promote the long-term protection and management of the watershed and underground karst system of the NRGAs.

The current baseline information for the watershed, geological, recreational, wildlife, scenic, natural, cultural, and historic resources and scenic features, scientific features, diverse wildlife and aquatic species, vegetative communities, and infrastructure of the NRGAs are presented in Appendix B.

The direction contained in the 1986 Ashley Forest Plan will continue to apply within the Ashley Karst NRGAs, unless specifically changed in this Management Plan, or until a revised Forest Plan is adopted. The Management Direction described below represents the contents of the Act. There are no additional constraints to management direction beyond what is contained within the Act.

Management Direction

Management direction for the Ashley Karst NRGAs is presented by topic and in the order that they are contained within the Act.

Uses of the NRGAs

The Forest Service shall only allow such uses of the Recreation Area that would:

1. Conserve and protect the watershed, geological, recreational, wildlife, scenic, natural, cultural, and historic resources in the NRGAs.
2. Promote the long-term protection and management of the watershed and underground karst system in the NRGAs.

Motorized Vehicles

Except as needed for emergency response or administrative purposes, the use of motorized vehicles in the NRGAs shall be permitted only on roads and motorized routes designated in this Management Plan for the use of motorized vehicles.

The Ashley National Forest Motorized Travel Management Plan (Travel Plan) provides designation of roads and motorized routes across the National Forest, including the area within the NRGAs. As such, the Travel Plan, and any subsequent revisions or amendment shall be considered the source of motorized routes designated in this Management Plan. Except for specific additional direction provided by the Act, noted below, the Travel Plan will continue to provide direction for motorized vehicle use within the NRGAs.

The Travel Plan identifies roads and trails that are open for motorized public use, as well as some roads designated for administrative use. Administrative roads allow authorized vehicles to use otherwise closed roads and/or areas to carry out Forest management activities. They include, but are not limited to, access for prescribed burning, fish

and wildlife habitat improvement, maintenance or improvement of infrastructure and water development, and vegetation management to maintain forest resiliency and mitigate wildland fire effects. They also include use by permittees as authorized by permit to conduct authorized activities. The administrative roads identified in Figure 3 are not the only administrative roads available for use to Forest Service and authorized personnel. For example, the travel management planning process included identification of existing routes that may have been previously designated as National Forest System roads or as administrative use but may not have been included in the motor vehicle use map.

Routes that are not shown in Figure 3, that were previously identified through the Ashley Motorized Travel Management Plan (Travel Plan) process and/or evidenced by maps, documents, and other materials completed prior to the Act can be considered as existing at the time of the Act. This includes maps, photos, and other documentation provided by Uintah County and other verifiable sources and is not solely limited to Forest Service records. These are not considered “new roads or trails” and may be examined for utilization as emergency response (such as search and rescue), administrative purposes, or potential revisions to the Travel Plan. Such use will be in accordance with travel management planning and the Dingell Act legislation.

There are currently about 190 miles of designated roads and approximately 16.5 miles of designated motorized trails in the Ashley Karst NRG (see Figure 3). The miles of designated roads and motorized trails are presented in Table B1 in Appendix B.

Activities authorized under this subsection shall be consistent with the Ashley Forest Plan, Motorized Travel Management Plan, and any law, regulation, and policy applicable to the Ashley National Forest. The Forest Service recognizes that changes to types of current motorized use may be desired or needed. Changes to types of use, such as motorized vehicle width requirements, may occur within travel management planning and are subject to the requirements set forth in the Act and other Forest Service policy and regulations.

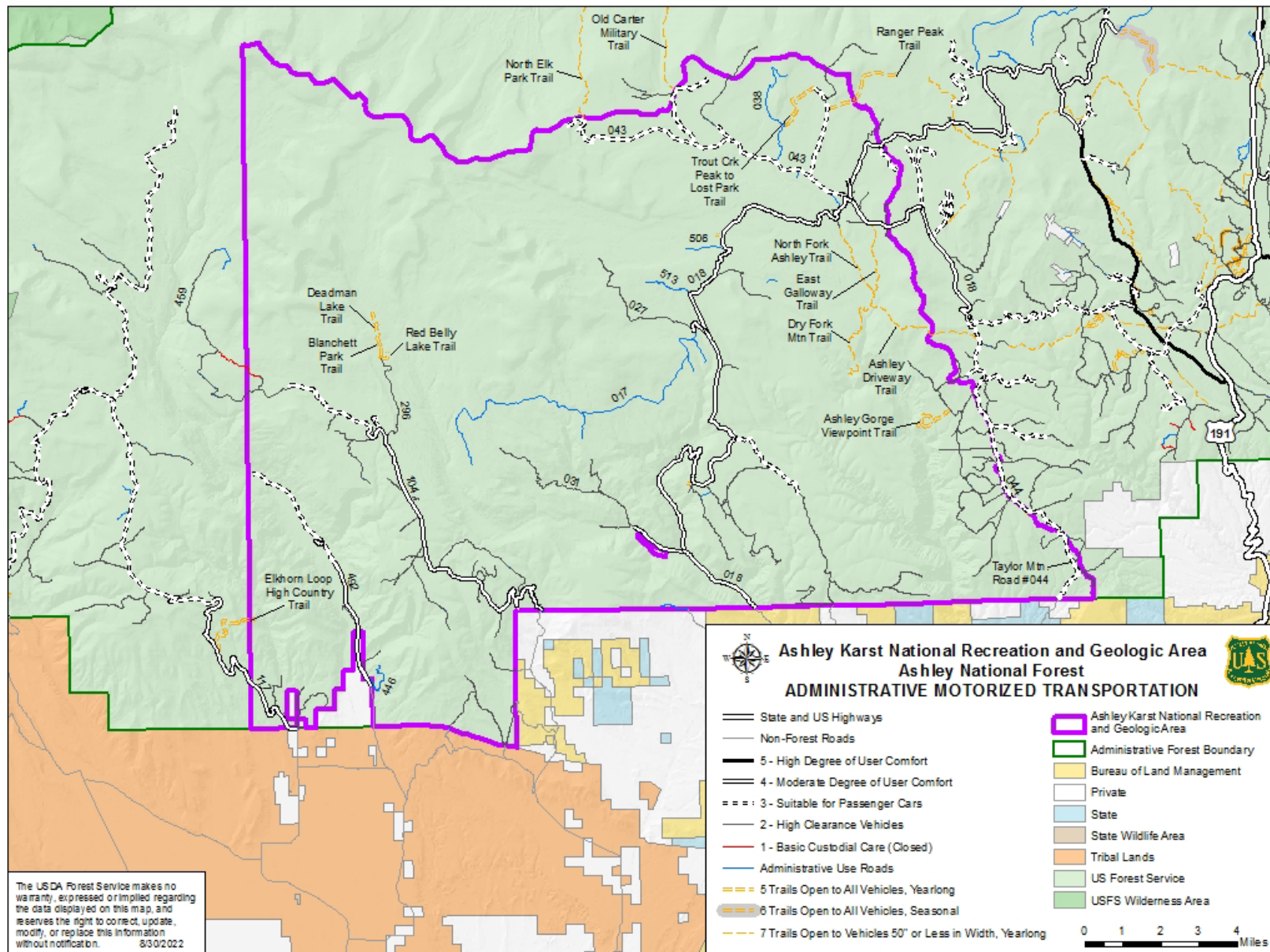
Roads

- New Roads – There shall be no new permanent or temporary roads or other motorized vehicle routes constructed within the NRG.
- Existing Roads and Trails
 - The Ashley National Forest may conduct necessary maintenance or repairs to existing roads designated in the Management Plan for the use of motorized vehicles, including necessary repairs to keep existing roads free of debris or other safety hazards, and consistent with the requirements of the Act.
 - Existing roads or trails may be rerouted to protect the NRG resources from degradation, or to protect public safety, as determined to be appropriate.
 - Existing roads, trails, and motorized access routes that exist on the ground for administrative use are available for authorized administrative purposes.

Over the Snow Vehicles

- There is nothing in this section that prohibits the use of snowmobiles and other over the snow vehicles within the NRG.
- The Ashley NF shall undertake a winter recreation use planning process. That process shall identify opportunities for use by snowmobiles or other over snow vehicles in appropriate areas of the NRG and will result in the preparation of a Winter Recreation Use Plan for the Ashley Karst NRG.

Figure 3 – Designated Roads and Motorized Trails Within the Ashley Karst NRG.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Water Infrastructure

- Existing Access - The designation of the NRGAs shall not affect the ability of authorized users to access, operate, and maintain water infrastructure facilities within the NRGAs in accordance with applicable authorizations and permits.
- Cooperative Agreements - The Ashley NF shall offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with authorized users and local governmental entities to provide, in accordance with any applicable law (including regulations):
 - access, including motorized access, for repair and maintenance to water infrastructure facilities within the NRGAs, including Whiterocks Reservoir, subject to such terms and conditions as are necessary; and
 - access and maintenance by authorized users and local governmental entities for the continued delivery of water to the Ashley Valley if water flows cease or become diminished due to impairment of the karst system, subject to such terms and conditions as the Ashley NF determines are needed.

Grazing

Livestock grazing, where established (open, vacant, and closed allotments) before the date of enactment of the Act, shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Ashley NF considers necessary and in accordance with:

- applicable law (including regulation and policy);
- the purposes of the NRGAs; and
- the guidelines set forth in the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96-617).
 - These guidelines are also commonly known as the congressional grazing guidelines and were developed to ensure that grazing was not eliminated as an acceptable use in a designated wilderness, solely for the sake of the area being considered wilderness. While there is no designated wilderness within the Ashley Karst NRGAs, reference to these guidelines was included in the Act to ensure that the creation of the NRGAs will not curtail grazing due to the establishment of the NRGAs. As such, the guidelines apply in the same manner to designation of the NRGAs as outlined regarding wilderness designation. The congressional grazing guidelines are presented in Appendix C.

Access, including motorized access, for construction, repair, and maintenance to range infrastructure facilities within the NRGAs, subject to terms and conditions of the permit and other policies or guidelines, will continue. There are a total of 12 allotments: three are closed, one is vacant, and eight are actively grazed. For more detailed information on each allotment, refer to Appendix B, Table B4, and Figure B1.

Fish and Wildlife

Nothing in this Management Plan affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State.

Wildlife Water Projects

The Ashley NF, in consultation with the State, may authorize wildlife water projects (including guzzlers) within the NRGAs.

Water Rights

This Management Plan does not affect existing water rights. There is nothing in this Management Plan that:

- constitutes an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the NRGAs;
- affects any water rights in the State;
- affects the use or allocation, in existence on the date of enactment of the Act, of any water, water right, or interest in water;
- affects any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on the date of enactment of the Act, including any water right held by the United States;
- affects any interstate water compact in existence on the date of enactment of the Act; or
- shall be considered to be a relinquishment or reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of enactment of the Act.

Land Withdrawals

Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the NRGAs is withdrawn from the following:

- all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;
- location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

Figure 4 illustrates the existing land use withdrawals as of the date of the Act.

Vegetation Management

The Ashley NF may conduct vegetation management projects, including fuels reduction activities, within the NRGAs for the purposes of improving water quality and reducing risks from wildfire.

Wildland Fire Operations

The Ashley NF, in consultation with other Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as appropriate, may conduct wildland fire treatment operations or restoration operations in the NRGAs, consistent with the purposes of the Act.

Recreation Fees

Except for fees for improved campgrounds, the Ashley NF shall not collect recreation entrance or recreation use fees within the NRGAs. Recreation rentals, such as yurts and guard stations, are considered improved campground sites.

Communication Infrastructure

Use of, and access to, communication infrastructure (including necessary upgrades) within the NRGAs may continue, in accordance with applicable authorizations and permits.

Non-Federal Land

- In General - This Management Plan does not apply to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land within the NRGAs.
- Access - The Ashley NF shall provide reasonable access to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land within the NRGAs. There are currently two private inholdings within the Ashley NRGAs (see Figure 1 above).

Outfitting and Guide Activities

Outfitting and guide services within the NRGAs, including commercial outfitting and guide services, are authorized in accordance with the Act and other applicable law (including regulation and policy).

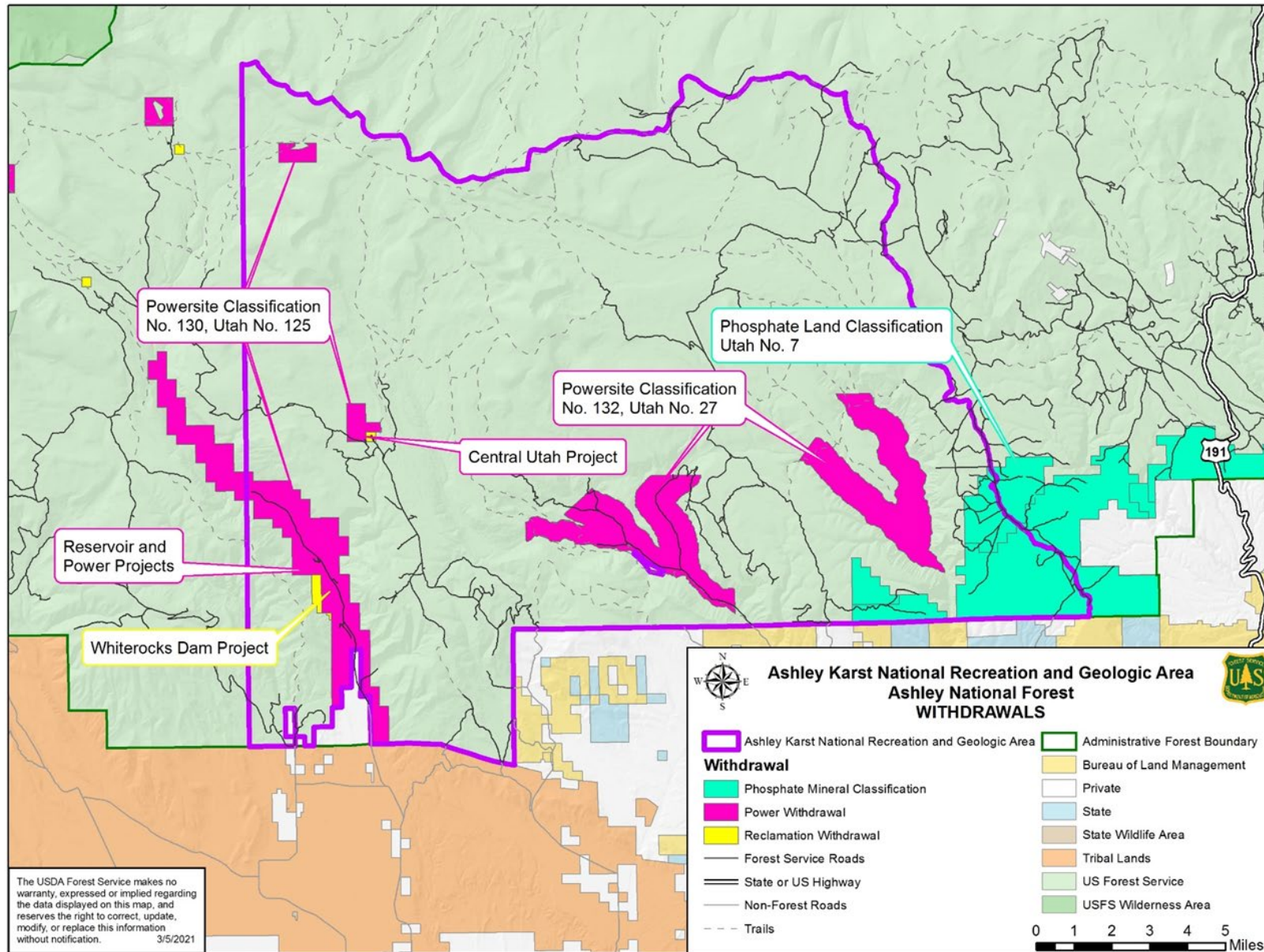
Future Projects Within the Ashley Karst NRGAs

Future projects and activities will be developed and analyzed separately, following all law, regulation, and policy, including the National Environmental Policy Act, which is inclusive of notification and solicitation of Tribal and public comments on individual projects.

Official Legal Description

As required by the Act, the Forest Service has prepared an official legal description to fully describe the location of the Ashley Karst NRGAs (see Appendix D).

Figure 4 – Existing Land Use Withdrawals in the Ashley Karst NRG.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Appendix A

PUBLIC LAW 116-9 – MAR. 12, 2019

Section 1117 – Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area

The following is a transcription of Section 1117 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act outlining the designation of the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area.

John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, And Recreation Act - SEC. 1117. ASHLEY KARST NATIONAL RECREATION AND GEOLOGIC AREA.

DEFINITIONS. -- In this section:

- (1) **Management Plan.** - The term “Management Plan” means the management plan for the Recreation Area prepared under subsection (e)(2)(A).
- (2) **Map.** - The term “Map” means the map entitled “Northern Utah Lands Management Act-Overview” and dated February 4, 2019.
- (3) **Recreation Area.** - The term “Recreation Area” means the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area established by subsection (b)(1).
- (4) **Secretary.** - The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.
- (5) **State.** - The term “State” means the State of Utah.

ESTABLISHMENT. -

- (1) **In General.** - Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area in the State.
- (2) **Area Included.** - The Recreation Area shall consist of approximately 173,475 acres of land in the Ashley National Forest, as generally depicted on the Map.

PURPOSES. - The purposes of the Recreation Area are to conserve and protect the watershed, geological, recreational, wildlife, scenic, natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Recreation Area.

MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION. -

- (1) **In General.** - As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a map and legal description of the Recreation Area.
- (2) **Effect.** - The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description.
- (3) **Availability.** - A copy of the map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

ADMINISTRATION. -

- (1) **In General.** - The Secretary shall administer the Recreation Area in accordance with-

- (A) the laws generally applicable to the National Forest System, including the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);
- (B) this section; and
- (C) any other applicable law.

(2) Management plan. -

- (A) **In General.** - Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the Recreation Area.
- (B) **Consultation.** - The Secretary shall -
 - (i) prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with Uintah County, Utah, and affected Indian Tribes; and
 - (ii) provide for public input in the preparation of the management plan.

USES. - The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Recreation Area that would--

- (1) further the purposes for which the Recreation Area is established; and
- (2) promote the long-term protection and management of the watershed and underground karst system of the Recreation Area.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES. -

- (1) **In General.** - Except as needed for emergency response or administrative purposes, the use of motorized vehicles in the Recreation Area shall be permitted only on roads and motorized routes designated in the Management Plan for the use of motorized vehicles.
- (2) **New Roads.** - No new permanent or temporary roads or other motorized vehicle routes shall be constructed within the Recreation Area after the date of enactment of this Act.
- (3) **Existing Roads.** -
 - (A) **In General.** - Necessary maintenance or repairs to existing roads designated in the Management Plan for the use of motorized vehicles, including necessary repairs to keep existing roads free of debris or other safety hazards, shall be permitted after the date of enactment of this Act, consistent with the requirements of this section.
 - (B) **Rerouting.** - Nothing in this subsection prevents the Secretary from rerouting an existing road or trail to protect Recreation Area resources from degradation, or to protect public safety, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.
- (4) **Over The Snow Vehicles.** -
 - (A) **In General.** - Nothing in this section prohibits the use of snowmobiles and other over snow vehicles within the Recreation Area.
 - (B) **Winter Recreation Use Plan.** - Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall undertake a winter recreation use planning process, which shall include opportunities for use by snowmobiles or other over snow vehicles in appropriate areas of the Recreation Area.

- (5) **Applicable Law.** - Activities authorized under this subsection shall be consistent with the applicable forest plan and travel management plan for, and any law (including regulations) applicable to, the Ashley National Forest.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE. -

- (1) **Existing Access.** - The designation of the Recreation Area shall not affect the ability of authorized users to access, operate, and maintain water infrastructure facilities within the Recreation Area in accordance with applicable authorizations and permits.
- (2) **Cooperative Agreements.** -
- (A) **In General.** - The Secretary shall offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with authorized users and local governmental entities to provide, in accordance with any applicable law (including regulations) -
- (i) access, including motorized access, for repair and maintenance to water infrastructure facilities within the Recreation Area, including Whiterocks Reservoir, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary; and
 - (ii) access and maintenance by authorized users and local governmental entities for the continued delivery of water to the Ashley Valley if water flows cease or become diminished due to impairment of the karst system, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

GRAZING. - The grazing of livestock in the Recreation Area, where established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers to be necessary in accordance with -

- (1) applicable law (including regulations);
- (2) the purposes of the Recreation Area; and
- (3) the guidelines set forth in the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96-617).

FISH AND WILDLIFE. - Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State.

WILDLIFE WATER PROJECTS. - The Secretary, in consultation with the State, may authorize wildlife water projects (including guzzlers) within the Recreation Area.

WATER RIGHTS. - Nothing in this section--

- (1) constitutes an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the Recreation Area;
- (2) affects any water rights in the State;
- (3) affects the use or allocation, in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, of any water, water right, or interest in water;
- (4) affects any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water right held by the United States;

- (5) affects any interstate water compact in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or
- (6) shall be considered to be a relinquishment or reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

WITHDRAWAL. - Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the Recreation Area is withdrawn from -

- (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT. - Nothing in this section prevents the Secretary from conducting vegetation management projects, including fuels reduction activities, within the Recreation Area for the purposes of improving water quality and reducing risks from wildfire.

WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS. - Nothing in this section prohibits the Secretary, in consultation with other Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as appropriate, from conducting wildland fire treatment operations or restoration operations in the Recreation Area, consistent with the purposes of this section.

RECREATION FEES. - Except for fees for improved campgrounds, the Secretary is prohibited from collecting recreation entrance or recreation use fees within the Recreation Area.

COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE. - Nothing in this section affects the continued use of, and access to, communication infrastructure (including necessary upgrades) within the Recreation Area, in accordance with applicable authorizations and permits.

NON-FEDERAL LAND. -

- (1) **In General.** - Nothing in this section affects non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land within the Recreation Area.
- (2) **Access.** -The Secretary shall provide reasonable access to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land within the Recreation Area.

OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES. - Outfitting and guide services within the Recreation Area, including commercial outfitting and guide services, are authorized in accordance with this section and other applicable law (including regulations).

Appendix B – Resource Inventory

The Ashley Karst NRGAs contains a diversity of natural resources, historic and cultural sites, facilities, infrastructure, and several livestock allotments. A brief description and inventory as of the date of the Act of those resources are presented below.

Designated Motorized Roads and Trails

The NRGAs currently has five designated road classifications and approximately 190 miles of open roads for motorized use as outlined in the Travel Plan. There are also several motorized trails allowing for additional access, with a combined total of approximately 16.5 miles. These are presented in Table B1 below. Table B2 presents the information for designated roads within the Ashley Karst to include common road name, Forest Service System Road number, road classification, and miles, while Table B3 presents the information for motorized trails to include the trail name, the Forest Service System Trail number, the trail classification, and the miles of each trail.

Table B1 – Classes and Miles of Designated Roads and Motorized Trails Within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Designated Road Classes	Miles
Class 1 – Basic Custodial Care (Closed except for administrative use)	0.46
Class 2 – High Clearance Vehicles	97.09
Class 3 – Suitable for Passenger Cars	28.16
Class 4 – Moderate Degree of User Comfort	41.59
Administrative Roads	22.41
County Road	0.77
Total	190.48
Motorized Trail Classes	
4WD > 50 inch, Yearlong	0.11
Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	6.39
Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	9.98
Total	16.48

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Table B2 – Designated Road Names and Road Numbers, Classification, and Miles.

Forest Service Road Name	Forest Service Road Number	Road Classification	Miles
Johnson Creek	10459	1 - Basic Custodial Care (Closed)	0.46
3 Trough Spring	10236	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.85
Ashley Twin Lake Loop Dispersed A	10769	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.16
Ashley-Twin Lakes Loop	10027	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	4.14
Big Buck Sale	10525	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.64
Big Park - High Line	10059	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.86

Forest Service Road Name	Forest Service Road Number	Road Classification	Miles
Bill's Park	10448	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.13
Bills Park Complex B	10449B	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.25
Bills Park Complex C	10449C	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.12
Bills Park Complex D	10449D	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.27
Bills Park Complex E	10449E	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.56
Blanchett Park	10296	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.94
Bull Pasture Road	10402	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.30
Burton Seep	10443	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.30
Center Creek	10037	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.19
Charley's Connect	10762	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.54
Charley's Park	10234	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	3.67
Charley's Park Cutoff	10509	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.08
Charley's Park Dispersed A	10760	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.30
Charley's Park Dispersed B	10761	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.19
Charley's Park Dispersed C	10766	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.16
Charley's Park Cutoff Dispersed A	10765	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.18
Charley's Park Cutoff Dispersed B	10764	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.08
Corral	10451	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.16
Dry Fork Boundary North	10433	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.16
Dry Fork Boundary	10432	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.05
Dry Fork Face Complex	10435	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	3.16
Dry Fork Mtn	10030	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	3.46
Dry Fork Mtn Dispersed A	10767	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.06
Dry Fork Overlook	10768	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.09
East Ashley-Grasshopper	10238	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	6.40
East End Spring	10431	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.09
Elkhorn Sanitation Station*	10401	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.15
Farm Creek Gauge	10400	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.16
Fence Line	10568	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.45
Fence Line Spur	10567	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.29
Football Camp	10781	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.23
French's Park	10210	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.58
Grasshopper Comp A & B	10564	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.21
Grasshopper Sale	10566	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.08

Forest Service Road Name	Forest Service Road Number	Road Classification	Miles
Grouse Creek	10442	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.28
Grouse Creek Overlook	10441	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.19
Hacking Lake	10262	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.18
Horseshoe Park	10031	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	5.25
Ice Cave Peak	10298	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.52
Ice Cave Peak Dispersed A	10731	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.07
Ice Cave Peak Dispersed B	10732	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.10
Ice Cave Peak Dispersed C	10747	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.26
Ice Cave Sale Road	10440	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.84
Johnson Creek	10459	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.42
Julius Park	10464	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.27
Julius Park Reservoir	10464A	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.11
Leidy Peak Dispersed A	10777	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.05
Lyman Spring	10112	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.33
Massey Cave	10450	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.89
Merkley Springs	10434	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.35
Merkley Unit	10571	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.08
Mill Canyon	10113	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.01
Mine Road	10791	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.02
Mosby Mountain	10104	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.32
Mosby Mtn Dispersed B	10750	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.05
Mosby Mtn Dispersed C	10751	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.08
Mosby Mtn Dispersed D	10753	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.24
Mosby Mtn Dispersed A	10748	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.12
Mosby Park	10115	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	3.69
Murray Park Sale	10467	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.56
North Fork Ashley	10068	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.30
North Fork Ashley Creek Dispersed	10771	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.12
Paradise Peak	10294	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.22
Paradise Peak BP	10297	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.53
Paradise Reservoir Access	10752	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.14
Range Loop	10248	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.04
Ranger Point	10039	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.62
Red Cloud Loop Dispersed B	10905	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.07
Red Mountain Complex A-B	10437	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.33

Forest Service Road Name	Forest Service Road Number	Road Classification	Miles
Red Mountain South	10429	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.31
Red Pine	10237	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.61
Red Pine Canyon	10445	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.81
Roper Mine	10508	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.70
Roper Mine Dispersed A	10758	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.22
Shippee Sale A-B	10569	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.76
Sims Peak	10036	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.13
Single Trough	10239	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	2.10
Single Trough Spur	10438	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.96
South Fork Dispersed	10770	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.09
South Shippee Sale	10576	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.78
Split Creek	10474	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.32
Sulphur Springs	10394	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	1.22
Taylor Face A-B	10436	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.28
Taylor Mountain Overlook East	10549	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.41
Three Trough Cutoff	10570	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.93
Tobs Road	10439	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.67
Tool Box Park	10676	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.61
Trail Canyon Overlook	10447	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.75
Trout Creek	10690	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.50
Trout Creek Park Dispersed A	10782	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.63
Trout Creek Park Dispersed B	10780	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.17
Whiterocks Dispersed A	10730	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.23
Whiterocks River Road Dispersed A	10729	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.18
Whiterocks River Road	10444	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.53
Youth For Road	10473	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.14
	10759	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.13
	10857	2 - High Clearance Vehicles	0.57
Big Park - High Line	10059	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	0.62
Center Creek	10037	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	2.02
Dry Fork Mountain	10030	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	2.61
Leidy Peak	10043	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	8.97
Lost Park	10042	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	0.45
Mosby Mountain	10104	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	2.66
Paradise Campground	10295	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	0.59

Forest Service Road Name	Forest Service Road Number	Road Classification	Miles
Summit Park	10026	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	2.52
Taylor Mountain	10044	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	3.52
Trout Creek Plateau	10544	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	0.88
Whiterocks	10492	3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars	3.31
Ashley-Twin Lakes Loop	10027	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	0.73
East Park	10020	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	2.03
Elkhorn Loop	10117	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	2.05
Horseshoe Park	10031	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	1.57
Mosby Mountain	10104	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	10.03
Red Cloud Loop	10018	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	22.31
Trout Creek Guard Station	10040	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	0.22
Whiterocks	10492	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	2.22
Whiterocks Campground	10116	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	0.35
Whiterocks Campground Loop A	10116A	4 - Moderate Degree of User Comfort	0.08
Center Creek South	10065	Admin	0.25
Leidy Peak Cutoff	10772	Admin	0.65
Lower Flat Spring	10453	Admin	0.81
Marsh Bench	10017	Admin	10.56
Marsh Bench Spur A	10017A	Admin	0.75
Marsh Bench Spur B	10017B	Admin	0.44
Marsh Bench Spur C	10017C	Admin	0.76
Oil Well Road A-B	10446	Admin	1.33
Ridge Top	10513	Admin	1.38
Roper Cut	10507	Admin	0.31
Sims Sale	10512	Admin	0.30
South Fork	10506	Admin	1.11
Trout Creek Peak	10038	Admin	3.75
Whiterocks	10492	County Road	0.77
Total			190.45

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Table B3 – Motorized Trail Names and Numbers, Classification, and Miles.

Forest Service Trail Name	Forest Service Trail Number	Classification	Miles
Taylor Mountain Spur South	0107	4WD > 50 inch, Yearlong	0.11
Ashley Driveway	0026	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.07
Ashley Driveway Spur A	1214	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.03
Ashley Gorge Viewpoint	0109	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	1.79
Blanchett Park	0074	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.46
Deadman Lake	0075	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.90
Dry Fork Trailhead	0058	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.18
Elkhorn Loop High Country	1211	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.16
Ranger Peak	0064	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.73
Red Belly Lake	0051	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.37
Roper Mine Spur West	0054	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	0.11
Trout Creek Peak to Lost Park	0055	Trails Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong	1.59
Ashley Driveway	0026	Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	2.41
Dry Fork Mountain	0034	Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	2.80
East Galloway	1196	Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	2.27
North Elk Park	1014	Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	0.09
North Fork Ashley	0110	Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	2.40
Old Carter Military	1016	Trails Open to Vehicles 50 inch or Less in Width, Yearlong	0.01
Total			16.48

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Range Resources

The Ashley Karst NRGAs has several cattle allotments located within the boundary. The Marsh Peak and Lakeshore Basin allotments were closed to sheep grazing in 2008; however, the closure states that those boundaries can be adjusted to accommodate adjacent cattle allotments. The details of each allotment including status and acres are

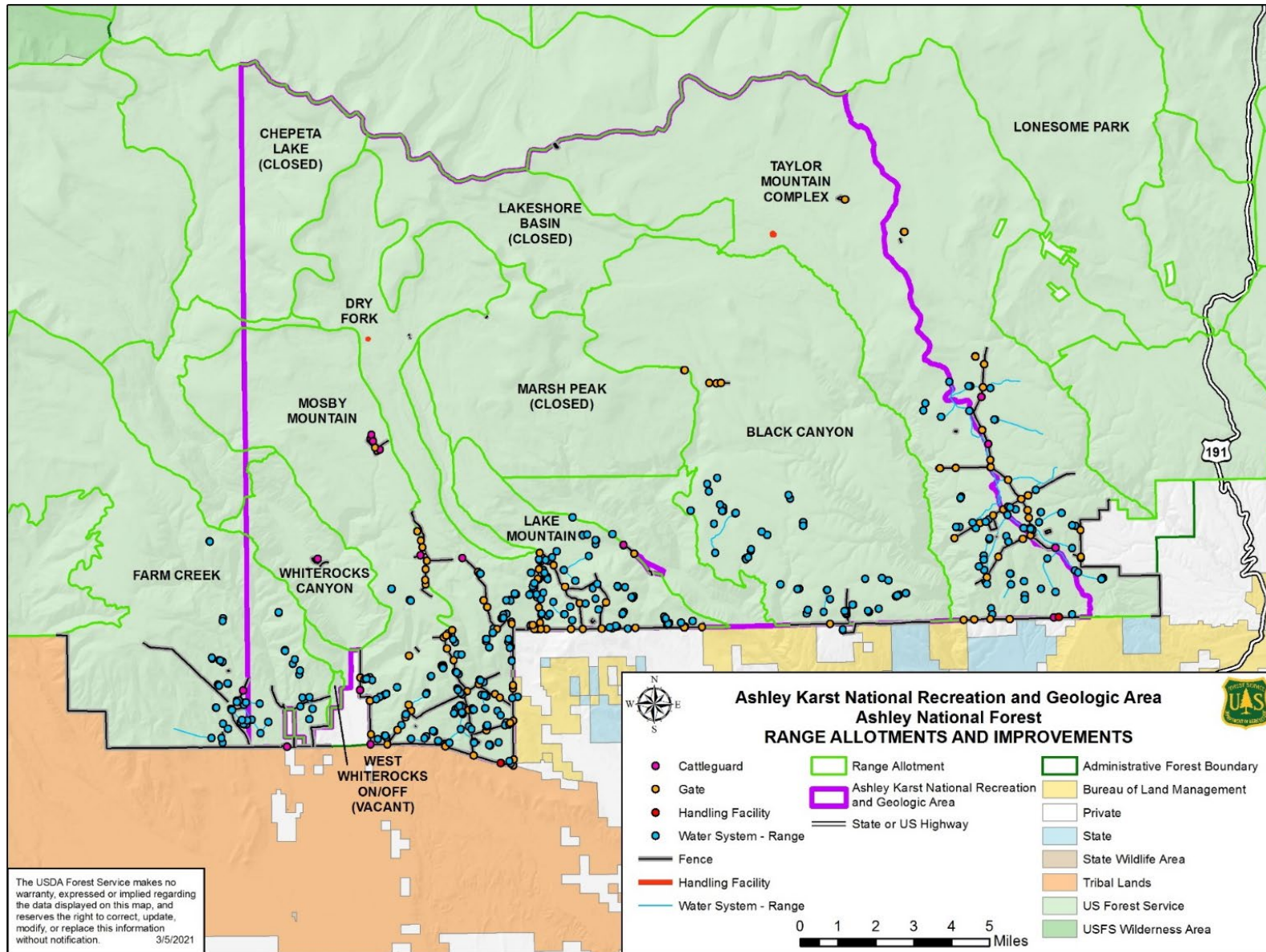
presented in Table B4. The allotment data represents active, closed, and vacant allotments. Within these allotments, there are several improvements and structures associated with grazing. Those improvements and the allotment boundaries are illustrated on Figure B1.

Table B4 – Grazing Allotments, Status, and Acres Within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Allotment	Status	Total Allotment Acres	Acres Within NRGAs
Black Canyon	Active	37,503.63	37,503.63
Chepeta Lake	Closed	18,021.48	8,715.80
Dry Fork	Active	17,850.14	17,850.14
Farm Creek	Active	38,782.28	5,044.91
Lake Mountain	Active	7,981.21	7,981.13
Lakeshore Basin	Closed	11,366.05	11,362.57
Lonesome Park	Active	41,846.13	0.48
Marsh Peak	Closed	16,279.84	16,279.84
Mosby Mountain	Active	21,790.03	19,634.18
Taylor Mountain Complex	Active	58,315.95	32,619.75
West Whiterocks (On/Off)	Vacant	217.88	217.88
Whiterocks Canyon	Active	6,473.82	6,286.18
Total	NA	276,428.45	163,496.49

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Figure B1 - Grazing Allotments and Range Improvements Within the Ashley Karst NRG



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are the tangible remains of past human activity and intangible sociocultural attributes such as social cohesion, social institutions, lifeways, and religious practices that connect a people to the landscape or the environment.

Native Americans have used the lands within and surrounding the Ashley Karst NRGAs for thousands of years. The Ute people (or Nuche) have had a cultural connectivity with the land for many generations and they continue to maintain that connection. The Ashley Karst NRGAs are located within the original Ute Tribal Homelands and approximately 34,170 acres (about 20 percent) of the NRGAs are located within the original Uintah Valley Reservation established in the 1860s (see Figure 2). These areas provide a cultural connectivity for the Ute Indian Tribe and provide them with access to resources that are important for cultural, ceremonial, or subsistence practices.

Examples of cultural resources within the NRGAs include sacred rock art sites, prehistoric habitation areas, Ute brush fences, hunting blinds, and prehistoric campsites. The area also has multiple locations that contain prehistoric artifacts where native people left evidence of a variety of activities, such as flaking local cherts and quartzite cobbles to make a variety of tools for hunting, food processing, and other needs.

Almost 100 prehistoric cultural resource sites have been documented within the boundary of the NRGAs and it is anticipated that hundreds more undocumented cultural resource sites are in the area. Table B5 below shows the broad types and numbers of prehistoric cultural resources within the NRGAs.

Source(s):

Johnson, Clay, and Byron Loosle. 2002. Prehistoric Uinta Mountain Occupations. Edited by C. Johnson and B. Loosle. Heritage Report 2-02/2002. Ashley National Forest, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service, Vernal, Utah.

Duncan, Clifford. 2000. The Northern Utes of Utah. In A History of Utah's American Indians, edited by Forrest S. Cuch. Utah Division of Indian Affairs and the Division of State History, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Table B5 - Prehistoric Cultural Resource Sites within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Cultural Resource Site Type	Number of Cultural Sites
Prehistoric Lithic Scatter	58
Prehistoric Campsite	8
Ute Brush Fence	1
Prehistoric Hunting Blind	2
Prehistoric Artifact Concentration	20
Prehistoric Rock Art	2
Prehistoric Rock Shelter Habitation	3
Total	94 Prehistoric Cultural Sites

Source: Ashley National Forest Heritage Resource GIS 2021

Historic Resources

Historic resources are defined in the National Historic Preservation Act [54 U.S.C. § 300308] as “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource.” The

historic legacy of the lands within the Ashley Karst NRGAs begin with prehistoric people and continue to the present day.

The known history of the lands within the Ashley Karst NRGAs begins with use by indigenous people and continues with current uses today. The earliest written history describes the Ute people who are the descendants of people who have lived on the land for thousands of years. Traditionally, the Ute people hunted and gathered native plants and animals and had highly mobile family groups. The year 1492 commenced a period of massive changes across the American continents. The introduction of European trade goods, plants, animals, and diseases were forces of change that are not completely understood. The Ute people maintained many cultural traditions and practices, but the introduction of European influences, including the introduction of the horse in the early 1700s, changed the Ute lifestyle.

In 1848, Mexico relinquished its claim on lands occupied by the Ute people and the lands were then claimed by the United States of America. The arrival of thousands of Euro-American pioneers and miners into traditional Ute lands set off conflicts between the new arrivals and the Ute people living in the area. The U.S. Government attempted to resolve the conflicts by moving the Ute people to reservations. In the 1860s, all Ute Indians within the Territory of Utah were moved to the Uintah Valley Reservation in the Uintah Basin. The reservation was later expanded when the Uncompahgre and White River Bands of the Ute Indians were moved from Colorado into the Uintah Basin. The reservation was then renamed the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.

The western edge of the Ashley Karst NRGAs is within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation Boundary. The Ute Tribe claims jurisdiction rights within the original reservation boundary and maintains treaty rights across their traditional homeland, which includes the entire Ashley Karst NRGAs. Many places of historic importance for the Ute Tribe are located within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Explorers and pioneers, who were of European descent, arrived in the Uintah Basin and the Uinta Mountains in the mid-1800s. They utilized the lands within the Ashley Karst NRGAs for a variety of uses, including sawmills, canals, dams, and livestock grazing, and the development of towns and farmlands across the Uintah Basin.

In the 1880s, the U.S. Army constructed the Carter Military Road and telegraph line across the Uinta Mountains to provide a supply route and communication line between Fort Bridger in Wyoming and military forts in the Uintah Basin. The Carter Military Road, telegraph lines, and associated military camps are still visible on the landscape within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

In 1897, the Uintah Forest Reserve was created in the Uinta and Wasatch Mountains of Utah. In 1905, additional lands that had been within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation were also added to the Uintah Forest Reserve. From 1908 to the present, the lands within the Ashley Karst NRGAs have been managed as part of the Ashley National Forest.

People have continued to utilize resources within what is now the Ashley Karst NRGAs and have left behind evidence of their activities and endeavors. Historic activities include transportation, irrigation canals, water impoundment, livestock grazing, mining, timber extraction, timber milling, lime production, recreation, hunting, fishing, and Forest Service management.

Over 60 historic resource sites have been documented within the boundary of the NRGAs and it is anticipated that many more undocumented historic resource sites are in the area. Table B6 shows the broad types and numbers of known historic resources within the NRGAs.

Source(s):

Duncan, Clifford. 2000. *The Northern Utes of Utah*. In *A History of Utah's American Indians*, edited by Forrest S. Cuch. Utah Division of Indian Affairs and the Division of State History, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Wilson, Richa. 2015. *Cozy Cabins and a Hyperbolic Paraboloid: Administrative Facilities of the Ashley National Forest 1905-1968*. #AS-15-003. June 2015. USDA Forest Service, Ogden, Utah.

Table B6 - Table of Historic Resource Sites within the Ashley Karst NRG.

Historic Resource Site Type	# Of Historic Sites
Historic Arborglyph	2
Historic Bridges	4
Historic Cabins	4
Historic Campsites	4
Historic Canals/Ditches	3
Historic Corrals	3
Historic Dams	3
Historic Debris Scatters	8
Historic Flume	1
Historic Guard Stations	3
Historic Lime Kilns	2
Historic Military Camps	6
Historic Mine	1
Historic Roads	4
Historic Sawmills	16
Historic Telephone/Telegraph Lines	2
Total	66 Historic Sites

Source: Ashley National Forest Heritage Resource GIS 2021

Vegetation Resources (Timber and Non-Timber)

The Ashley Karst NRG has a variety of vegetation types. These range from non-forested vegetation to forested vegetation. The general vegetation types, and their approximate acres, are presented in Table B7 below. Vegetation resources within the NRG are illustrated on Figure B2.

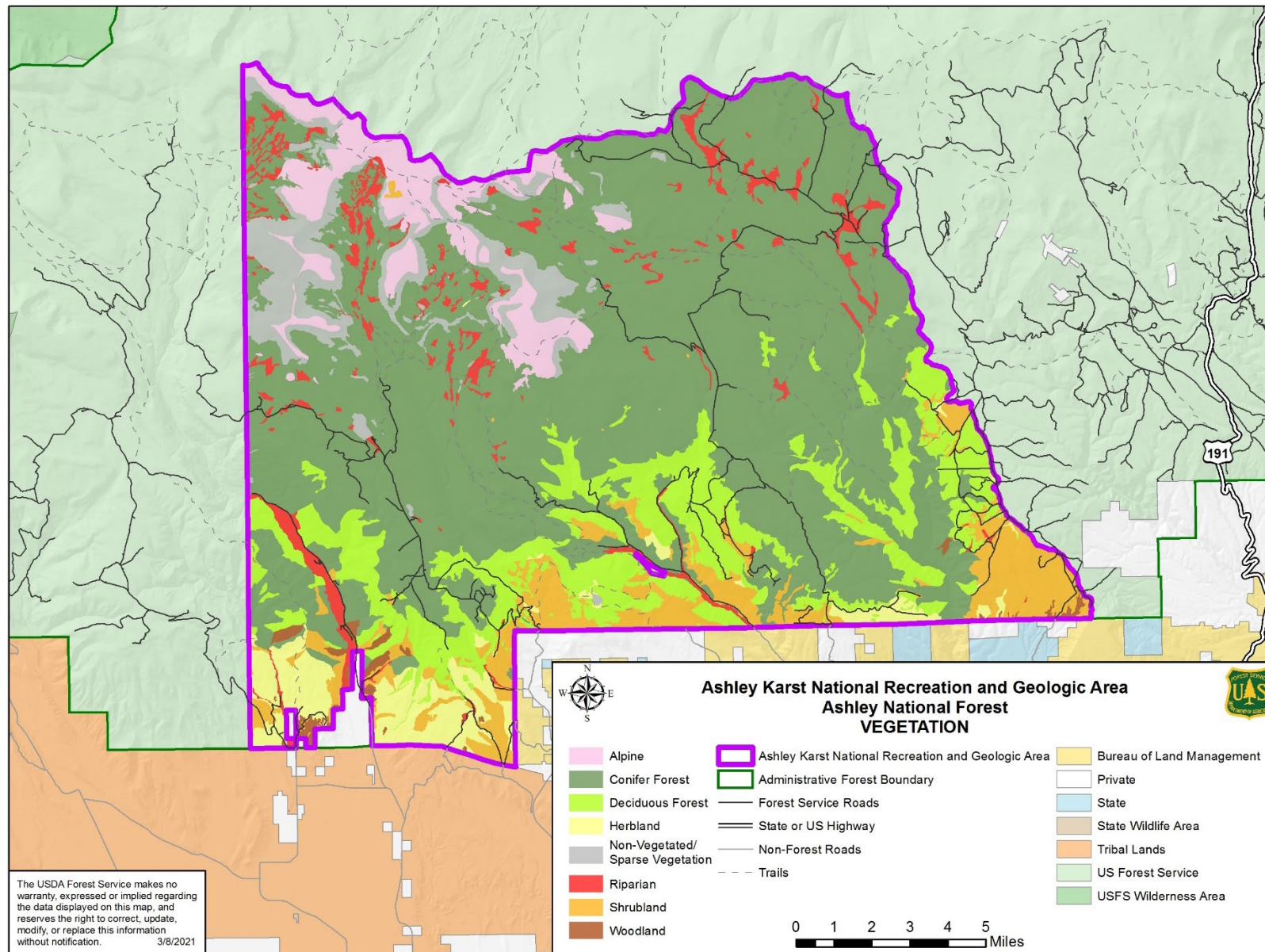
Within the forested vegetation, there are about 25,026 acres that are consider suitable for timber harvest or about 14.4 percent of the NRG. Of those acres, approximately 16,133 acres or about 9.3 percent of the NRG are considered suitable for timber production (see Figure B3 and Figure B4). Suitable areas for timber harvest include the removal of trees for wood fiber use and other multiple-use purposes. Whereas areas suitable for timber production are a subset of areas for timber harvest, and include trees for the purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use.

Table B7 – Vegetation Types Within the Ashley Karst NRG.

Vegetation Type	Acres
Alpine	9,209.57
Conifer Forest	103,468.52
Deciduous Forest	23,656.38
Herbland	7,121.90
Non-Vegetated/Sparse Vegetation	9,419.74
Riparian	6,331.83
Shrubland	12,884.15
Woodland	1,232.24
Total	173,324.34

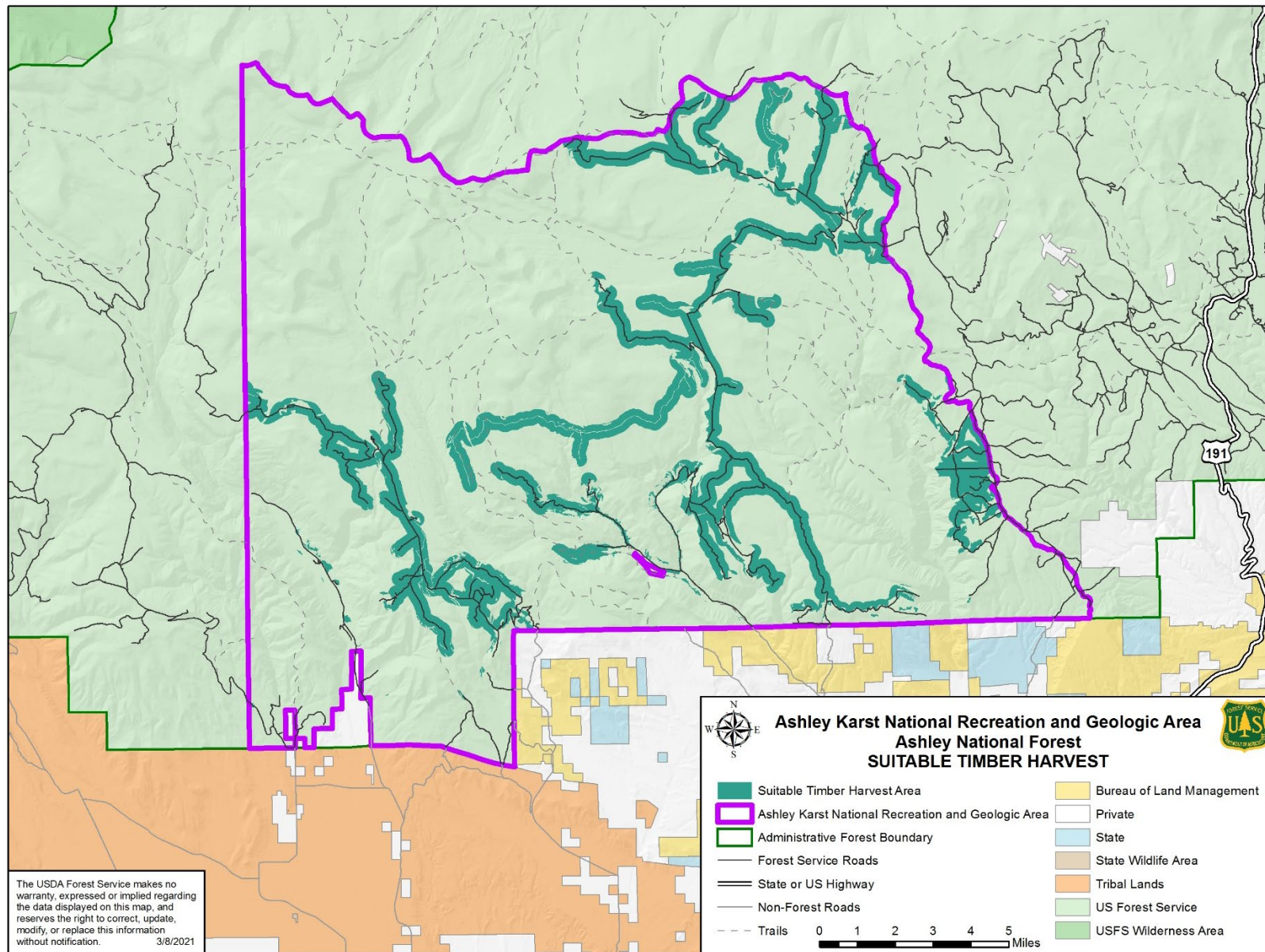
Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Figure B2 – Vegetation Types Within the Ashley Karst NRG.



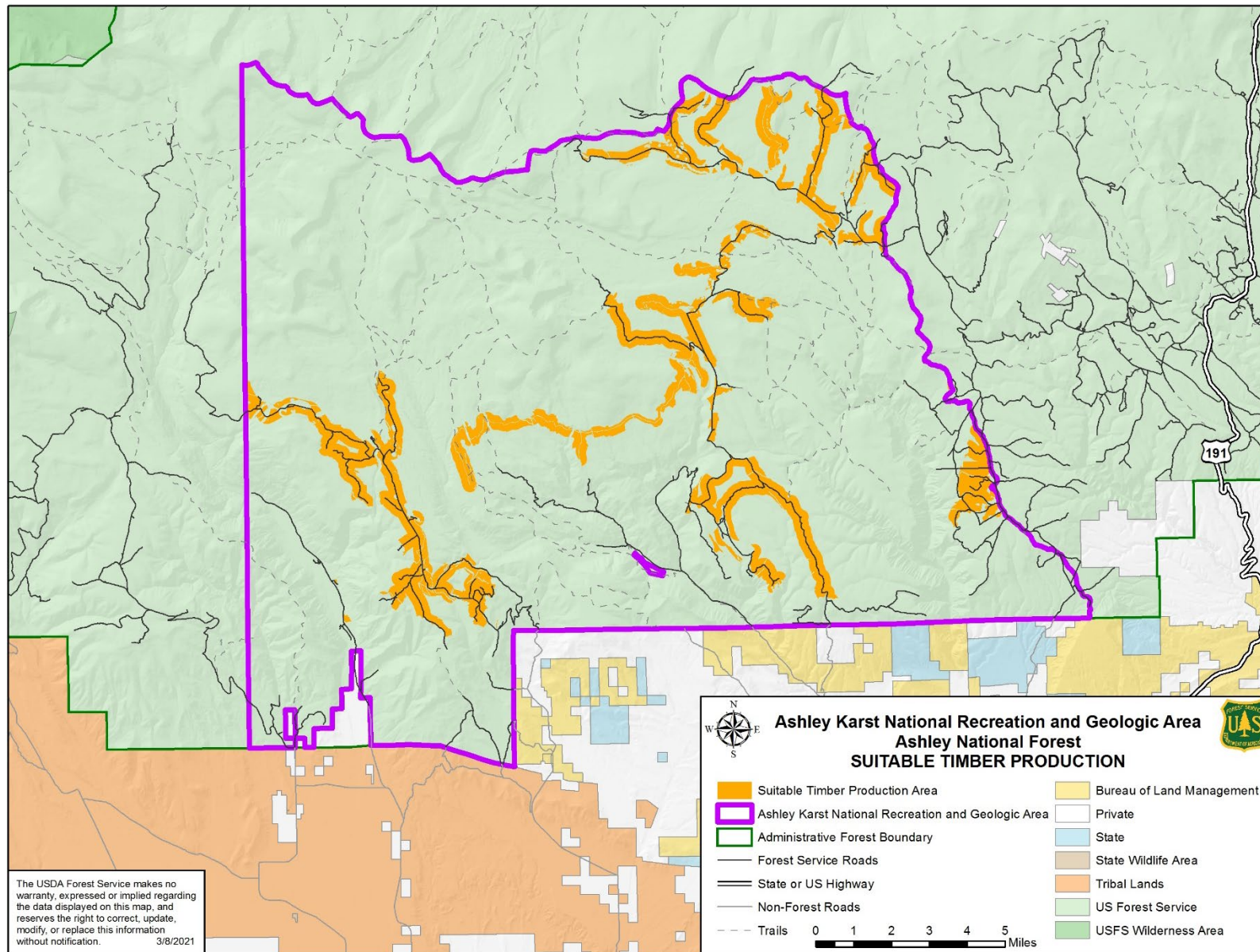
Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Figure B3 – Suitable Areas for Timber Harvest Within the Ashley Karst NRG.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Figure B4 – Areas Suitable for Timber Production Within in the Ashley Karst NRG.

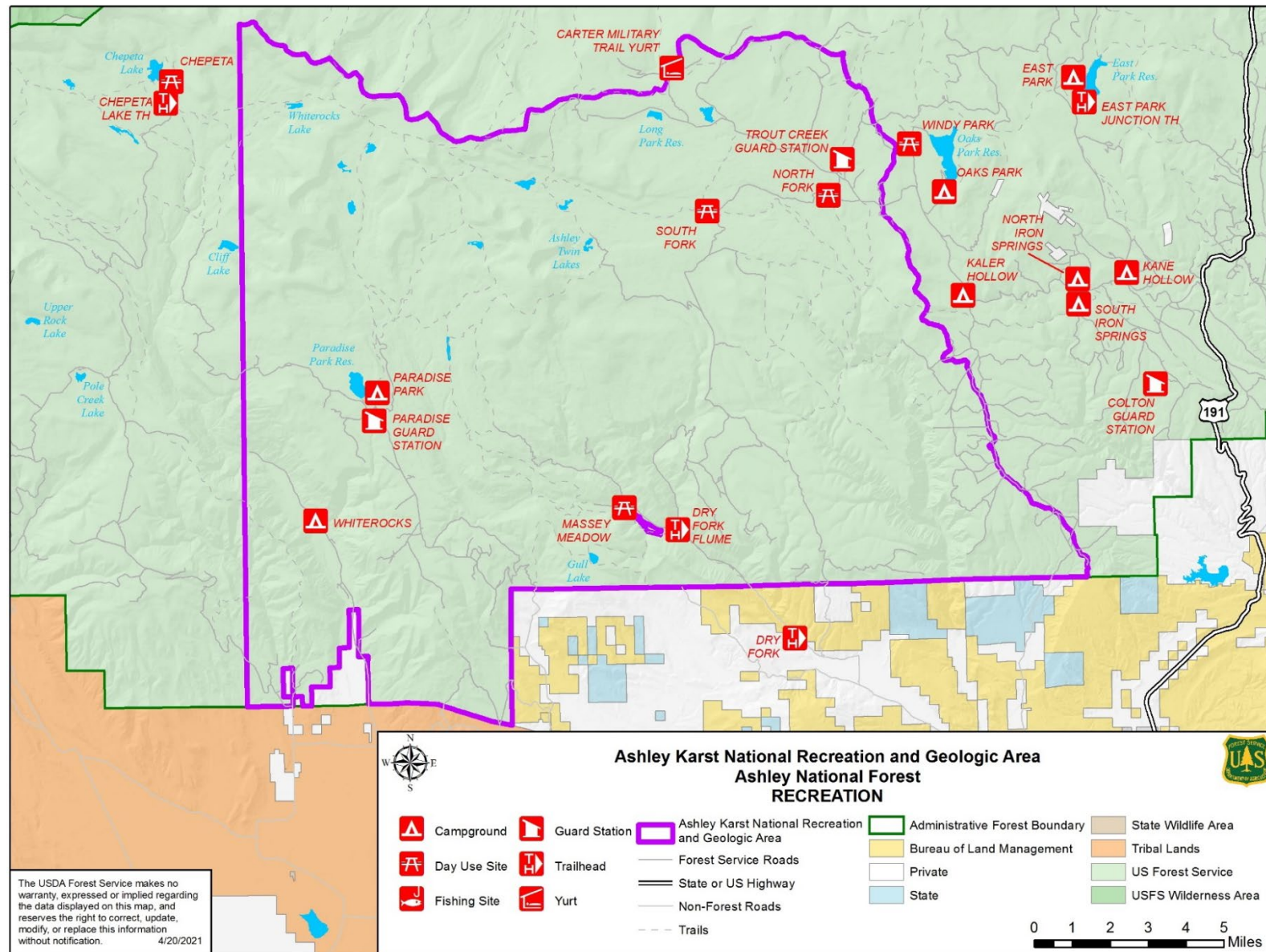


Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Recreation

The area of the Ashley Karst NRGAs is in the “Backyard” of the Uintah Basin and is a popular recreation destination. The NRGAs have numerous recreational opportunities that include traditional improved campgrounds, historic guard station and yurt recreation rentals, mountain biking, OHV use, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing, hiking and backpacking, and horseback riding. There are also numerous winter motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities including cross-country and backcountry skiing and snowmobiling. Figure B5 illustrates some of the recreational opportunities within the NRGAs.

Figure B5 – Recreation Sites Within and Near the Ashley Karst NRG.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Non-Motorized Trails

An important aspect of recreation within the NRGAs is the ability to enjoy a non-motorized experience. To that end the NRGAs have multiple non-motorized trails for use. There are 42 Forest Service System Non-Motorized Trails (either complete trails or segments of trails) that are within the NRGAs, providing approximately 150 miles of non-motorized access. Table B8 presents the information for designated non-motorized trails within the Ashley Karst to include common trail name, Forest Service Trail number, and miles.

Table B8 – Non-Motorized Trail Names, Numbers, and Miles Within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Forest Service Trail Name	Forest Service Trail Number	Miles of Trail
Deadman - High Ridge	0019	1.19
Ashley Driveway	0026	10.70
Ashley Driveway Spur B	0026B	1.19
Trout Creek	0029	2.11
Taylor Mountain Overlook	0030	0.69
Pat Carroll Park	0031	2.81
Pat Carroll Park Spur A	0031A	0.41
Sink Ridge	0032	7.44
Dry Fork Mountain	0034	4.45
Frenches Park	0035	5.41
Cow Canyon	0036	3.91
North Fork Dry Fork	0038	4.27
South Fork Ashley	0039	5.21
Marsh Peak - Dry Fork	0040	8.21
Leidy Peak Lakeshore Basin	0041	3.67
Macks Park	0050	3.84
Red Belly Lake	0051	6.88
Red Belly Lake Spur	0051B	0.31
Deadman Lake	0075	7.53
Galloway Spring	0106	6.75
Red Pine	0111	2.41
Whiterocks Lake	0124	1.76
Cow Hollow	0126	1.97
Cow Hollow Spur	0126A	0.02
Lake Mountain	0127	5.89
South Fork Dry Fork	0128	2.61
Mosby Canal (Blanchett Park)	0130	1.77
Blanchett Park	0131	1.15
Blue Lake	0132	1.96

Forest Service Trail Name	Forest Service Trail Number	Miles of Trail
Elkhorn - West Fork	0134	5.93
Leidy Peak - Browne Lake	1012	0.41
Potter - Lamb Lakes	1018	1.19
Uinta Highline	1025	19.22
Highline Trail Spur A	1025A	1.47
Highline Trail Spur B	1025B	0.98
North Leidy Peak	1026	1.04
Dry Fork Nature	1161	0.47
Dry Fork Canyon Nature Spur	1161A	0.02
Dry Fork Flume	1169	9.90
Dry Fork Flume Loop	1169A	0.96
Dry Fork Flume Spur B	1169B	0.11
Grouse Creek Overlook	1210	1.78
Total Non-Motorized Trails		149.99

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Developed Recreation Sites

There are nine developed recreation sites within the NRGAs. These developed recreation sites provide a variety of recreational opportunities to include overnight rentals, camping, picnicking, and hiking. Table B9 below presents the information on those developed sites including the name and type of site it is.

Table B9 – Developed Recreation Site Name and Type.

Recreation Site Name	Site Type
Trout Creek Guard Station	Recreation Rental
Paradise Guard Station	Recreation Rental
Carter Military Yurt	Recreation Rental
Paradise Campground	Family Campground
Whiterocks Campground	Family Campground
North Fork Ashley Creek	Day Use Area
South Fork Ashley Creek	Day Use Area
Massey Meadow	Day Use Area
Dry Fork Flume	Trailhead

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Inventoried Roadless Areas

The term Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) refers to an area usually of at least 5,000 acres without developed and maintained roads, in a substantially natural condition. Inventoried roadless areas were initially identified during the Roadless Area Resource Evaluation of 1979 (RARE II). The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was adopted in 2001 and is often referred to as the roadless rule. In general, the roadless rule prohibits “road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas” on the grounds that those activities would result

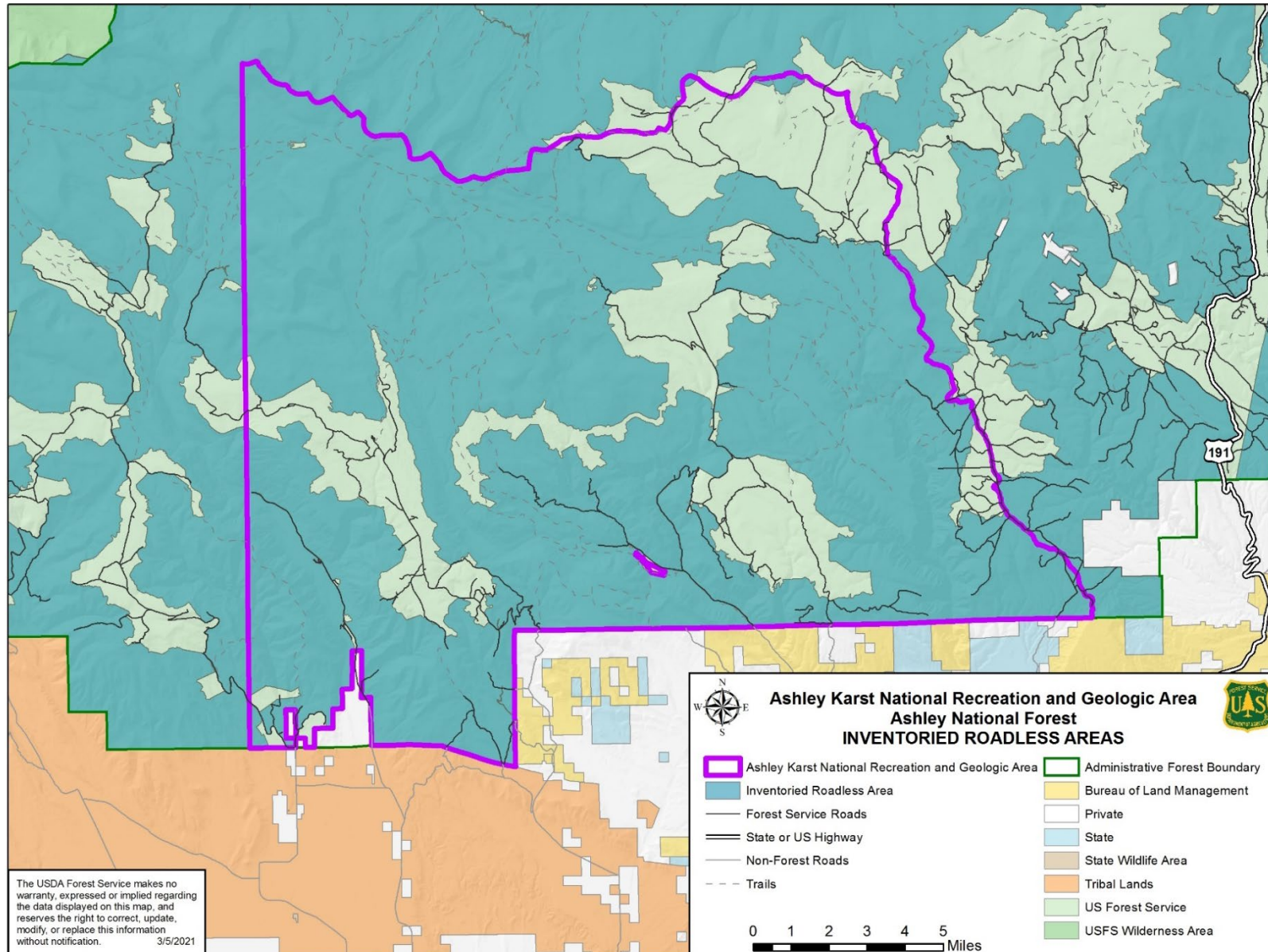
in “altering and fragmenting landscapes” and create “immediate, long-term loss of roadless values and characteristics” (Roadless Rule Record of Decision, 36 CFR 294, 66 Fed. Reg 3244 [Jan. 12, 2001]).

Areas designated as IRAs under the 2001 Roadless Rule have been evaluated on the six wilderness attributes (RARE II Wilderness Attribute Rating System, 1977) that characterized wilderness potential and nine values or features identified in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (36 CFR 294.11) that characterize IRAs. There are approximately 133,980 acres of IRAs within the Ashley Karst NRG (Figure B6).

Geology

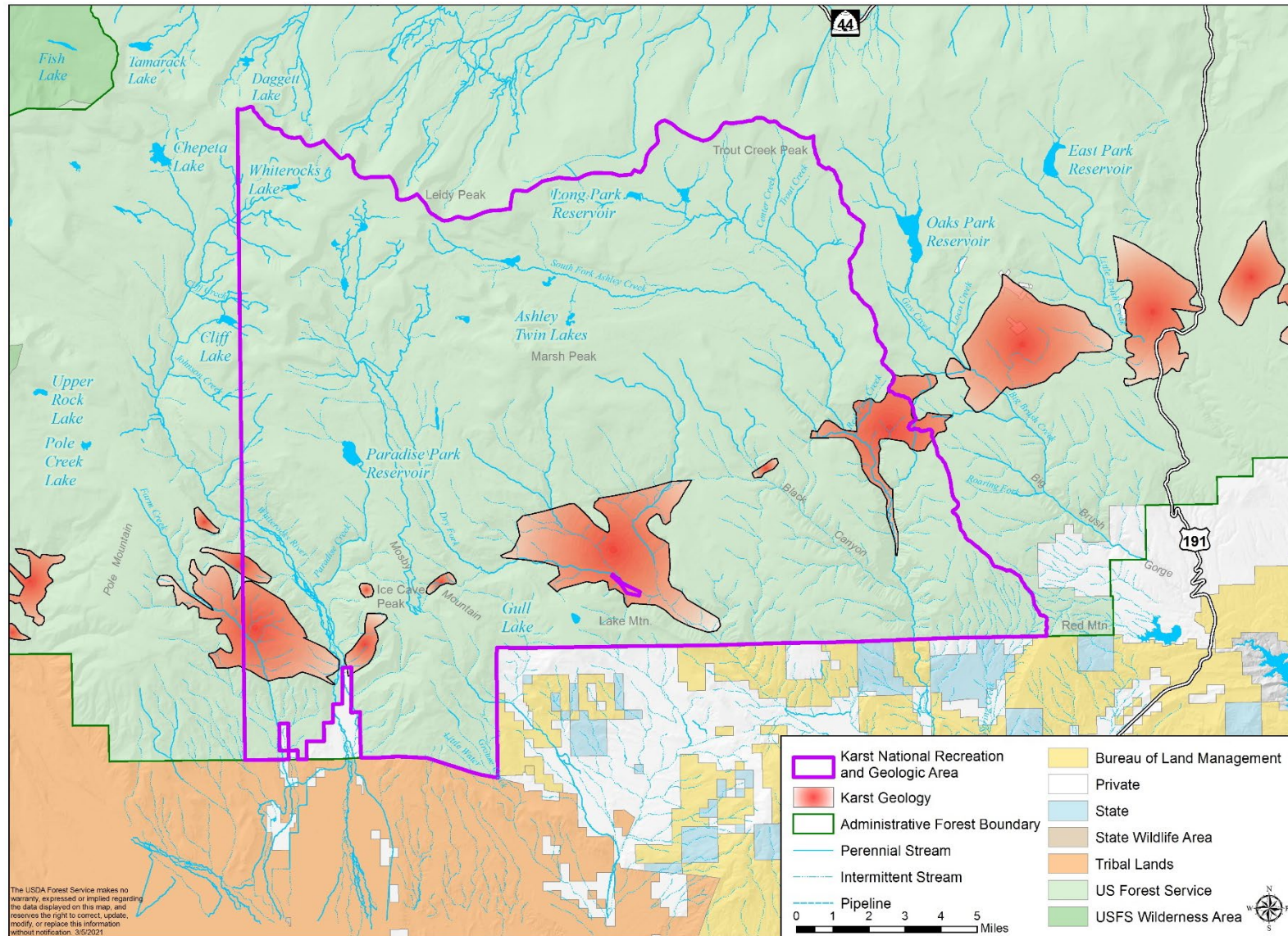
The presence of karst-type geology, and the potential effects of that geology on public drinking water systems for nearby communities is one of the primary reasons the Ashley Karst NRG was established. Karst geology is characterized by the presence of surface or near-surface bedrock layers that are partially soluble, which allows the development of karst-type underground drainage systems, leading to sinkholes and cave systems, and rapid unfiltered groundwater flows. The presence of karst-type groundwater systems is important to public water systems because karst systems can allow very rapid groundwater flow from sinks to springs, with only minimal filtering and with only minimal residence time for natural pollutant degradation, compared to other types of groundwater systems. See Figure B7 for a visual representation of where this specific type of geology is located.

Figure B6– Inventoried Roadless Areas Within the Ashley Karst NRG.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Figure B7 – Karst Geology Features Within and Just Outside of the Ashley Karst NRG Area Boundary.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021 (modified from: Sprinkel, D.A., 2006, Interim geologic map of the Dutch John 30' x 60' quadrangle, Daggett and Uintah Counties, Utah, Moffat County, Colorado, and Sweetwater County, Wyoming: Utah Geological Survey Open-File Report 491DM, scale 1:100,000.)

Water Resources

The Ashley Karst NRGAs watershed is split into two main drainages, the Duchesne River and Ashley Creek, both of which are tributaries of the Green River. The area contains four main perennial streams: Whiterocks River, Mosby Creek, Dry Fork Creek, and Ashley Creek. The streams collect high elevation runoff and provide a large portion of water to the communities downstream.

The watershed functions differently from other watersheds due to the underlying karst geology. Mosby Creek, Dry Fork Creek, and Ashley Creek and their tributaries collect water from the highest elevations in the NRGAs. These three creeks cross the South Flank Fault of the Uinta Mountains and begin to dissipate into the carbonate bedrock. Once underground the water travels through the Karst to springs where it proceeds downstream and is put to beneficial use. The Whiterocks River maintains surface flows throughout the NRGAs.

There are currently 446 miles of perennial streams within the Ashley Karst NRGAs. There are 13 main perennial streams which include the following: Whiterocks River, Trout Creek, Spring Creek, Ashley Creek, Red Pine Creek, Paradise Creek, Dry Fork Creek, Mosby Creek, Lake Creek, Farm Creek, Deep Creek, Center Creek, and Black Canyon Creek.

In addition to perennial streams, there are also 45 lakes within the NRGAs. Those lakes include the following: Ashley Twin Lakes, Bert Lake, Blue Lake, Chimney Rock Lake, Dead Lake, Deadman Lake, Dollar Lake, East Kibah Lake, Finger Kibah Lake, Fish Lake, Goose Lake #1, Goose Lake #2, Goose Lake #3, Hacking Lake, Hooper Lake, Island Kibah Lake, Johnson Lake, Julius Park Reservoir, Lake Wilde, Lakeshore Lake, Lily Lake, Lily Pad Lake, Little Elk Lake, Marsh Lake, Mill Pond, Moap Lake, Mud Lake, Mytoge Lake, North Twin Lake, Paradise Park Reservoir, Paul Lake, Pearl Lake, Red Belly Lake, Sand Lake, Sandy Lake, Saucer Lake, Shaw Lake, South Twin Lake, Teds Lake, Watkins Lake, West Kibah Lake, Whiterocks Lake, Wilde Lake, Wooley Lake, and Workman Lake. Figure B8 illustrates the major lakes and perennial streams within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Water quality within the NRGAs can be generally characterized as good in terms of drinking water and agricultural uses with some impairments to cold water aquatic life. Water bodies in Utah are assigned classifications depending on their beneficial uses. Streams within the area are Class 1C, 2B, 3A and Class 4 waters. According to Utah DEQ, streams that are classified as 1C streams are designated for domestic drinking water, Class 2B streams are for secondary contact recreation, Class 3A waters have protected cold water species of game fish and other cold water aquatic life including the necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain. Waters of the State that are protected for agricultural use are classified as Class 4 and include irrigation of crops and stock watering. (UDWQ) Table B10 below presents the water quality characteristics for the 13 main rivers and streams in the NRGAs. Several streams in the NRGAs are listed as impaired for cold water species of fish and aquatic life. Monitoring of water quality occurs in the area and when a pollutant, in this case aluminum, exceeds a state standard, the stream is considered impaired. In this situation the water quality may impair the sustainability and diversity of certain aquatic species. The sources for aluminum are unknown.

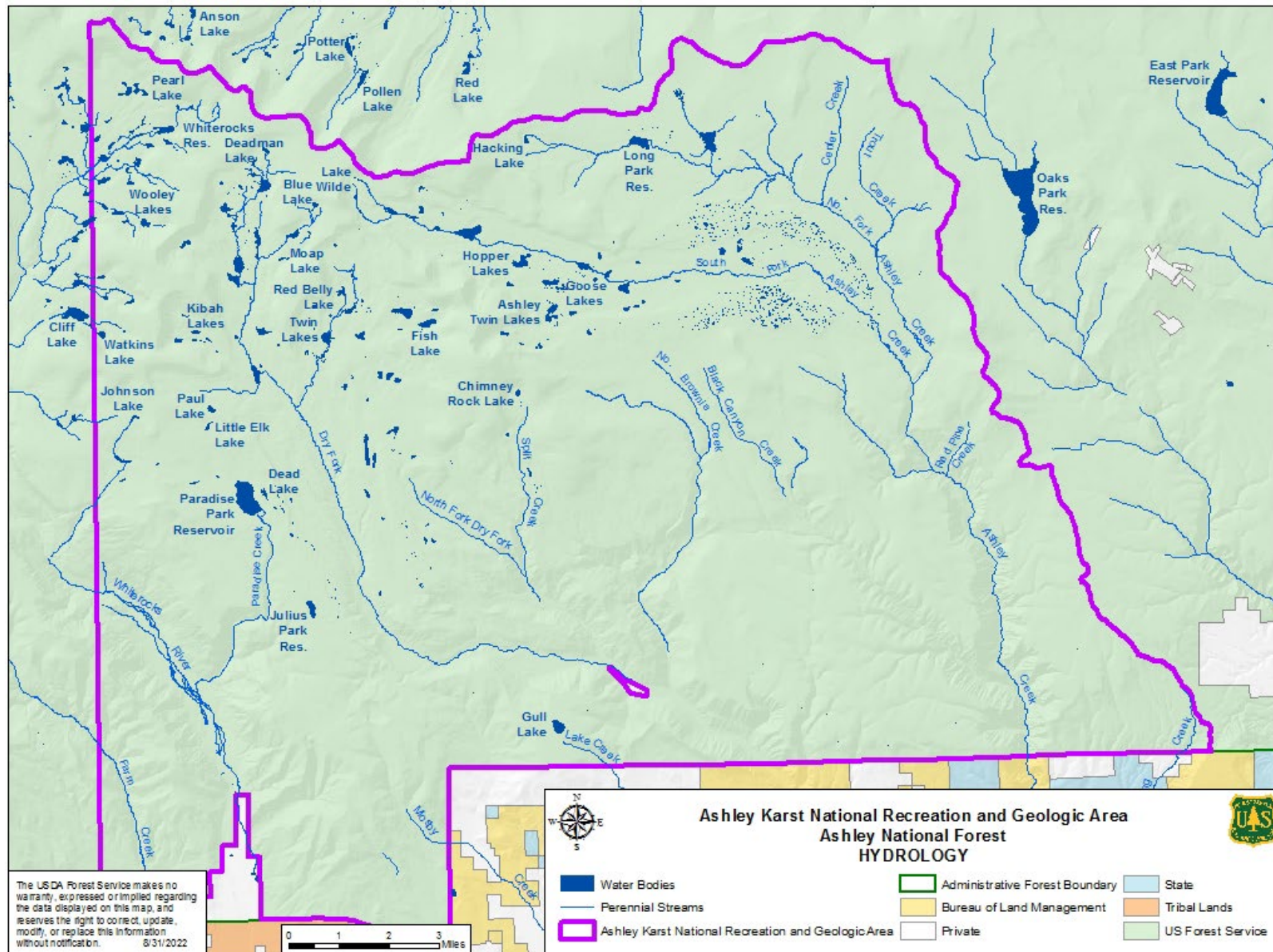
Table B10 – Water Quality and Impairment Status of Rivers and Streams in the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

River or Stream Name	303d Status	Impairment	Beneficial Use Impaired
Whiterocks River	Not Assessed	Non-Applicable	Non-Applicable
Trout Creek	Impaired	Aluminum	Aquatic Wildlife
Spring Creek	Impaired	Aluminum	Aquatic Wildlife
Ashley Creek	Impaired	Aluminum	Aquatic Wildlife

River or Stream Name	303d Status	Impairment	Beneficial Use Impaired
Red Pine Creek	Impaired	Aluminum	Aquatic Wildlife
Paradise Creek	Not Assessed	Non-Applicable	Non-Applicable
Dry Fork Creek	Fully Supporting	Non-Applicable	Non-Applicable
Mosby Creek	Impaired	Total Dissolved Solids	Aquatic Wildlife
Lake Creek	Impaired	Total Dissolved Solids	Aquatic Wildlife
Farm Creek	Fully Supporting	Non-Applicable	Non-Applicable
Deep Creek	Impaired	Total Dissolved Solids	Aquatic Wildlife
Center Creek	Impaired	Aluminum	Aquatic Wildlife
Black Canyon Creek	Impaired	Aluminum	Aquatic Wildlife

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Figure B8 –Rivers, Streams, and Lakes Within the Ashley Karst NRG.



Source: Forest Service GIS 2021 (modified from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory layer)

Wildlife

The Ashley Karst is home to a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Some of those species include Regional Forester Sensitive Species from the current 1986 Ashley National Forest Management Plan and proposed Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) in the draft Ashley National Forest Plan Revision.

Forest Service Sensitive Species are defined as those plant and animal species identified by a regional forester for which population viability is a concern, and significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution (Forest Service Manual 2670.5).

Species of Conservation Concern are known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area (Forest Service Handbook 1909.52 and 36 CFR 219.9).

Table B11 presents many of the typical terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species within the Ashley Karst NRGAs, and special status species and their habitats that occur within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Table B11 – Typical Animal Species, Special Status, and Habitat of Wildlife Within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Species	Status	Habitat
Moose	NA	Wet meadow, mixed conifer, aspen
Rocky Mountain elk	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen, alpine
Mule deer	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen, alpine
Mountain goat	NA	Alpine meadow, rock/cliffs
Black bear	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen, alpine
Mountain lion	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen, rocky outcrops
Bobcat	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen,
Coyote	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen, alpine
Red squirrel	NA	Mixed conifer, aspen
Pine marten	NA	Mixed conifer, aspen
White-tailed jackrabbit	NA	Mountain brush
Snowshoe hare	NA	Mountain brush, woodlands, mixed conifer, aspen, alpine
Badger	NA	Mountain brush, grassland
Weasel	NA	Mountain brush, grassland
Striped skunk	NA	Mountain brush, grassland, riparian
Greater sage-grouse	FSS and SCC	Sagebrush, grassland

Species	Status	Habitat
Dusky grouse	NA	Mixed conifer, aspen
Ruffed grouse	NA	Mixed conifer, aspen
White-tailed ptarmigan	NA	Alpine
Northern goshawk	FSS	Mixed conifer, aspen, mature forest
Peregrine falcon	FSS and SCC	Cliffs, riparian
Flammulated owl	FSS	Mixed conifer
Three-toed woodpecker	FSS	Mixed conifer, aspen
Black-rosy finch	SCC	High elevation cliffs
Townsend big-eared bat	FSS	Caves, conifer, riparian
Spotted bat	FSS	Forested, open canyons, cliffs, riparian
Little brown myotis	NA	Mixed conifer/riparian
Fringed myotis	SCC	Woodlands, sagebrush-grasslands, caves
Garter snake	NA	Riparian
Smooth green-snake	NA	Mixed conifer, riparian
Colorado River cutthroat trout	FSS and SCC	Aquatic
Brown trout	NA	Aquatic
Rainbow trout	NA	Aquatic
Brook trout	NA	Aquatic
Mottled sculpin	NA	Aquatic
Mountain sucker	NA	Aquatic
Boreal chorus frog	NA	Aquatic/semi aquatic
Northern leopard frog	NA	Aquatic/semi aquatic
Tiger salamanders	NA	Aquatic

NA = Special status not currently applicable to these species.

FSS = Forest Service Sensitive Species as designated in the current 1986 Ashley National Forest Management Plan.

SCC = Proposed Species of Conservation Concern in proposed revised Ashley National Forest Management Plan.

Source(s): <https://dwr-data-utahdnr.hub.arcgis.com/search?collection=Dataset>, Forest Service Manual 2670.5, Forest Service Handbook 1909.52 and 36 CFR 219.9, 1986 Ashley National Forest Management Plan, and the draft Ashley National Forest Plan Revision.

Utah Wildlife Action Plan Joint Team (2015). *Utah Wildlife Action Plan: A plan for managing native wildlife species and their habitats to help prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act. Publication number 15-14. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.*

NatureServe. *NatureServe Network Biodiversity Location Data accessed through NatureServe Explorer [web application]. Arlington, Virginia: NatureServe. Available <https://explorer.natureserve.org/>. (Accessed: March 16, 2021).*

Plants

The Ashley Karst NRGAs has a variety of plant groups found in different settings throughout the NRGAs. These groups include alpine, herblands, areas of no to sparse vegetation, riparian areas, shrublands, and woodlands. Table B12 summarizes some of the typical vegetation types in the NRGAs, where they are commonly found, and the approximate spatial extent. There are some plants that are considered Forest Service Sensitive Species. Table B13 presents more information describing these plants.

Table B12 – Nonforested Vegetation Groups, Location, and Acres Within the Ashley Karst NRGAs.

Vegetation Group/Type	Setting/Location	Acres
Alpine	Above the conifer zone, usually higher than 11,200 feet in elevation.	9,210
- Talus, fell, and boulder fields	Steep slopes, toe of slopes and benches, dominated by rock cover with little to no vegetation cover.	
- Meadows	Dry and moist alpine settings lacking shrubs.	
- Low and dwarf shrubs	Dry and moist alpine settings with a shrub component.	
- Snowbed communities	Areas with topographical features conducive to snow accumulation such as depressions and leeward slopes.	
Herbland	Open areas within the conifer zone where vegetation cover is dominated by herbaceous plants; moist and dry sub-alpine settings.	7,122
- Sub-alpine wet meadows	Peat filled lakes, glacial depressions, poor fens, and floating peatlands next to open water.	
- Sub-alpine dry meadows	Perimeter of large wet meadows and open areas where the water table is low, and soils are well-drained.	
Non-Vegetated/Sparse Vegetation	Areas of low (<5%) to devoid of vegetation cover.	9,420
- Agriculture	Irrigated crops or pasture lands.	
- Barren/Sparse Vegetation	Talus, fell and boulder fields, semi-barrens in sub-alpine/montane setting	
- Water	Surface water such as lakes, streams, and ponds.	
Riparian	Areas with high water table supporting wetland obligate plant species located along stream corridors, around lakes, or in bottoms of basins or drainages.	6,332
- Riparian Herbaceous	Wetlands and riparian areas lacking or with minimal woody plants.	
- Riparian Woody	Wetlands and riparian areas with a shrub	

Vegetation Group/Type	Setting/Location	Acres
	and/or tree component.	
Shrubland	Lower to upper montane slopes and benches; usually below the conifer zone and intermixed or above the pinyon-juniper zone.	12,884
- Black Sagebrush	South exposures on gentle slopes below 8,000 feet. Intermixed with and above the pinyon-juniper zone.	
- Mountain Big Sagebrush	Upper montane slopes, benches, and foothills intermixed with persistent aspen and lower coniferous forest, and above the pinyon-juniper zone.	
- Wyoming Big Sagebrush	Lower montane slopes and toe of mountain below 7,000 feet elevation; below pinyon-juniper zone.	
- Mountain Shrubland (Mountain Mahogany)	Moderate to steep glaciated canyon slopes on south facing slopes between 8,000 to 9,000 feet in elevation.	
Woodland	Lower to mid-montane slopes.	1,232
- Pinyon-Juniper	Lower to mid-montane slopes between 6,700 and 8,000 feet, below mountain big sagebrush/persistent aspen zone.	
Total		46,199

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Table B13 – Forest Service Sensitive Species Plant Information Within the Ashley Karst NRG.

Scientific Name/ Common Name	Rationale	Forest Service Status	State Status	Habitat/ Land Type Association (LTA)	Stressors/Drivers	Observation Information
<p><i>Aquilegia grahamii</i></p> <p>Graham’s Columbine</p>	<p>Narrow endemic.</p> <p>3 occurrences documented within plan area.</p>	Sensitive	Rare	<p>Deep stream-cut canyons; in cliff cracks, on ledges, in seeps or hanging gardens of the Pennsylvanian-Permian Weber Sandstone.</p> <p>Stream Canyon LTA</p>	Habitat is secure within the plan area, but mining is a threat outside and adjacent to the plan area. No other known stressors are identified.	The latest available estimates of overall population size are 5,000 to 10,000 plants from 11 specific sites. Population trend appears stable and persisting within plan area.
<p><i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i></p> <p>Clustered Lady’s Slipper</p>	<p>Known populations consist of few plants.</p> <p>Timber harvest, bark beetle infestations, and fire are stressors.</p> <p>Listed as sensitive in Utah.</p>	Sensitive	Rare, Species of Potential Concern	<p>Shade of coniferous forests between 8,000 to 9,000 feet. In duff of moderately dense to dense lodgepole pine forests where understory species are sparse.</p> <p>Parks Plateau LTA Trout Slope LTA</p>	Timber harvest, bark beetle infestations, and fire are stressors.	About 30 known occurrences in the plan area. Most populations consist of a few plants (1-100).

Scientific Name/ Common Name	Rationale	Forest Service Status	State Status	Habitat/ Land Type Association (LTA)	Stressors/Drivers	Observation Information
<i>Draba globosa</i> Rockcress Draba	Listed as sensitive in Utah.	Sensitive	Rare, Species of Concern	Alpine tundra, often associated with persisting snow beds. Uinta Bollie LTA	Most populations are relatively inaccessible. Domestic sheep grazing, mountain goats, and recreation are minimal threats. Climate change leading to drier and warmer conditions may be a stressor.	Widely distributed across the alpine crest of the Uinta Mountains, but often in small populations. 10 new occurrences in plan area over last 20 years on forest, last documented in 2016. 37 collections from Uinta Mountains. Population trend appears stable, persisting, and habitat is relatively resilient.
<i>Papaver radicum</i> <i>var. kluanense</i> Alpine Poppy	Listed as sensitive. Small populations restricted to a narrow habitat.	Sensitive	Species of Concern	Restricted to a narrow habitat, which consists of Red Pine Shale talus slopes and ridge tops. Uinta Bollie LTA	Plant habitat is remote, rugged, and inaccessible to humans and their impacts. Mountain goats and pika are minimal threats. Climate change leading to drier and warmer conditions may be a stressor.	Populations generally cover small areas and are comprised of few to a few hundred plants. 14 documented occurrences within the plan area. Populations appear stable and persistence is expected.

Source: Forest Service GIS 2021

Appendix C - Congressional Grazing Guidelines

Background²

These guidelines, also known variously as House Report 96-617 and 96-1126, were appended to the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980. In legislation subsequent to 1990, they are referred to as H.R. 101-405, Appendix A (as originally included in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990). The guidelines grew out of apparent confusion on the part of agency managers as to how grazing was to be administered in wilderness beyond the general direction in the 1964 Wilderness Act's Section 4.(d)(4)(2) that it "...shall be permitted to continue..."

Rather than amend the 1964 Wilderness Act, Congress chose to issue these guidelines to clarify its intent. The guidelines apply to the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

House Report 96-617 and 96-1126

1. There shall be no curtailments of grazing in wilderness areas simply because an area is, or has been designated as wilderness, nor should wilderness designations be used an excuse by administrators to slowly "phase out" grazing. Any adjustments in the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness areas should be made as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process, giving consideration to legal mandates, range condition, and the protection of the range resource from deterioration.

It is anticipated that the number of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness would remain at the approximate levels at the time an area enters the wilderness system. If land management plans reveal conclusively that increased livestock numbers or animal unit months (AUMs) could be made available with no adverse impact on wilderness values such as plant communities, primitive recreation, and wildlife populations or habitat, some increases in AUMs may be permissible. This is not to imply, however, that wilderness lends itself to AUM or livestock increases and construction of substantial new facilities that might be appropriate for intensive grazing management in non-wilderness areas.

2. The maintenance of supporting facilities, existing in an area prior to its classification as wilderness (including fences, line cabins, water wells and lines, stock tanks, etc.), is permissible in wilderness. Where practical alternatives do not exist, maintenance or other activities may be accomplished through the occasional use of motorized equipment. This may include, for example, the use of backhoes to maintain stock ponds, pickup trucks for major fence repairs, or specialized equipment to repair stock watering facilities. Such occasional use of motorized equipment should be expressly authorized in the grazing permits for the area involved. The use of motorized equipment should be based on a rule of practical necessity and reasonableness. For example, motorized equipment need not be allowed for the placement of small quantities of salt or other activities where such activities can reasonably and practically be accomplished on horseback or foot. On the other hand, it may be appropriate to permit the occasional use of motorized equipment to haul large quantities of salt to distribution points. Moreover, under the rule of reasonableness, occasional use of motorized equipment should be permitted where practical alternatives are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment. Such motorized equipment uses will normally only be permitted in those portions of a wilderness area where they had occurred prior to the area's designation as wilderness or are established by prior agreement.

² The background section is taken from an excerpt developed by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center.

3. The replacement or reconstruction of deteriorated facilities or improvements should not be required to be accomplished using "natural materials", unless the material and labor costs of using natural materials are such that their use would not impose unreasonable additional costs on grazing permittees.
4. The construction or new improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities in wilderness is permissible if in accordance with these guidelines and management plans governing the area involved. However, the construction of new improvements should be primarily for the purpose of resource protection and the more effective management of these resources rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock.
5. The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes such as rescuing sick animals or the placement of feed in emergency situations is also permissible. This privilege is to be exercised only in true emergencies and should not be abused by permittees.

In summary, subject to the conditions and policies outlined in this report, the general rule of thumb on grazing management in wilderness should be that activities or facilities established prior to the date of an area's designation as wilderness should be allowed to remain in place and may be replaced when necessary for the permittee to properly administer the grazing program. Thus, if livestock grazing activities and facilities were established in an area at the time Congress determined that the area was suitable for wilderness and placed the specific area in the wilderness system, they should be allowed to continue. With respect to areas designated as wilderness prior to the date of this Act, these guidelines shall not be considered as a direction to reestablish uses where such uses have been discontinued.

Appendix D – Official Legal Description and Map for the Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area

ASHLEY KARST NATIONAL RECREATION AND GEOLOGIC AREA

The area included in the Ashley-Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area (NRGA) is located on the Ashley National Forest, Uinta County, Utah, according to the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act (2019). The official boundary description and maps on which the boundary is shown are on file and available in the offices of the Forest Supervisor, Ashley National Forest, Vernal, Utah, and the Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, Ogden, Utah. A detailed description of the boundary follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the DUCHESNE AND UINTAH COUNTY LINE, on the summit of the Uintah Mountains two sections and one-fifth mile west of a point where the Uintah Special Meridian intersects the summit of the Uintah Mountains.

THENCE southerly on said two sections and one-fifth mile offset of the Uintah Special Meridian, being the Duchesne and Uintah County line, a distance of 18.0 miles, more or less, to the section line of sections 22 and 27, T. 2 N., R. 1 W., Uintah Special Meridian (USM) and the south boundary of the ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST;

THENCE along said National Forest boundary for the following 29 courses:

1. Easterly along the southern section lines of sections 22 and 23, said township and range a distance of 6,415 feet more or less to the corner of sections 23, 24, 25, and 26, T. 2 N., R. 1 W., USM;
2. Northerly along the section line between sections 23 and 24 a distance of 20 chains more or less to the south 1/16 corner of said sections 23 and 24;
3. Westerly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the S-E 1/16 corner of said section 23;
4. Northerly, a distance of 60 chains, more or less, to the east 1/16 corner of sections 14 and 23, said township and range;
5. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the corner of sections 13, 14, 23, and 24, said township and range;
6. Southerly, along the section line of said sections 23 and 24, a distance of 60 chains, more or less to the said south 1/16 corner of said sections 23 and 24;
7. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the S-W 1/16 corner of said section 24;
8. Southerly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the west 1/16 corner of said sections 24 and 25;
9. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains more or less, to the 1/4 corner of said sections 24 and 25;
10. Northerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less, to the C-1/4 corner of said section 24;
11. Easterly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less, to the 1/4 corner of section 19, T. 2 N., R. 1 E., USM and section 24, T. 2 N., R. 1 W., USM;
12. Northerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less, to the corner of sections 18 and 19, T. 2 N., R. 1 E., USM and sections 13 and 24, T. 2 N., R. 1 W., USM;
13. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the west 1/16 corner of sections 18 and 19, T. 2 N., R. 1 E., USM;
14. Northerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less to the C-W 1/16 corner of section 18, said township and range;
15. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the C 1/4 corner of said section 18;

16. Northerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less, to the 1/4 corner of sections 7 and 18, T. 2 N., R. 1 E., USM;
17. Continuing northerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less to the C 1/4 corner of said section 7;
18. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the C-E 1/6 corner of said section 7;
19. Southerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less, to the east 1/16 corner of said sections 7 and 18;
20. Continuing southerly, a distance of 40 chains, more or less, to the C-E 1/16 corner of said section 18;
21. Continuing southerly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less to the S-E 1/16 corner of said section 18;
22. Easterly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the south 1/16 corner of sections 17 and 18, said township and range;
23. Southerly, a distance of 20 chains, more or less, to the corner of sections 17, 18, 19, and 20, said township and range;
24. Continuing southerly, along the section line of said sections 19 and 20, a distance of 80 chains, more or less, to the corner of sections 19, 20, 29, and 30, said township and range;
25. Easterly, a distance of 80 chains, more or less, along the section line between sections 20 and 29, said township and range, to the corner of sections 20, 21, 28, and 29, T. 2 N., R. 1 E., USM;
26. Continuing easterly along the section line between sections 21 and 28, a distance of 4,427 feet, more or less, to the closing corner of sections 21 and 28, T. 2 N., R. 1 E., USM;
27. Southeasterly, along the township line of said townships, a distance of 2.0 miles more or less to the corner of section 19 only, T. 3 S., R. 19 E., SLM;
28. Northerly along the west township line of T. 3 S., R. 19 E., SLM, a distance of 3.6 miles more or less to the corner of Tps. 2 and 3 S., Rs. 18 and 19 E., SLM;
29. Easterly along the township lines of Tps. 2 and 3 S., Rs. 19 thru 21 E., SLM, a distance of 15.2 miles more or less to a point on a ridge at approximately 40°35'37.977" north latitude and 109°33'17.836" west longitude;

THENCE leaving the ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST boundary and running northeasterly along said ridge, a distance of 110 feet, more or less to USGS benchmark station "RED" at the summit of RED MOUNTAIN at 40°35'38.76286" north latitude and 109°33'16.95351" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 4,540 feet, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS Trail No. 10437 at approximately 40°36'15.047" north latitude and 109°33'32.400" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 2,610 feet, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS Trail No. 10436 at approximately 40°36'38.919" north latitude and 109°33'43.111" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northwesterly along said ridge, a distance of 4,200 feet, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS Road No. 10044 at approximately 40°37'10.346" north latitude and 109°34'16.483" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northwesterly along said ridge, a distance of 1.1 miles, more or less, to the intersection of said FS road No. 10044 at approximately 40°37'40.662" north latitude and 109°35'15.129" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northwesterly along said ridge, a distance of 3,080 feet, more or less to Coast and Geodetic Survey Station "BRUSH", a bronze disc stamped "BRUSH 1937" at 40°38'00.16195" north latitude and 109°35'45.06742" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 1.0 miles, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS road No. 10248 at approximately 40°38'44.739" north latitude and 109°36'04.222" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 2.1 miles, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS Road No. 10238 at approximately 40°40'26.348" north latitude and 109°36'46.582" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 2,920 feet, more or less, to the National Geodetic Survey control station named "ASHLEY AZIMUTH STATION", stamped "ASHLEY 1946" at 40°40'36.90893" north latitude and 109°37'09.70013" west longitude;

THENCE continuing westerly along said ridge, a distance of 1,780 feet more or less, to a point with the intersection of the centerline of FS Road No. 10237 at approximately 40°40'39.758" north latitude and 109°37'30.140" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northwesterly along said ridge, a distance of 2.6 miles, more or less, through the following approximate locations:

1. 40°41'37.019" north latitude and 109°38'09.025" west longitude (a peak);
2. 40°41'54.536" north latitude and 109°37'58.522" west longitude (a peak);
3. 40°42'19.338" north latitude and 109°38'21.244" west longitude (a peak) from which point a Coast and Geodetic Survey control station named "TAYLOR MOUNTAIN", a bronze disc set in bedrock and stamped "TAYLOR MOUNTAIN 1937" bears north 65° 12'41" west, a distance of 93.04 feet more or less;

THENCE continuing northwesterly along said ridge, a distance of 2.3 miles, more or less, through the following approximate locations:

1. 40°42'36.851" north latitude and 109°38'14.682" west longitude (a peak);
2. 40°43'03.292" north latitude and 109°38'33.203" west longitude (a peak);
3. 40°43'29.547" north latitude and 109°38'37.989" west longitude;
4. 40°43'35.820" north latitude and 109°38'41.844" west longitude (a peak);

to the intersection with the centerline of FS Road No. 10549 at approximately 40°43'59.991" north latitude and 109°39'39'13.342" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 2.8 miles, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS Road No. 10020 at approximately 40°46'06.041" north latitude and 109°39'28.095" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 1.6 miles, more or less, to the intersection with the centerline of FS Trail No. 0064 at approximately 40°47'07.736" north latitude and 109°40'15.520" west longitude;

THENCE continuing northerly along said ridge, a distance of 3,950 feet, more or less, passing through Coast and Geodetic control station "RANGER" at 40°47'32.34197" north latitude and 109°40'24.44426" west longitude to NGS control station TROUT at 40°47'45.15393" north latitude and 109°40'24.18418" west longitude, to a point on the DAGGET AND UINTAH COUNTY LINE at approximately 40°47'45.264" north latitude and 109°40'24.129" west longitude;

THENCE westerly along said county line, a ridge oriented easterly and westerly, a distance of 20.3 miles, more or less, through the following approximate locations:

1. 40°47'52.015" north latitude and 109°41'05.317" west longitude (the intersection with the centerline of FS Road No. 10037);
2. 40°48'08.896" north latitude and 109°42'19.078" west longitude (a peak);
3. 40°48'06.136" north latitude and 109°43'11.922" west longitude (a peak);

4. 40°48'10.118" north latitude and 109°45'11.783" west longitude (a peak);
5. 40°48'01.81964" north latitude and 109°45'22.87555" west longitude (Coast and Geodetic Survey station "YOUNG");
6. 40°47'25.986" north latitude and 109°45'37.464" west longitude (the intersection with OLD CARTER MILITARY TRAIL (FS TRAIL No. 1016);
7. 40°47'14.276" north latitude and 109°45'44.027" west longitude (the intersection with FS ROAD No. 10026);
8. 40°46'50.062" north latitude and 109°48'25.547" west longitude (the intersection with FS TRAIL No. 1014);
9. 40°46'05.857" north latitude and 109°50'03.032" west longitude (LEIDY PEAK);
10. 40°45'55.975" north latitude and 109°51'41.248" west longitude (a peak);
11. 40°46'15.074" north latitude and 109°52'43.621" west longitude (MOUNT UNTERMANN PEAK);
12. 40°46'29.319" north latitude and 109°52'59.553" west longitude (a peak);
13. 40°46'23.798" north latitude and 109°53'37.264" west longitude;
14. 40°46'55.068" north latitude and 109°53'51.388" west longitude;
15. 40° 46'55.329" north latitude and 109°54'48.126" west longitude;
16. 40°47'18.112" north latitude and 109°54'59.139" west longitude;
17. 40°47'26.626" north latitude and 109°55'08.395" west longitude;
18. 40°57'22.686" north latitude and 109°55'25.135" west longitude;
19. 40°47'47.857" north latitude and 109°55'55.362" west longitude;
20. 40°47'40.991" north latitude and 109°56'24.668" west longitude;
21. 40°47'53.419" north latitude and 109°56'40.241" west longitude;
22. 40°48'35.97989" north latitude and 109°58'21.65056" west longitude (a standard USDA

Forest Service bronze tablet stamped "CHEPETA 1958") to a point at approximately 40°48'35.376" north latitude and 109°58'40.083" west longitude (a point at the northern terminus of the Duchesne and Uintah County Line) and the **POINT OF BEGINNING**.

EXCEPTING therefrom a parcel of land described as:

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T. 2 S., R. 19 E.,

HES 127, excepting parcel A, further described as:

PARCEL A (acquired by the United States July 27, 2017) (included in NRG)

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 2 S., R. 19 E.,

A portion of Homestead Entry Survey (HES) No. 127, depicted as Parcel A on Record of Survey No. 4884 filed in the office of the Uintah County Recorder and more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at Corner No. 3 of said HES No. 127 and running thence N. 46°00'48" W., a distance of 109.64 feet, to the common corner of the Carol Jean Massey Hatch Trust and the Knight Family Trust (Hatch/Knight) parcels, said common corner located on Line 3-4 of said HES No. 127 and monumented with a Forest Service pipe monument (AP6), and the **POINT OF BEGINNING**;

THENCE along said Line 3-4 of HES NO. 127 N. 46°00'48" W., a distance of 1,461.18 feet, to the common corner of the Carol Jean Massey Hatch Trust and the Cheryl Richins Trust (Hatch/Richins) parcels, said common corner being monumented with a Forest Service pipe monument (AP9);

THENCE along the common boundary line of the Hatch/Richins parcels N. 26°13'50" E., a distance of 16.37 feet, to a Forest Service pipe monument (AP8);

THENCE leaving said common Hatch/Richins boundary line and running parallel with said Line 4-3 of HES No. 127 S. 46°00'48" E., a distance of 1,466.14, feet to a point on the common boundary line between the Hatch/Knight parcels, said point being monumented with a Forest Service pipe monument (AP7);

THENCE along said common Hatch/Knight boundary line S. 43°51'22" W., a distance of 15.59 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Also **EXCEPTING** parcel B.

PARCEL B (non-federal land conveyed by the United States July 24, 2017) (Excluded from NRG).

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 2 S., R. 19 E.,

Sec. 27 (unsurveyed), being a parcel of land lying northerly of and adjacent to Homestead Entry Survey (HES) No. 127, depicted as Parcel B on Record of Survey No. 4884 filed in the office of the Uintah County Recorder and more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at Corner No. 6 of said HES No. 127 and running thence N. 46°14'21" W., a distance of 693.58 feet, to a point located on Line 5-6 of said HES No. 127 and monumented with a Forest Service monument (AP1), and the **POINT OF BEGINNING**;

THENCE leaving said line 5-6 of HES No. 127, N. 26°18'09" E., a distance of 66.26 feet, to a Forest Service monument (AP2);

THENCE N. 28°21'28" W., a distance of 178.30 feet, to a Forest Service monument (AP3);

THENCE N. 78°13'07" W., a distance of 97.46 feet, to a Forest Service monument (AP4);

THENCE S. 23°51'15" W., a distance of 70.56 feet, to a point on said Line 5-6 of HES No. 127, said point being monumented with a Forest Service monument (AP5);

THENCE along said Line 5-6 of HES No. 127 S. 46°14'21" E., a distance of 248.21 feet, to the **POINT OF BEGINNING**.

The areas described aggregate 173,699 acres.

