



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region



June 2016

Wilderness Recommendations

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Forest Plans for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

As part of revising the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests land management plans (forest plans), the Forest Service is identifying and evaluating lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This is a requirement of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.7(c)(2)(v)). We are not designating any wilderness areas through this process; only Congress can take that action.

The wilderness recommendation process has three steps, inventory, evaluation and analysis. This process is documented in Appendix B in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for these forest plan revisions. We are following the 2012 Planning Rule Directives, Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 Chapter 70, which uses criteria based on the Wilderness Act of 1964. Appendix B describes the outcome of the inventory and evaluation, the areas included in one or more alternative in the draft EIS, and rationale for those areas that were not selected for analysis in the draft EIS.

Based on the analysis in the environmental impact statement and public input received, the Forest Supervisor for each of the three national forests will make a decision on specific areas to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The decision will be included in the Record of Decision for the plan as a preliminary administrative recommendation. Forest plan components will provide direction for managing areas recommended for wilderness designation.

Wilderness Recommendation Process

There are four steps in the wilderness recommendation process: inventory, evaluation, analysis and recommendation.

- *Step 1: Inventory:* The inventory step identifies all lands in the plan area that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This step is intended to be reasonably broad and inclusive based on inventory criteria found in FSH 1909.12 Section 71.
- *Step 2: Evaluation:* This step evaluates the wilderness characteristics of the lands included in the inventory. Wilderness evaluation narratives include descriptions of the general area and wilderness characteristics, as well as factors affecting manageability.
- *Step 3: Analysis:* Based on the wilderness evaluation narratives and public feedback, areas or portions of areas in the inventory were included for analysis as recommended wilderness in the draft EIS. Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be analyzed for recommendation.

- *Step 4 Recommendation:* The Responsible Official (Forest Supervisor) decides which areas, if any, to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The decision is based upon the environmental analysis and input from Tribal, State and local governments, and the public.

Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness

We have completed the inventory and evaluation steps and are currently in the NEPA analysis step. We have determined which areas to analyze as recommended wilderness in the draft EIS, which is currently available for review online at: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters> and summarized in the attached tables. Alternatives B and C include recommended wilderness and management direction for recommended wilderness that is the same for the two alternatives.

- We are analyzing a total of 59 areas as recommended wilderness. Some of these areas are additions to existing designated wilderness.
- The Inyo National Forest has 4 recommended wilderness areas in Alternative B and 24 in Alternative C.
- The Sequoia National Forest has 18 recommended wilderness areas in Alternative C.
- The Sierra National Forest has 17 recommended wilderness areas in Alternative C.

Next Steps

The draft EIS, including Appendix B, and draft forest plans will be open to a public comment period for 90 days. Please submit your comment(s) only once using one of the following methods. You may request a confirmation response if you submit your comment via the project web-site.

- Project web-site comment form: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>
- Postal mail: Planning Team Leader, Forest Plan Revision, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592
- E-mail: r5planrevision@fs.fed.us

We encourage you to be as specific as possible and focus your comments on merits of the alternatives and/or the adequacy of the analysis. The more specific your comments are, the better we can respond to your comments and improve our final EIS.

Wilderness Facts

Only Congress can designate Wilderness. Any decision to recommend wilderness is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation. Plan implementation is not dependent upon subsequent action related recommendations for wilderness designation.

- Nationally, the Forest Service manages 445 congressionally designated wilderness areas.
- In California, the Forest Service manages all or portions of 63 designated wilderness areas.
- There are 15 designated wilderness areas on the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

Wilderness Recommendation

- The Inyo National Forest manages the Ansel Adams Wilderness, Golden Trout Wilderness, Hoover Wilderness, Inyo Mountains Wilderness, John Muir Wilderness, Owens River Headwaters Wilderness, South Sierra Wilderness, and White Mountains Wilderness.
- The Sequoia National Forest manages the Domeland Wilderness, Golden Trout Wilderness, Jennie Lakes Wilderness, Kiavah Wilderness, Monarch Wilderness, and South Sierra Wilderness.
- The Sierra National Forest manages the Ansel Adams Wilderness, Dinkey Lakes Wilderness, John Muir Wilderness, Kaiser Wilderness, and Monarch Wilderness.

Inyo National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives B and C

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
1012	40,368	Glass Mountains	None	Glass Mountains (34,591)
1068	12,311	Dexter Canyon	None	Dexter Canyon (8,674)
1179	7,212	Lower Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake Loop	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast (7,212)
1236	73,128	West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness	None	Inyo Mountain Wilderness Addition (6,775) Mazourka Peak (41,524)
1242	2,678	North of Little Cowhorn Valley	None	Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (2) (2,678)
1246	43,231	North of Eureka Valley Road	Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1) ^A (11,840)	Deadman Canyon ² (15,445) Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1) (10,657) Soldier Canyon (10,037)
1248	38,756	Redding Canyon, Black Canyon	None	Marble Canyon (15,392) Redding Canyon (8,284) Silver Creek (8,076)
1258	35,248	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South	None	Deep Springs North (34,164)
1281	11,210	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow	White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East) (2,505) White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West) (5,062)	White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East) (3,187) White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West) (7,142)
1308	13,886	Indian Creek to Leidy Creek	None	Marble Creek (13,886)
1339	19,826	Pizona-Truman Meadows	None	Pizona-Truman Meadows (19,762)
1355	10,297	Excelsior Mountains-Adobe Hills	None	Adobe Hills (10,297)
1357	5,805	Excelsior Mountains	None	South Huntoon Creek (5,805)
1361	8,855	Excelsior Mountains - Huntoon Creek	None	Huntoon Creek (8,855)
1391 ^B	33,247	Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East	South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) (17,622)	Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East (5,954) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) (25,249) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (2) (1,424)
1550 ^C	12,198	McBride Flat ¹	None	McBride Flat (10,461)

A. In previously publicly shared information of areas being considered for inclusion in one or more alternatives as potential recommended wilderness, this area was call “Deep Springs South.” It is been renamed “Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1).”

B. Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the acres occurring on the Inyo National Forest.

C. In previously publicly shared information of areas being considered for inclusion in one or more alternatives as potential recommended wilderness, this area was call “Soldier Canyon” It is been renamed “Deadman Canyon.”

1. McBride Flat is a polygon that was not included in the final inventory; the polygon was subsequently added due to an administrative boundary change that brought the area under the management of the Inyo National Forest.

Overview of Designated Wilderness, Existing Recommended Wilderness, and Areas Being Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness by Alternative for the Inyo National Forest

Note: Areas analyzed as recommended wilderness consist of lands that were inventoried and evaluated as part of the wilderness evaluation and are now being considered for inclusion as recommended wilderness in one or more alternatives of the environmental analysis process. A final decision on which areas will be included in the draft environmental impact statement analysis has not yet been made.

Measurement	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Acres of existing designated wilderness	967,039	967,039	967,039	967,039
Existing recommended wilderness	0	0	0	0
Acres (and number of polygons) ¹ considered for the Inventory	Not Applicable	795,190 (562)	795,190 (562)	795,190 (562)
Acres (and number of polygons) included in the final inventory and evaluation ²	Not Applicable	614,477 (56)	614,477 (56)	614,477 (56)
Acres being analyzed as recommended wilderness (and number of areas being analyzed)	Not Applicable	37,029 (4)	315,533 (24)	0
Acres of total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness	967,039	1,004,068	1,282,572	967,039
Total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness as percentage of total forest acres ³	49%	51%	64%	49%
Percent increase in total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness over current management (Alt A).	Not Applicable	2%	15%	0%
Total percent increase of combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness resulting from potential recommended wilderness	Not Applicable	4%	33%	0%

¹ The number of polygons includes whole polygons that are completely within the Inyo National Forest administrative boundary as well as partial polygons that are located on the national forest boundary with portions in two national forests.

² The acres listed here are derived from the evaluation dataset. The final inventory dataset and the evaluation dataset are the same for those polygons that were included in the inventory and evaluation except for some small corrections that were made in the evaluation dataset as small errors were identified after the final inventory had been completed. For this reason there are some small discrepancies between the polygon acreage totals shown here and those as calculated in the final inventory dataset.

³ Total national forest acres for the Inyo are 1,989,446.

Sequoia National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives b and c.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
66	8,289	Saturday Peak-Greenhorn Roadless	None	Saturday Peak (8,176)
160	16,126	Slate Mountain	None	Slate Mountain (16,004)
162	15,806	North of Black Mountain	None	Long Canyon (15,794)
190	7,100	Dennison Peak	None	Dennison Peak (7,100)
1377	11,559	Adjacent to Monarch Wilderness	None	Monarch Wilderness Addition – South (5,472)
1384	39,629	Cannel Peak	None	Cannell Peak (27,208)
1385	8,216	Jennie Lakes Roadless-adjacent to Jennie Lakes Wilderness	None	Jennie Lakes Wilderness Addition (5,263)
1387	89,627	North Fork Kern-adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness	None	Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (1) (3,488) Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – Southwest) (27,973)
1390	1,100	Osa Meadows, Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness	None	Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (2) (967)
1391*	17,745	Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East	None	Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (3) (492) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West (1) (2,155) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West (2) (2,880)
1394	51,801	Domeland/ Woodpecker Roadless Area, Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness	None	Domeland Wilderness Addition- South (14,666) Domeland Wilderness Addition- West (18,817)
1404	6,068	Hatchet Peak	None	Hatchet Peak (6,060)
1408	48,730	Upper Kern Canyon Escarpment-Baker Peak	None	Stormy Canyon (40,457)
1431	7,234	Woodpecker Roadless, Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness	None	Domeland Wilderness Fish Creek Addition (3,932)

* Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the acres occurring on the Sequoia National Forest.

Overview of Designated Wilderness, Existing Recommended Wilderness, and Areas Being Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness by Alternative for the Sequoia National Forest

Note: Areas analyzed as recommended wilderness consist of lands that were inventoried and evaluated as part of the wilderness evaluation and are now being considered for inclusion as recommended wilderness in one or more alternatives of the environmental analysis process. A final decision on which areas will be included in the draft environmental impact statement analysis has not yet been made.

Measurement	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Acres of existing designated wilderness	314,448	314,448	314,448	314,448
Existing recommended wilderness	15,110	15,110	15,110	15,110
Acres (and number of polygons) ¹ considered for the Inventory	Not Applicable	663,175 (328)	663,175 (328)	663,175 (328)
Acres (and number of polygons) included in the final inventory and evaluation ²	Not Applicable	528,540 (37)	528,540 (37)	528,540 (37)
Acres being analyzed as recommended wilderness (and number of areas being analyzed)	Not Applicable	0	206,904 (19)	0
Acres of total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness	329,558	329,558	536,462	329,558
Total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness as percentage of total forest acres ³	30%	30%	48%	30%
Percent increase in total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness over current management (Alt A).	Not Applicable	0%	19%	0%
Total percent increase of combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness resulting from potential recommended wilderness	Not Applicable	0%	63%	0%

¹ The number of polygons includes whole polygons that are completely within the Sequoia National Forest administrative boundary as well as partial polygons that are located on the national forest boundary with portions in two national forests.

² The acres listed here are derived from the evaluation dataset. The final inventory dataset and the evaluation dataset are the same for those polygons that were included in the inventory and evaluation except for some small corrections that were made in the evaluation dataset as small errors were identified after the final inventory had been completed. For this reason there are some small discrepancies between the polygon acreage totals shown here and those as calculated in the final inventory dataset.

³ Total national forest acres for the Inyo are 1,989,446.

Sierra National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives B and C

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
315	17,908	Sycamore Springs	None	Sycamore Springs (17,908)
539	48,312	Adjacent to Dinkey Lakes Wilderness	None	Bear Mountain (9,247) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (1) (8,317) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (2) (4,178) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (3) (16,318)
646	18,013	Shuteye	None	Shuteye (14,418)
772	47,747	Devil Gulch	None	Devil Gulch (37,325) Ferguson Ridge (7,800)
795	1,206	Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness 2	None	John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (2) (1,206)
797	1,299	Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness 3	None	John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (1) (1,299)
819	37,528	San Joaquin River, Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition (37,062)
821	13,370	Mount Raymond	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions (1) (9,117) Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions (2) (661)
822	10,581	Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions (1) (6,964) Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions (2) (2,949)
1378*	71,974	Adjacent to John Muir and Monarch Wildernesses	None	John Muir Wilderness Additions – Southwest (3,359) Monarch Wilderness Addition – West (42,512)

* Evaluation Polygon 1378 was evaluated as a whole, but it overlays the boundary between the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests with portions in each forest. The figures here represent the acres of the whole evaluation polygon and acres of potential recommended wilderness that are administered by the Sierra National Forest.

Overview of Designated Wilderness, Existing Recommended Wilderness, and Areas Being Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness by Alternative for the Sierra National Forest

Note: Areas analyzed as recommended wilderness consist of lands that were inventoried and evaluated as part of the wilderness evaluation and are now being considered for inclusion as recommended wilderness in one or more alternatives of the environmental analysis process. A final decision on which areas will be included in the draft environmental impact statement analysis has not yet been made

Measurement	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Acres of existing designated wilderness	553,683	553,683	553,683	553,683
Existing recommended wilderness	0	0	0	0
Acres (and number of polygons) ¹ considered for the Inventory	Not Applicable	517,157 (608)	517,157 (608)	517,157 (608)
Acres (and number of polygons) included in the final inventory and evaluation ²	Not Applicable	312,796 (22)	312,796 (22)	312,796 (22)
Acres being analyzed as recommended wilderness (and number of areas being analyzed)	Not Applicable	0	220,641 (17)	0
Acres of total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness	553,683	553,683	774,324	553,683
Total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness as percentage of total forest acres ³	42%	42%	59%	42%
Percent increase in total combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness over current management (Alt A).	Not Applicable	0%	17%	0%
Total percent increase of combined designated wilderness, existing recommended wilderness and areas being analyzed as recommended wilderness resulting from potential recommended wilderness	Not applicable	0%	40%	0%

¹ The number of polygons includes whole polygons that are completely within the Sierra National Forest administrative boundary as well as partial polygons that are located on the national forest boundary with portions in two national forests.

² The acres listed here are derived from the evaluation dataset. The final inventory dataset and the evaluation dataset are the same for those polygons that were included in the inventory and evaluation except for some small corrections that were made in the evaluation dataset as small errors were identified after the final inventory had been completed. For this reason there are some small discrepancies between the polygon acreage totals shown here and those as calculated in the final inventory dataset.

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