



United States Department of Agriculture

Appendix C

Wilderness Evaluation Process for the Manti-La Sal National Forest



Forest Service

Intermountain Region

September 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Overview of the Process	1
Step 1: Inventory	1
Size Criteria	2
Improvements Criteria	2
Inventory Maps	2
Step 2: Evaluation	3
Process	3
Criteria and Categorical Values	3
Apparent Naturalness	3
Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation.....	5
Unique and Outstanding Qualities	7
Manageability	8
Weighting Method to Determine Overall Unit Value	9
Step 3: Analysis	11
Identifying Unit for Analysis.....	11
Step 4: Recommendation	12
Unit Summaries.....	14
Monticello District	15
15-Milk Ranch Point.....	16
20-Arch Canyon.....	21
361-Dry Mesa.....	28
416-Chippean and Allen Canyons	35
419-Hammond and Notch Canyons.....	41
630-South Abajos.....	47
633-Elk Ridge.....	53
651-Ruin Canyon.....	59
652-Butler Wash, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area.....	65
653-Butler Wash	70
654-Horse Mountain.....	74
665-Abajo Mountains	79
Moab District	85
759-Southern La Sals.....	86

780w-Central La Sals, West.....	92
780e-Central La Sals, East	97
803-Mill Creek Canyon, South Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area	103
806-Roc Creek.....	108
817-Mill Creek Canyon, North Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area	113
823-North La Sal Peaks	118
836-Beaver Creek.....	123
839-Mary Jane Canyon, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area	128
846-Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area	133
847-Fisher Mesa.....	137
Ferron District	141
850-Wildcat Knolls Ext, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area.....	142
851-Quitcupah Creek, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area	147
868-White Mountain	152
907-Muddy Creek.....	157
921-Ferron Mountain.....	162
1075-Horn Mountain	167
1109-Bear Creek.....	172
1136-Red Point.....	177
1161-Trail Mountain	181
1208-Reeder Canyon.....	186
Price District.....	191
1297-Candland Mountain	192
1303-Seeley Canyon.....	197
1309-Gentry Mountain	202
1328-Trough Springs Ridge	207
1350-Fish Creek.....	212
1351-Bennion Ridge.....	217
1358-Mill Fork.....	221
1359-Blind Canyon	225
1360-Dairy Fork.....	229
Sanpete District.....	233
881-Order Mountain	234
925-Twelve Mile Creek	238
944-Love Ridge Flat.....	242
992-Black Mountain.....	246

1022-Six Mile Creek	251
1103-Jimmy's Fork	255
1199-Canal Canyon	260
1231-Knob Mountain	265
1255-Deep Creek	269
1283-Maple Canyon	273
1320-Tidds Ridge.....	277
1336-San Pitch Mountain.....	281
1349-Oak Creek Ridge.....	286

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Categorical Value Guide for Question 1a.	4
Table 2. Categorical Value Guide for Question 1b.	4
Table 3. Categorical Value Guide for Question 1c.	5
Table 4. Categorical Value Guide for Question 2a.	6
Table 5. Categorical Value Guide for Question 2b.	7
Table 6. Categorical Value Guide for Question 4a.	9
Table 7. Overall value ratings for each unit by ranger district.	10
Table 8. Evaluation units that will be moved into the analysis step and the acres to be analyzed.	12
Table 9. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Milk Ranch Point.	19
Table 10. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Arch Canyon unit.	27
Table 11. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Dry Mesa unit.	33
Table 12. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Chippean and Allen Canyons unit.	40
Table 13. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Hammond and Notch Canyons unit.	46
Table 14. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for South Abajos unit.	52
Table 15. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Elk Ridge unit.	57
Table 16. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Ruin Canyon unit.	63
Table 17. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Butler Wash, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area unit.	69
Table 18. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Butler Wash unit.	73
Table 19. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Horse Mountain unit.	78
Table 20. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Abajo Mountains unit.	84
Table 21. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Southern La Sals unit.	90
Table 22. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Central La Sals, West unit.	96
Table 23. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Central La Sals, East unit.	101
Table 24. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mill Creek Canyon, South Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area unit.	107
Table 25. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Roc Creek unit.	112
Table 26. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mill Creek Canyon, North Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area unit.	117
Table 27. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value North La Sal Peaks unit.	121
Table 28. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Beaver Creek unit.	127
Table 29. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mary Jane Canyon, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.	132

Table 30. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.	136
Table 31. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Fisher Mesa unit.	140
Table 32. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Wildcat Knoll Ext, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.	145
Table 33. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Quitchupah Creek, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.	150
Table 34. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value White Mountain unit.	155
Table 35. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Muddy Creek unit.	161
Table 36. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Ferron Mountain unit.	166
Table 37. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Horn Mountain unit.	170
Table 38. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Bear Creek unit.	176
Table 39. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Red Point unit.	180
Table 40. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Trail Mountain unit.	185
Table 41. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Reeder Canyon unit.	190
Table 42. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Candland Mountain unit.	196
Table 43. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Seeley Canyon unit.	200
Table 44. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Gentry Mountain unit.	205
Table 45. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Trough Springs Ridge unit.	211
Table 46. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Fish Creek unit.	216
Table 47. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Bennion Ridge unit.	220
Table 48. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mill Fork unit.	224
Table 49. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Blind Canyon unit.	228
Table 50. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Dairy Fork unit.	232
Table 51. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Order Mountain unit.	237
Table 52. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Twelve Mile Creek unit.	241
Table 53. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Love Ridge Flat unit.	245
<i>Table 54. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Black Mountain unit.</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>Table 55. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Six Mile Creek unit.</i>	<i>254</i>
<i>Table 56. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Jimmy's Fork unit.</i>	<i>259</i>
<i>Table 57. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Canal Canyon unit.</i>	<i>264</i>
<i>Table 58. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Knob Mountain unit.</i>	<i>268</i>
<i>Table 59. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Deep Creek unit.</i>	<i>272</i>
<i>Table 60. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Maple Canyon unit.</i>	<i>276</i>
<i>Table 61. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Tidds Ridge unit.</i>	<i>280</i>

Table 62. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value San Pitch Mountain unit. 284
Table 63. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Oak Creek Ridge unit. 289

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Manti-La Sal National Forest land management plan revision process, the Manti-La Sal National Forest, hereafter referred to as the Forest, is required to identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend to Congress any such lands for wilderness as described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70. A description of this process can also be found in the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule. This process includes the following four steps: inventory, evaluation, analysis, and recommendation. It is possible that the recommendation step will not occur, if there are no areas found through the first three steps to be recommended. This document details the inventory and evaluation steps as well as rationale for units carried forward into the analysis step.

Overview of the Process

Step 1: Inventory

The inventory is intended to be broad and inclusive, including all areas across the Forest that meet certain size, roads, and improvements criteria as described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_71.

Step 2: Evaluation

The next step is to evaluate each area on the inventory map for wilderness characteristics. Evaluation of wilderness characteristics is guided through five criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_72.

Step 3: Analysis

Release of the proposed action initiates the National Environmental Policy Act process. The draft environmental impact statement will analyze the environmental effects and management tradeoffs associated with recommending areas for wilderness designation.

Step 4: Recommendation

As the deciding official, the Forest Supervisor makes a final decision on which areas to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System when signing the revised Forest Plan decision. If any areas are recommended, these are preliminary administrative recommendations. Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

STEP 1: INVENTORY

The inventory, as the first step in the process, is meant to provide a course filter for eliminating areas which are less than 5,000 acres in size, unless specific criteria are met for manageability and areas with substantially noticeable improvements. Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70 outlines criteria for areas that should, and should not, be included in the inventory step when assessing the two criteria: size and substantially noticeable improvements.

Size Criteria

The Wilderness Act defines the size of a wilderness as follows. It is an area that “has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition” (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136.2c). Conditions in which it would be practicable to preserve in an unimpaired condition an area less than 5000 acres, include but are not limited to areas that are self-contained, such as islands, canyons, or mesa tops, or areas that are contiguous to existing designed wilderness, primitive areas, administratively recommended wilderness, or areas of wilderness inventory under other Federal ownership.

Improvements Criteria

This criterion excludes areas with maintenance level 3, 4, or 5 roads, unless disinvestment is anticipated, or those with permanently authorized roads as defined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70. Other areas will be considered for evaluation including those with other maintenance level roads. Areas considered for evaluation should also include those where vegetation treatments, timber harvests, mining, grazing activities, recreation improvements, oil and gas developments, vertical structures, transmission lines, and similar infrastructure and activities are substantially unnoticeable, or where appropriate management actions could restore the substantially noticeable alterations. Substantially noticeable is not directly defined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70; but for this inventory process, an improvement is determined to be substantially noticeable when it creates a noticeable difference in form, line, color, texture and pattern compared to the surrounding natural landscape at a size, scale, or concentration that contrasts with the surrounding natural landscape. To be substantially noticeable, the improvement or concentration of improvements must dominate the surrounding natural landscape scene.

The presence of improvements does not necessarily eliminate areas from consideration in the inventory; however, certain types of improvements or areas dense with improvements, have been removed from the inventory unit boundaries based on internal and external feedback.

Inventory Maps

Using the coarse filter criteria of size and improvements, as described above, a set of draft inventory maps which were shared during the public open houses in September of 2016, and the public workshops held in November of 2016. Public and cooperating agency feedback received during these meetings was used to improve the initial draft inventory maps, and a second edition made available for public comment again in April 2017 through the forest plan revision website.

Using online comment forms and written feedback from Cooperating Agencies and the public, a final set of inventory maps was developed in June of 2017 and shared during the June and July 2017 public open houses. These inventory unit boundaries provided the areas to be evaluated in the second step of the process.

To view the draft and final inventory maps, as well as public comment summaries from the accompanying open houses, visit the Forest Service website here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd534059>

STEP 2: EVALUATION

Process

The primary function of the second step, the evaluation, is to review all areas identified in the inventory and document the presence of wilderness characteristics within each inventory unit. All lands identified in the inventory step will be included in the evaluation step. The evaluation is based primarily on criteria identified in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70. Additionally, the Manti-La Sal National Forest, with input and participation from the public and cooperating agencies, created additional questions and measures to refine handbook criteria and establish a consistent way to evaluate each inventory unit for wilderness characteristics in a comparable manner. The four criteria used to evaluate each inventory unit are: apparent naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, unique and outstanding qualities, and manageability.

In order to ensure that the evaluation was completed using an iterative process that relied on both qualitative and quantitative analysis, categorical values were developed for each evaluation criteria. Categorical values assign each unit a high, moderate, low, or no presence for each of the four criteria, except for unique and outstanding qualities. Unique and outstanding qualities is categorized into a simple yes or no, presence or absence.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest interdisciplinary team held nine internal meetings to develop the initial draft evaluation narratives. The interdisciplinary team used geospatial data, including maps, and interdisciplinary field knowledge, to develop the initial draft narratives for each inventory unit. Specialists then reviewed each unit's narrative and geospatial data, to assign a categorical value for each criterion.

A draft of the wilderness evaluation narratives, wilderness characteristic definitions and categorical values, draft wilderness evaluation spreadsheets, and the initial assigned wilderness characteristic categorical values by evaluation unit, were shared with the public and cooperating agencies during a review period in February 2018. Based on information received during this review period, the draft evaluation narratives and initial categorical values were revised where appropriate, and a method was developed to create a final overall value for each inventory unit.

This overall value is a combination of the individual criteria values. The overall unit value method, rather than averaging each wilderness characteristic equally to create a single overall unit value, uses a weighting system to place additional emphasis on the criteria public and cooperating agencies deemed most influential in evaluating wilderness characteristics. A second evaluation review period was held in fall 2018 so the public and cooperating agencies could provide feedback on the draft evaluation report summary, the process to create an overall unit value method, and how to identify units to be carried forward into the third step, the analysis which occurs as part of Forest Plan Revision draft environmental impact statement.

Criteria and Categorical Values

Apparent Naturalness

Apparent naturalness as described by Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70 is an evaluation of "the degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the

imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.” When evaluating for apparent naturalness, the evaluation will be based on a balance between the perception of the average forest visitor and subject matter expertise. The following are the three apparent naturalness questions derived from the handbook and internal Manti-La Sal National Forest refinements. Refinements were made to provide more information in answering the questions consistently for all inventory units.

1a. What is the composition of plant and animal communities?

- Describe the dominant vegetation types, and associations, as well as plant and animal communities.
- How are concentrations of nonnative plants or animals distributed across the unit?
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

Table 1. Categorical Value Guide for Question 1a.

Value	Definition
High	Non-native species are not evident. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural.
Moderate	Non-native species are evident in isolated spots or low numbers scattered throughout. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas.
Low	Non-native species are common in the area. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in some areas.
No Presence	Non-native species dominate the area. The composition of plant and animal communities represents a departure from apparent naturalness in most of the area.

1b. What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

- Describe the distribution and amount of vegetation restoration treatments, such as thinning, timber harvest areas, and associated activities.
- Does the vegetation appear natural? Consider elements, including but not limited to vegetation, wildlife, soil, air.
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

Table 2. Categorical Value Guide for Question 1b.

Value	Definition
High	Vegetation appears natural.
Moderate	Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots.
Low	Vegetation does not appear natural in most of the area.
No Presence	Vegetation does not appear natural across the entire area.

1c. What is the extent to which improvements, as defined as evidence of current or past human activities, in the area represent a departure from apparent naturalness?

- Consider the extent to which the improvements cause the appearance to depart from the apparent naturalness of the whole area. Consider the appearance and concentrations of all improvements listed below:

- Linear travel ways, including system trails¹, known unauthorized routes and any remaining system, decommissioned, temporary or user-created roads.
- Airstrips, heliports, and landing zones.
- Permanently installed vertical structures.
- Areas of mining activity, including exploration and prospecting.
- Range or wildlife improvements, such as fences, water troughs, earthen tanks, corrals, trick tanks, and agricultural water pipelines that are typically less than 2-inch diameter.
- Recreation improvements.
- Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and powerlines.
- Watershed treatment areas, such as contouring, diking, channeling.
- Structures, dwellings, and other relics of past occupation, that are not considered a part of the cultural landscape.
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

Table 3. Categorical Value Guide for Question 1c².

Value	Definition
High	Little or no evidence of human activity. Prevalence of improvements is rare or scattered. The presence or appearance of improvements does not detract from apparent naturalness. It is rare to see improvements.
Moderate	Unnoticeable or unobjectionable human activity. Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area; it may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed through the area. It is common to find spots where improvements are absent or unseen. Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas.
Low	Noticeable evidence of human activity is present. Area has high level of human disturbance. Prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area and is often concentrated. Although spots where improvements are absent or unseen are uncommon, they exist. Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas.
No Presence	Obvious evidence of human activity. Prevalence of improvements is very high throughout the area and there are very few or no spots where improvements are absent or unseen. Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness throughout the area.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

This criterion evaluates the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. An area may possess either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; it does not need to possess both. Similarly, an area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities on every acre within the area. When evaluating for outstanding opportunities, the evaluation will be based on a balance between the perception of the average forest visitor and subject matter expertise. The following are the two questions the Forest

¹ System trails are acceptable improvements in wilderness areas; the purpose of this consideration is to consider whether the concentration, appearance, and density of system trails in the area impacts the area's apparent naturalness.

² When considering the average visitor's awareness of improvements, consider the surrounding vegetation and terrain. For example, a small structure in an open landscape may impact apparent naturalness more than a larger structure in a dense forest.

Service Handbook 1909.12_70 outlines and the additional refinements made by the Manti-La Sal to provide more information in answering the questions consistently for all inventory units.

2a. Consider impacts that are pervasive and influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude within the evaluated area.

- Can a traveler see or hear evidence of civilization from within the area? Consider the proximity of area to high use areas, private lands, roads including dead-end roads, or activities that impact opportunities for solitude. Consider the pervasiveness of impacts, and potential seasonal variabilities.
- What is the level of challenge and risk in the area? What is the likelihood of encounters with others?
- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

Table 4. Categorical Value Guide for Question 2a.

Value	Definition
High	Common or significant feeling of being alone or remote from civilization. Human activities are rare.
Moderate	Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. Human activities are uncommon.
Low	Little opportunity of feeling alone. Human activities or presence is common. Signs of civilization are common or likely.
No Presence	No opportunity of feeling alone. Human activities or presence is unavoidable. Signs of civilization are pervasive.

2b. Consider the opportunity to engage in primitive type³ or unconfined recreation activities that lead to a visitor's ability to feel a part of nature.

- Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.
- Describe other types of non-primitive recreation activities in the area.
- Is the area relatively free of restrictions on visitor behavior, providing an unconfined experience?
- Are facilities or user controls provided that decrease opportunities for self-reliant recreation?
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

³ Examples of primitive-type recreation activities include observing wildlife, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, floating, kayaking, cross-country skiing, camping, and enjoying nature.

Table 5. Categorical Value Guide for Question 2b.

Value	Definition
High	There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation. These opportunities are of high quality.
Moderate	There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation. At least some of these opportunities are of high quality.
Low	There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation. Any existing opportunities are poor.
No Presence	There are no opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

This criterion evaluates the degree to which the area contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values are not required to be present in an area for the area to be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, but their presence should be identified and evaluated where they exist. In addition to whether these features are present, this criterion evaluates if the feature is iconic or unique at a regional or national scale, and the extent the feature defines how people think about and value the area. The following are the five questions from Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70, and the additional refinements made by the Manti-La Sal to provide more information in answering the questions consistently for all inventory units.

For all five questions regarding unique and outstanding qualities, the categorical values are yes or no, presence or absence.

3a. Does the area contain rare, at the national or regional scale, plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?

- Presence of rare species or ecosystems?
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

- Description of any outstanding and unique features in the area, including significance and extent.
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national⁴ significance?

- Presence of significant historic or cultural resources sites?
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

- Percent of area that is part of a research natural area.

⁴ Consider if the feature is nationally recognized, for example, through an official designation such as the National Register, or if the feature is considered a priority heritage asset.

- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

- Presence and extent of high-quality water resources or important watershed features in the area.
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

Manageability

Manageability evaluates the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering current conditions. The following is the question from Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70, and the additional refinements made by the Manti-La Sal to provide more information in answering the question consistently for all inventory units.

4a. Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics? Describe factors that are or are not compatible with managing for wilderness character.

- Shape and configuration of the area. Describe the boundary, edge to interior ratio, and presence of cherry-stemmed roads.
- Presence and extent of legally established rights or uses within the area and how these uses may support or impact managing an area for wilderness characteristics. For example, are active mining claims, grazing allotment maintenance needs, motorized or mechanized use such as mountain biking, special uses, cultural or traditional uses present⁵?
- Presence and extent of any specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics, including but not limited to designated or proposed critical habitat.
- Describe management of adjacent lands.
- Presence and extent of wildland urban interface in the area. Include percent if possible.
- Describe management activities or restrictions within the area, such as signed management decisions.
- Presence of Inventoried Roadless Area. Include percent if possible.
- Other, include any additional information related to the question above.

⁵ The impacts relating to unauthorized uses are considered in the analysis step of the wilderness evaluation process. For example, if an area experiencing unauthorized fuelwood cutting was carried forward in an alternative, the impacts and effects, such as increased law enforcement needs, of managing unauthorized use would be.

Table 6. Categorical Value Guide for Question 4a.

Value	Definition
High	Presence and extent of other uses and management considerations, such as shape or configuration, affects isolated spots and makes management to preserve the areas wilderness characteristics possible throughout the area.
Moderate	The presence and extent of other uses or other management considerations, such as shape or configuration, is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area.
Low	The presence and extent of other uses or management considerations, such as shape or configuration, occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics.
No Presence	The presence and extent of other uses or management considerations, such as shape or configuration, in the area is pervasive making it impossible to manage most of the area to preserve wilderness characteristics.

Weighting Method to Determine Overall Unit Value

The method to create a single inventory unit value is a three-step process. The results of the three-step process for each inventory unit can be found in Table 7.

In the first step, the three individual questions to determine apparent naturalness are combined into a single score. Rather than average these three criteria equally, the third question, about the extent of improvements, is given more weight than the other two questions. Improvements are given more weight for two reasons. First, feedback received during the public comment periods indicated that the public feels strongly that improvements detract from wilderness characteristics. Secondly, because the other questions describe the vegetative communities on the Forest, which is typically a very natural environment, almost every unit received either a high or moderate categorical value for these two questions. By weighting the question about the presence of improvements more, the differences between the units across the Forest are more apparent. The combined apparent naturalness value is the same as the value assigned to the improvement's question except for those units where the improvements value is no. In those cases, the overall value is elevated to low, unless at least one of the other two question's values were also no.

The second step is to determine the overall value score the solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation criterion. Since the second characteristic is for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, only one of the two is necessary for wilderness characteristics and thus the higher of the two question's scores is used to determine the overall value for this criterion.

Finally, the values for apparent naturalness, and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are combined with the value for manageability to create a single, unit overall value. Manageability is given more weight in this combination, as a reflection of public feedback received. Comments indicated the public feels manageability has more influence on an area's suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System than the other three criteria. Public comments noted the potential negative social and economic impacts to local communities and multiple uses, resulting from managing a unit as recommended wilderness. Further analysis of the social and economic impacts of potentially proposing a unit as recommended wilderness will be considered as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the third step, the analysis step. The combined overall value is the same as the manageability criterion value except for those units where the manageability value is no. In those cases,

the overall value is elevated to low, unless at least one of the other criteria values were also no. Table 7 lists all inventory units and the overall value rating they received in the evaluation step of the process, listed by ranger district. A complete description of the rationale for the overall ratings can be found in the Unit Summaries portion of this document.

Table 7. Overall value ratings for each unit by ranger district.

Ranger District	Unit Name and Number	Overall Rating
Monticello	15-Milk Ranch Point	High
Monticello	20-Arch Canyon	High
Monticello	361-Dry Mesa	Moderate
Monticello	416-Chippean and Allen Canyons	High
Monticello	419-Hammond and Notch Canyons	High
Monticello	630-South Abajos	Low
Monticello	633-Elk Ridge	High
Monticello	651-Ruin Canyon	High
Monticello	652-Butler Wash, WSA	Low
Monticello	653-Butler Wash	Low
Monticello	654-Horse Mountain	Moderate
Monticello	665-Abajo Mountains	Moderate
Moab	759-Southern La Sals	Moderate
Moab	780w-Central La Sals, West	Low
Moab	780e-Central La Sals, East	High
Moab	803-Mill Creek Canyon, South WSA	Low
Moab	806-Roc Creek	High
Moab	817-Mill Creek Canyon, North WSA	Moderate
Moab	823-North La Sal Peaks	Moderate
Moab	836-Beaver Creek	High
Moab	839-Mary Jane Canyon	Low
Moab	846-Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa	Low
Monticello	847-Fisher Mesa	Low
Ferron	850-Wildcat Knolls	Low
Ferron	851-Quitcupah Creek	Low
Ferron	868-White Mountain	Low
Ferron	907-Muddy Creek	Low
Ferron	921-Ferron Mountain	Low
Ferron	1075-Horn Mountain	No
Ferron	1109-Bear Creek	Low
Ferron	1136-Red Point	Low
Ferron	1161-Trail Mountain	Low
Ferron	1208-Reeder Canyon	Low
Price	1297-Candland Mountain	Moderate
Price	1303-Seeley Canyon	Low
Price	1309-Gentry Mountain	Moderate
Price	1328-Trough Springs Ridge	Low
Price	1350-Fish Creek	Moderate
Price	1351-Bennion Ridge	Low
Price	1358-Mill Fork	Moderate

Price	1359-Blind Canyon	Moderate
Price	1360-Dairy Fork	Low
Sanpete	881-Order Mountain	Low
Sanpete	925-Twelve Mile Creek	Low
Sanpete	944-Loveridge Flat	Low
Sanpete	992-Black Mountain	Low
Sanpete	1022-Six Mile Creek	Low
Sanpete	1103-Jimmy's Fork	Low
Sanpete	1199-Canal Canyon	Moderate
Sanpete	1231-Knob Mountain	Low
Sanpete	1255-Deep Creek	Low
Sanpete	1283-Maple Canyon	Low
Sanpete	1320-Tidds Ridge	Low
Sanpete	1336-San Pitch Mountain	Moderate
Sanpete	1349-Oak Creek Ridge	Low

The overall value determination does not include the unique and outstanding features criterion. Instead, the influence of unique and outstanding features for a unit is assessed after the overall value is determined. The presence of features that fulfill this criterion may warrant increasing the overall unit value.

STEP 3: ANALYSIS

Following the evaluation, the next step in the is analysis, or step 3. The analysis is not only an analysis of the units independently but also through integration into the draft revised forest plan and the draft environmental impact statement. Once scoping of the draft revised forest plan, has been completed, and public comments have been received, the responsible official shall identify which units, to move forward into Forest Plan alternatives for consideration during completion of the draft environmental impact statement (36 CFR 219, FSM 1920, and FSH 1909.15). Not all lands included in the inventory and evaluation are required to be carried forward in analysis, although rationale for why areas or portions of areas were not carried forward must be documented and available for the public to review.

Public feedback will be sought during the scoping period for the draft revised Forest Plan to further expand or refine the proposed units to be moved forward into analysis. The analysis of effects of wilderness recommendations within alternatives will be integrated with the draft environmental impact statement for the draft revised forest plan. Units identified for analysis will not necessarily be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Identifying Unit for Analysis

After completing the evaluation of all units and determining an overall value for each, the Forest reviewed the values in conjunction with public comments received. This allowed the Forest to develop a process for identifying units to be carried into step three, the analysis. Unlike moving from the inventory step to the evaluation step, not all units evaluated will be analyzed. Only those with an overall rating of moderate or high will be carried forward, except for units where one of the following circumstances occurs. Units with a low or no value, but that are adjacent to federal lands that are currently being

managed to protect wilderness characteristics. In some cases, widespread consensus among public commenters indicated that portions of a unit should be removed to allow the remaining portion to be better managed for wilderness characteristics. In these cases, the boundary of the unit was changed from the original inventory boundary, but some portion of the unit will be moved into the analysis step. Table 8 lists those units that will be moved forward into the analysis step and further analyzed through the draft environmental impact statement alternatives. Information about the ratings of each unit and the rationale for the decision to carry a unit into analysis can be found in the Unit Summaries portion of this document.

Table 8. Evaluation units that will be moved into the analysis step and the acres to be analyzed.

Ranger District	Unit Name and Number	Overall Rating	Analysis Unit	Acres
Monticello	15-Milk Ranch Point	High	Yes ¹	5318
Monticello	20-Arch Canyon	High	Yes ¹	17277
Monticello	361-Dry Mesa	Moderate	Yes ¹	12845
Monticello	416-Chippean and Allen Canyons	High	Yes ¹	33358
Monticello	419-Hammond and Notch Canyons	High	Yes ¹	24880
Monticello	633-Elk Ridge	High	Yes ¹	12920
Monticello	651-Ruin Canyon	High	Yes ¹	9021
Monticello	652-Butler Wash, WSA	Low	Yes ²	51
Monticello	654-Horse Mountain	Moderate	Yes	12627
Monticello	665-Abajo Mountains	Moderate	Yes ¹	41022
Moab	759-Southern La Sals	Moderate	Yes ¹	15171
Moab	780e-Central La Sals, East	High	Yes ¹	10228
Moab	806-Roc Creek	High	Yes	15835
Moab	817-Mill Creek Canyon, North WSA	Moderate	Yes ²	445
Moab	823-North La Sal Peaks	Moderate	Yes ¹	15843
Moab	836-Beaver Creek	High	Yes ¹	3852
Sanpete	1199-Canal Canyon	Moderate	Yes	19492
Price	1297-Candland Mountain	Moderate	Yes ¹	11720
Price	1309-Gentry Mountain	Moderate	Yes ¹	29568
Sanpete	1336-San Pitch Mountain	Moderate	Yes ¹	24220
Price	1350-Fish Creek	Moderate	Yes ¹	30499
Price	1358-Mill Fork	Moderate	Yes ¹	32602
Price	1359-Blind Canyon	Moderate	Yes ¹	29878

¹A portion of these units will not be moved forward into analysis. Complete rationale for why a portion of the unit was removed can be found within the unit summaries section of this document.

²These units are adjacent to Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and are therefore retained into analysis.

STEP 4: RECOMMENDATION

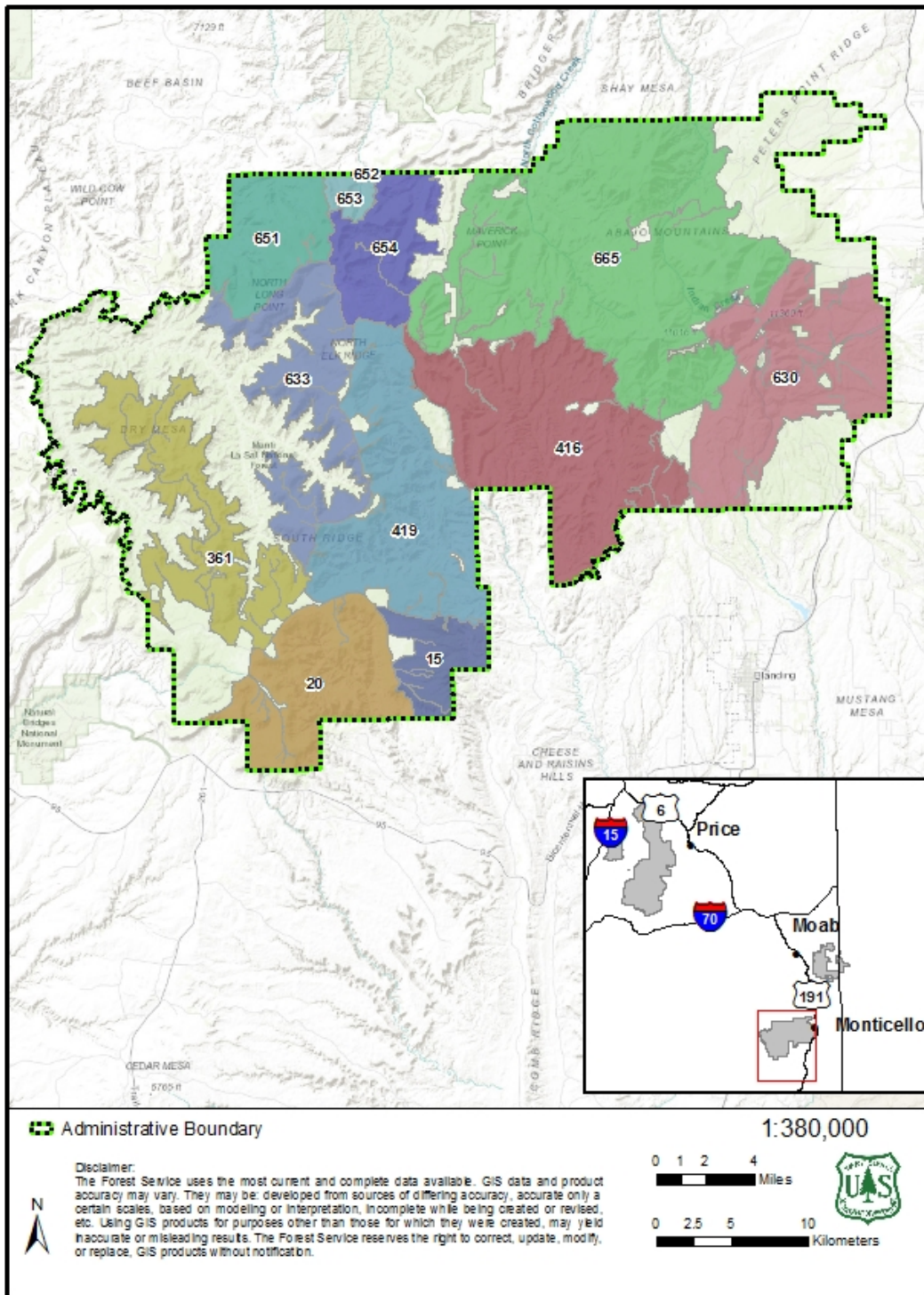
In the final phase, the recommendation, the Forest Supervisor determines whether to recommend areas, determined to be suitable, for potential inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The determination will be based on the analysis disclosed in the final environmental impact statement for the Revised Forest Plan. The Forest Supervisor will weigh and consider public input received throughout revision process, including the wilderness evaluation process. The recommendation is published at the same time as the official Plan Revision Record of Decision. This preliminary administrative recommendation for wilderness designation for consideration is forwarded to the Chief

of the Forest Service and then Chief may then decide to forward areas to Congress as a legislative proposal. Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation. For lands in the inventory and evaluation that were not recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, the decision document must briefly identify and describe what management direction is provided in the plan for those lands.

UNIT SUMMARIES

The following pages discuss all the units inventoried and evaluated for characteristics that would allow the units to be added to the wilderness preservation system. Through the evaluation process, some of the units were determined to have enough wilderness characteristics to be carried forward into the analysis phase of the wilderness process. In some instances, the entire wilderness evaluation unit was not determined to possess enough wilderness characteristics, and instead only a portion of the unit will be carried into analysis. A description and rationale for these determinations is also included in these unit summaries as well as is shown on the maps of each unit. The wilderness evaluation boundary is the original boundary identified during the inventory and evaluation steps. In some cases, only a portion of the original inventoried unit is being carried into the analysis step. The portions eliminated are shown on maps with a hatch marking. The remaining unhatched portions of the units were identified as having improved manageability for wilderness characteristics during the evaluation step and public input reviews. If no hatching is shown on the map, the inventory and evaluation unit is not being changed for the analysis step, all the original unit is being carried forward. The portion of the unit carried forward into the analysis step will be analyzed in the alternatives and draft environmental impact statement. The change in acres between the evaluation step and the analysis step are also noted in the beginning of the summary for each unit.

Monticello District



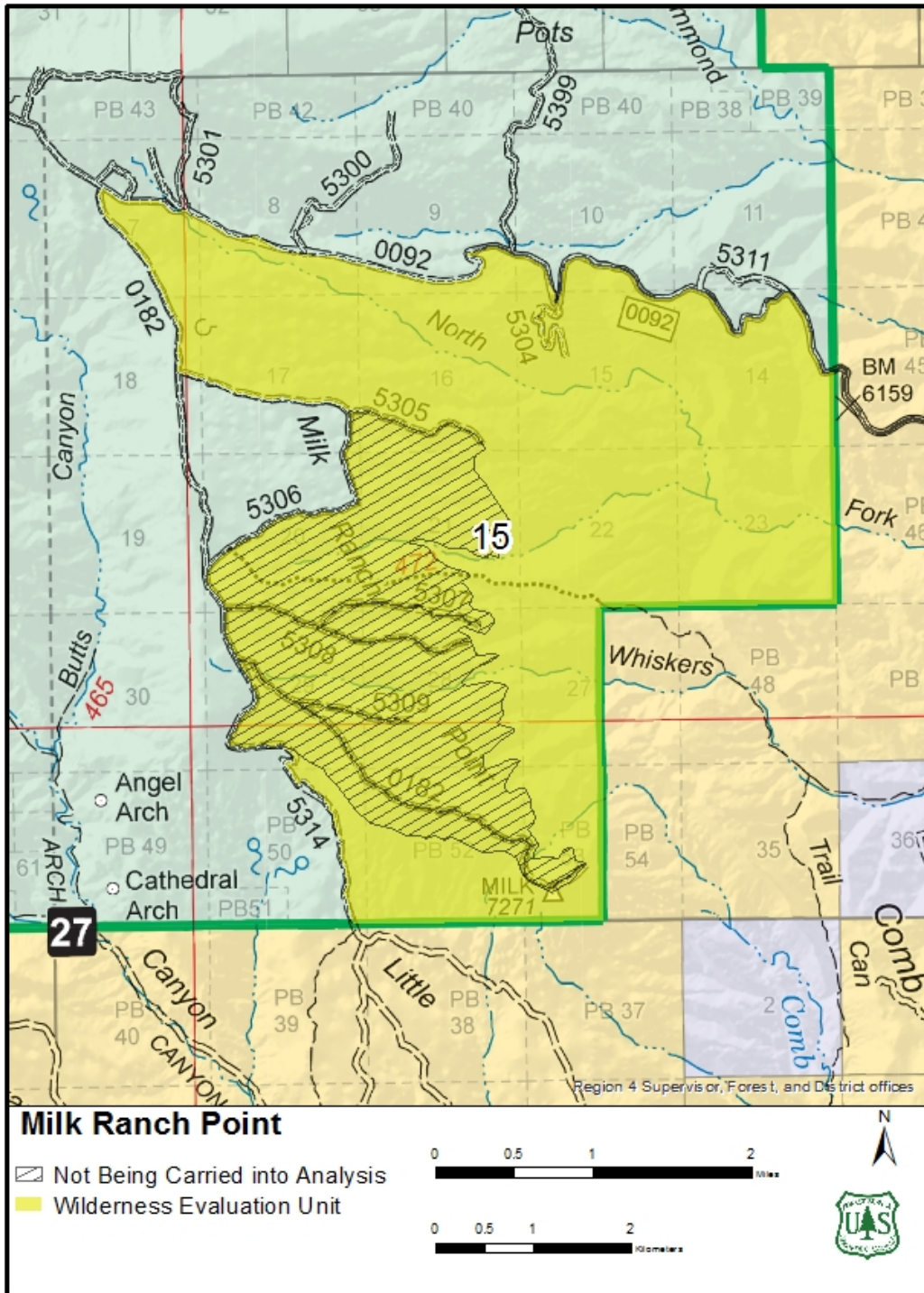
15-Milk Ranch Point

Name: Milk Ranch Point

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 15

Acres: evaluation 7,574, analysis 5,318



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural, non-native species are not readily apparent to users within the unit, though smooth brome, crested wheat grass, and vine weed can be found along some roads, located mostly on the western portion of the unit. Vegetation in the unit consists mainly of pinyon and juniper with sagebrush the open areas, mountain brush, and scattered stands of ponderosa pine. This unit provides important winter range for elk and deer. There are about three acres of invasive species within the unit.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are 50-year old chaining and plowing treatments on the mesa top that were prescribed burned in the early 2000's. The treatments are not obvious or readily apparent on the landscape.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Little or no evidence of human activity is noticeable on the overall landscape. Prevalence of improvements is scattered and are mostly located on the western portion of the unit. Range improvements include five reservoirs, one metal or fiberglass trough and two miles of barbed wire fence, which do not detract from apparent naturalness. The three-mile-long motorized system trail number 472, shows on maps within the unit, however the trail does not exist on the ground. About a mile of user created motorized trail is present on the ground in the unit. No non-motorized trails are present. 2 miles of level one or stored road is present and a 300-foot section of an old road leads to a small quarry site within the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though some signs of civilization are visible. The unit contains seven cherry stem roads that protrude into the unit, but the level

of use is low on the roads. The northern boundary is the South Elks Road and it receives a relatively high level of use, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. There is one motorized trail, but it is not apparent on the ground and is not used. There is no range activity in the area as the allotment has been inactive since 2002. The unit is bordered on the east by Bureau of Land Management managed lands that are undeveloped and contain no roads or trails. In general, human activities in the area are rare, and primarily occurs as hunting during the spring and fall months.

Rating: Moderate

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation including day hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and cultural resource viewing. Some of these opportunities would be considered, high quality.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

No

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Yes, there are outstanding viewpoints from the southern end of Milk Ranch Point that provide views of Comb Ridge and almost the entire Shash Jáa National Monument.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

Yes, numerous National Register eligible sites are present, several of which are regionally significant.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. Seven dead-end roads entering the unit could make management of wilderness character more difficult, but the roads only see light use. Undeveloped Bureau of Land Management managed lands are adjacent to the east and south of the unit. The entire unit is within the Shash Jáa National Monument which withdrew the unit from the mining law and precludes future claims. There is one acre of the unit within Arch Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. The South Elks road forms the northern boundary of the unit and is a primary access the area. The western boundary is formed by Forest Road #0182 which access Bureau of Land Management lands to the south and sees relatively light motorized use. Trail number 472 bisects the unit from west to east, and while it is identified as a motorized route, it is not present on the ground and therefore does not influence wilderness characteristics.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 15-Milk Ranch Point is bordered by a popular road and experienced recent fire activity in the north. The western portion of the unit, on top of the mesa, is influenced by seven cherry stem roads and visible past management activities. A sense of solitude can be found as one drops off the mesa and moves east across the unit, away from the cherry stem roads. Table 9 lists each of the four criteria used to determine the overall value for wilderness characteristics of the unit.

Table 9. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Milk Ranch Point.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Moderate	High	High

Public Comment

Comments received for this unit addressed the visible range improvements on the mesa top of the unit, presence of non-native plant species and changes from the dominant species of pinyon and juniper.

Apparent naturalness was suggested to be moderate. Additional comments received suggested that apparent naturalness be rated as high due to plant populations in the unit.

Solitude was suggested to be moderate as there are opportunities to feel alone and engage in primitive and unconfined recreation. Other reviewers noted that the Forest Service use of motorized routes to downgrade the opportunity for solitude to be inappropriate and suggested it be rated higher.

Commenters noted that this unit offers multiple opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including sightseeing, scenic photography, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting.

Some suggested that if the area is again stocked with livestock, manageability would be low for wilderness characteristics. The area was characterized as pinyon and juniper vegetation, typical on the Forest and throughout San Juan County. For these reasons some felt the unit did not contain outstanding qualities that make it attractive as a wilderness.

Some reviewers noted that Wilderness values are present throughout the unit, describing the area as rugged, and that existing routes should not affect the manageability of the unit.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stemmed roads, and species management concerns relating to ponderosa pine and pinyon juniper.

Unit to be Analyzed

Comments received as well as additional review of the unit indicate that the western and eastern halves of the unit have different manageability and apparent naturalness. The mesa top in the western portion of the unit has extensive past vegetation treatments. All the dead-end roads entering the unit are found in the western half of the unit except for the short 5304 road. The western half of the unit around the dead-end roads and past vegetation treatments differs enough from the eastern portion of the unit that it will not be carried forward into the analysis portion of this process. The remaining portion of the unit to the east of the roads is carried forward into analysis. Removal of the western portion would make the remainder of the unit more manageable for wilderness characteristics.

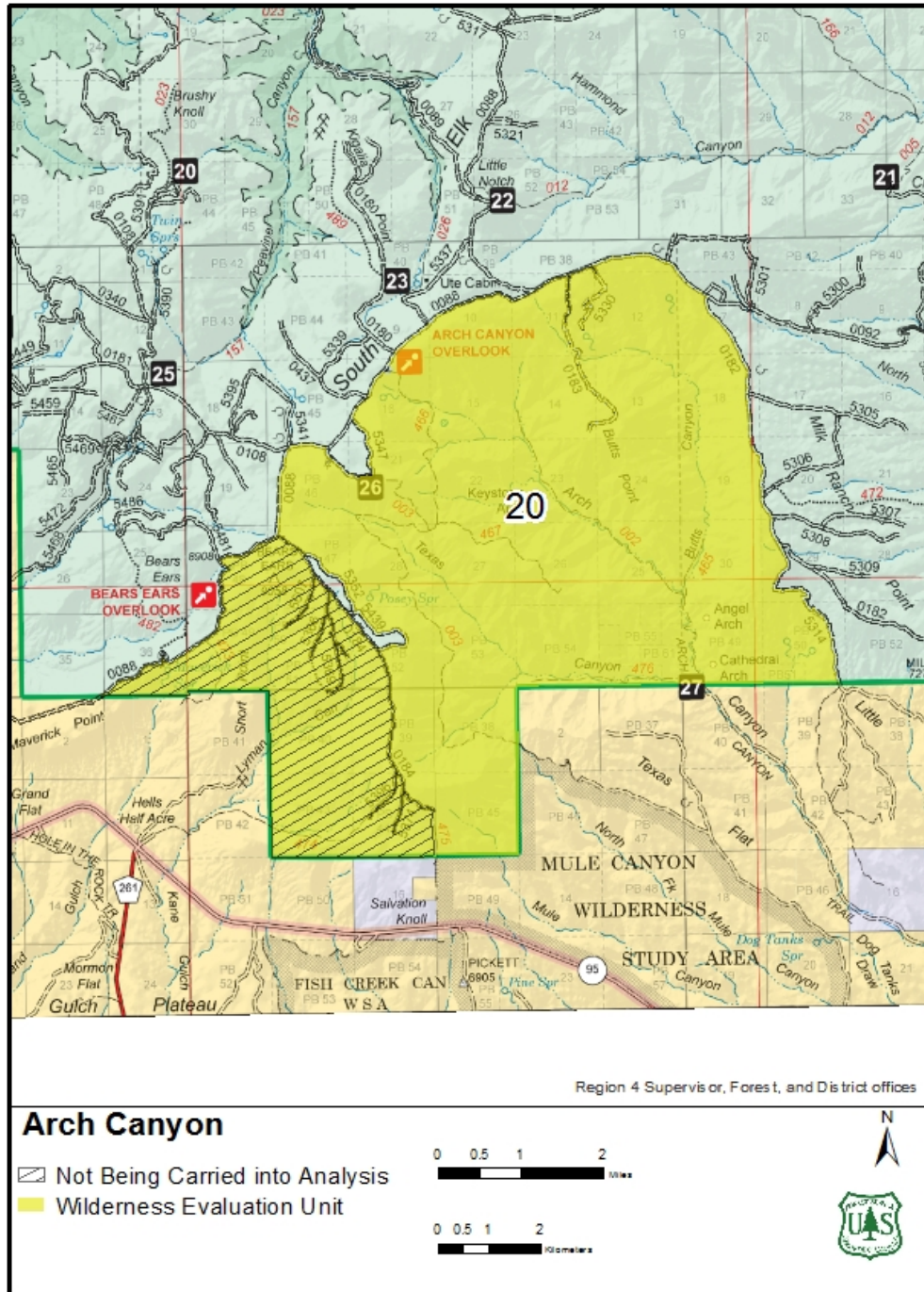
20-Arch Canyon

Name: Arch Canyon

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 20

Acres: evaluation 21,459, analysis 17, 277



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appears natural within the unit. Non-native species are not evident, although some smooth brome is in the understory of much of the ponderosa pine stands. Uplands consist of ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and aspen in the heads of the canyons, as well as willow and cottonwood in the riparian areas. Hanging gardens occur on the canyon walls. The unit contains Mexican spotted owl habitat, as well as bears, turkey, elk, peregrine falcon, golden eagle territories, many-lined skink, flammulated owl and Abert's squirrel.

Rating: High

- 1b. What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. Vegetation treatments on the mesa tops include commercial logging activities which occurred more than 20 years ago and not noticeable to the casual visitor. Some vegetation thinning projects have occurred but appear natural. Less than 10% of the unit is affected by prior logging activities and these were all on the mesa top portion of the unit.

Rating: High

- 1c. What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is almost no evidence of modern human activity in the canyon bottoms. Prevalence of improvements are scattered on the mesa tops and does not detract from apparent naturalness. Improvements include 1 corral along road 0184, 22 earthen stock ponds, 11 trough, and 2.25 miles of barbed wire fence. About 23 miles of little used non-motorized trails are within the unit in the canyon bottoms as well as along the rims including the West Texas Rim Trail which was constructed as a road but is now managed as a non-motorized trail. A short section of motorized trail connects roads in the South Long Point portion of the unit. Two stock ways were constructed off South Long Point with heavy equipment, both are now managed as non-motorized trails. Some old decommissioned roads are evident on the landscape but are naturally reclaiming. Six miles of level one road are present within the unit as are about two miles of user created trails.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are visible when on the mesa tops. From the mesa tops, small towns and houses on the Navajo Reservation are visible at night. There are three cherry stem roads that are popular areas for dispersed camping and several spurs protruding into the unit on the mesa tops that affect opportunities for solitude. There is a high level of solitude in the canyons. The northern boundary of the unit is formed by the South Elks Road and the western boundary of the unit is formed by the Elk Ridge Road both are popular areas for dispersed camping which could detract from the sense of feeling alone. Below the rim, within the canyons there are no signs of human development and opportunities for solitude are high. The difficulty of access into the canyons increases the opportunities for solitude. Several outfitter and guides occasionally use the unit but have little impact on the opportunities for solitude.

Rating: High

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are abundant high-quality opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include excellent day hiking, backpacking, canyoneering and horse riding. There is also excellent big game hunting. High quality opportunities for visiting heritage sites exist in the unit. Rock climbing has been developed on some of the towers and opportunities for new routes exist. The steep and rugged terrain provides a high level of challenge and risk.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, Mexican spotted owl habitat, peregrine falcon, golden eagle territories, Abert's squirrel.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Yes, three named arches, as well as one of the Bears Ears is in this unit and has major cultural significance for local tribes.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

Yes, National Register eligible sites are present. Some sites, such as Lewis Lodge, are of regional significance.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

Yes, some cultural sites are present.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The extent of other uses and management considerations affects only isolated portions of the unit and makes management to preserve the unit's wilderness characteristics possible throughout the area. This unit is within the Shash Jáa National Monument which withdrew the unit from the mining law and precludes future mineral claims. 12,767 acres or about 60 percent of the unit is within the Arch Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area and is managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule to maintain its roadless character. 4,374 acres or about 20 percent of the unit was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah's Congressional delegation in 2016. The southern portion of the unit is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management managed Mule Canyon Wilderness Study Area, which is managed to protect its wilderness character. There are three cherry stem roads within in the unit. Several outfitter and guides operate in the unit, their activities would be consistent with managing the area for its wilderness character. The area is within an active grazing allotment and occasional maintenance of existing permitted range improvements occurs. The canyons within the unit are highly manageable as wilderness. The mesa tops would be more challenging to manage as wilderness.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 20-Arch Canyon can be characterized as a landscape of mesas and canyons. The mesa tops are popular for dispersed camping along cherry stem roads and provide great views of the canyons below. The canyons have very little evidence of modern human activity and offer great opportunities for non-motorized backcountry recreation. Table 10 lists each of the four criteria used to determine the overall value for wilderness characteristics of the unit.

Table 10. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Arch Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Commenters described the evidence of human activity as apparent on the mesa including evidence of commercial logging, livestock activities and developed range improvements, and cowboy and livestock activity on the trails and roads. Comment described concerns that prohibition or limitations on motorized access could affect mechanized maintenance of range improvements.

Commenters noted that the unit contains outstanding quality scenery, opportunity for solitude and self-reliant primitive recreation and significant archaeology resources and described the landscape as rugged. Reviewers agreed with the values of high apparent naturalness, opportunities for solitude, and manageability, and identified cultural sites of regional significance.

Texas, Arch, and Butts Canyons were identified as part of the unit as areas that have wilderness characteristics and were suggested to be broken out into a separate unit. These areas were described as having higher values for Naturalness, Solitude, and manageability and the highest priority on the Monticello District to be designated as Wilderness. Other reviewers suggested rather than break these areas out, expand the boundary of the unit to include mesas and plateaus beyond the canyon rim.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stemmed roads, species management concerns relating to ponderosa pine and pinyon juniper, and water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

There was broad agreement in the public comments that the South Long Point portion of the unit differed from the rest of the unit and should be removed from further analysis. Forest Road 0184 nearly bisects the South Long Point portion of the unit from the rest of the unit that contains the more rugged Arch, Texas and Butts canyons.

The majority of unit will be carried forward except the portion west of the South Long Point Road. The area along South Long Point contains numerous cherry stem roads which make the manageability of that portion more difficult. Public comment from cooperating agencies as well as individuals and groups agreed this portion of the unit contained lower wilderness character than the rest of the unit.

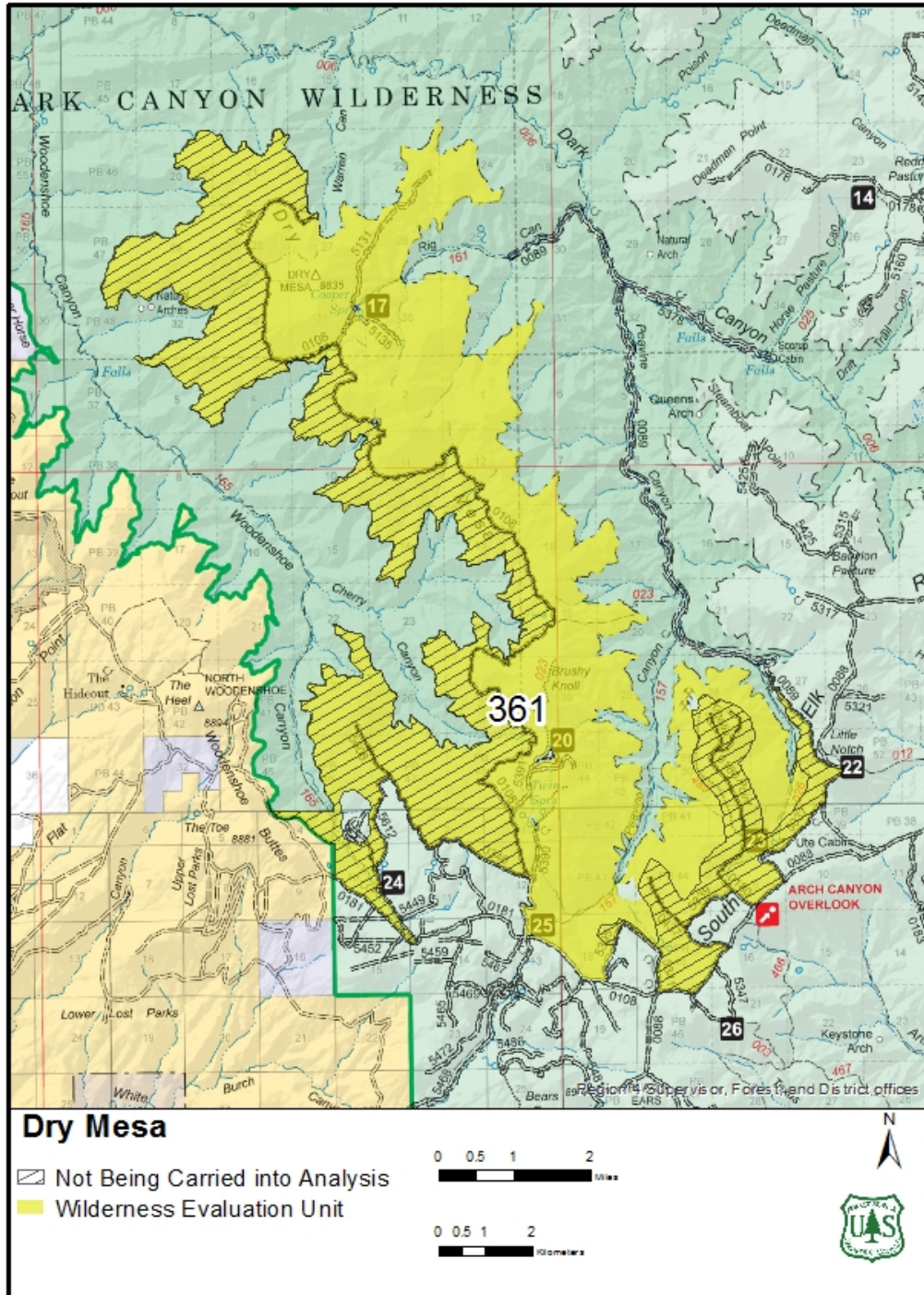
361-Dry Mesa

Name: Dry Mesa

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 361

Acres: evaluation 23,443, analysis 12,845



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural with little evidence of non-native species that are obvious to the general public. The Dry Mesa unit goes from ponderosa pine woodland on top of Elk Ridge, down through mixed conifer and aspen slopes to be dominated by pinyon and juniper, Gambel oak and big sagebrush communities in most of the unit. Important big game winter range is in the north and big game summer range in the south. The canyons surrounding the unit are Mexican spotted owl breeding and roosting habitat, and the mesa tops are utilized for foraging by this federally listed species in addition to other raptors such as golden eagles and peregrine falcons. Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers are located on cliff faces, as well as three goshawk habitats in the southern portion of the unit. The unit is also habitat for black bears, wild turkeys and leopard frogs. There are populations of *Penstemon navajoa*, a species of conservation concern plant. Invasive species occupy about 151 acres of less than a 1 percent of the unit and are distributed throughout. These consist of about ten acres of Russian knapweed in the southwest portion of the unit, a mix of crested wheat grass, and smooth brome across the unit, especially where previous vegetation treatments have occurred, and cheat grass throughout the unit. These invasive species are generally imperceptible to the general public. There are Mexican spotted owl territories in the canyons, and goshawk nesting territories in the southern portion of the unit.

Rating: High

- 1b. What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in scattered spots. Large portions of the unit were chained in the 1950s and 1960s and are not highly noticeable. The commercial logging is over 20 years old and appears to have regrown and become less noticeable. Signs from the logging operations are primarily cut stumps and some old remnants of haul roads that are reclaiming. Thinning has occurred more recently in the southern end of the unit, but those treatments are not highly visible and not substantially noticeable. Some stumps are visible, but they are generally designed to blend naturally with the surrounding environment.

Rating: High

- 1c. What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area with more developments occurring in the southern portion of the unit than in the northern portion. Improvements include 1 corral, 12 miles of barbed wire fence, some post and pole fence, 34 stock ponds and 10 troughs. Most of the stock ponds and reservoirs in the unit are masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, however, several large stock ponds

are very visible due to their proximity to Dry Mesa Road and their large size. There is very little change to the overall landscape from the reservoirs and stock ponds, but they do affect the area adjacent to them. Some old mine tailing piles occur on the rims of the canyons. There is a two-acre research range enclosure made from wood post and wire at the end of the Dry Mesa road. The southern part of the unit contains some old roads that are reclaiming themselves but are still noticeable on the landscape. Several non-motorized trails start in this unit and lead into Dark Canyon Wilderness. These include one mile each of the Kigalia and Brushy Knoll trails, a mile and a half of the Woodenshoe trail, and three-quarters of a mile of the Rig Canyon trail. About three miles of motorized trail are also present. Two and a half miles of the Brushy Knoll trail is mostly impassable and naturally reclaimed on the ground and half a mile of the Twin Springs trail is also within the unit. About 21 miles of level one roads are present within the unit, including some old logging roads and user created motorized trails that are visible in the Dry Mesa area and south of Rig Canyon. There are some aspen enclosures that were designed to be temporary and appear natural. There are areas of mining activity on Kigalia Point which includes adits, tailing piles and access roads. Woodenshoe Point and Brushy Knoll have noticeable access roads and tailings piles that were removed from the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities for solitude are possible in much of the area. Most of the area is surrounded by the designated Dark Canyon Wilderness, which increases the likelihood for the opportunities for solitude in the unit. The Dry Mesa Road is in the center of the unit and receives a fair amount of use for range activities, maintaining range developments, hunting, and off highway vehicle use. On the mesa top use along the road is visible. Opportunities for solitude are possible in the canyons and when you get closer to the wilderness area. The mesa is more influenced by the road and motorized activities which detracts from the feeling of solitude. The southern portion of the unit is closer to the more heavily used roads along Elk Ridge. The southern portion of the unit also has 27.5 miles of Level 1 Roads that are used in frequently for management activities. There is light use of the trails that access the wilderness in this unit with about 1,000 people a year estimated to be using the trails.

Rating: High in the eastern portion and Moderate for the rest of the unit

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which includes day hiking and backpacking in conjunction with the Dark Canyon Wilderness. There is excellent big game hunting, as well as opportunities for visiting heritage sites. The Woodenshoe trail begins in the unit and provides high quality hiking, backpacking and horseback riding.

Rating: High

**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: High**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, Mexican spotted owl, northern goshawk, and three-toed woodpecker.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Yes, numerous viewpoints into Dark Canyon Wilderness.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

Yes, National Register eligible sites are present. Some sites, such as the Doll House, are of regional significance.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

Yes, some cultural sites are present.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. Dry Mesa Road runs through the center of the unit, and many stock ponds are located on Dry Mesa that need occasional maintenance. There are several dead-end roads within the unit leading to popular viewpoints. The unit is surrounded, almost entirely, by Dark Canyon Wilderness. The top portions of Woodenshoe and Peavine Canyons, about 3,382 acres or 17 percent of the unit, are within the Dark Canyon Woodenshoe Inventoried Roadless Area. Some unauthorized motorized use occurs within the unit. There is currently no active mining,

but future development is possible with the existing uranium claims. A small portion of the unit around the Doll House Ruin is within the Shash Jáa Unit of Bears Ears National Monument.

Manageability Rating: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 361-Dry Mesa is surrounded, almost entirely, by Dark Canyon Wilderness and contains several trailheads that are used to access the wilderness area. The Kigalia Point area of the unit contains numerous dead-end roads entering the unit and visible remnants of historical mining activities. Opportunities for solitude are possible in the canyons as you near Dark Canyon Wilderness. Table 11 lists each of the four criteria used to determine the overall value for wilderness characteristics of the unit.

Table 11. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Dry Mesa unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Comments received described the unit as moderate for apparent naturalness due to the evidence of commercial logging and mining activity and presence of non-natives grass species such as crested wheatgrass, smooth brome, and cheatgrass. Comments identified numerous stock ponds on Dry Mesa that have been constructed to provide water for livestock and wildlife, as well as an extensive chaining and reseeding project that were done in the late 1970s on the Northwest end of Dry Mesa. The overall rating for apparent naturalness, solitude and manageability on this unit were recommended to be moderate, except for the east side of Dry Mesa.

Additional reviewers described the manageability of the unit as ranking higher, since the unit is surrounded by Dark Canyon Wilderness and is inside the original Bears Ears National Monument boundary. Commenters suggested that the Dry Mesa and Elk Ridge units be evaluated together to compliment management, describing the unit as part of a larger roadless area including Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Beef Basin, and Canyonlands National Park.

Comments described the area as relatively undisturbed where most evidence of human activity or invasive species occurs near roads. Some reviewers suggested the apparent naturalness for the area be ranked high, as well as opportunities for solitude.

Reviewers suggested that additional areas be removed, including portions of South Elk Ridge, south of Cherry Canyon and Kigalia point due to the presence of noticeable impacts. Once removed, it was suggested that the remainder of the unit would rank high for wilderness characteristics.

Comments also identified a network of level 1 roads southwest of Rig Canyon as being significant.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stemmed roads, and species management concerns relating to ponderosa pine.

Unit to be Analyzed

Review of the complete unit and the comments received indicates a difference in wilderness characteristics east and west of Dry Mesa Road and the southeast lobe of the unit closest to Elk Ridge

and associated roads. The number of cherry-stem roads, stock ponds, previous vegetation treatments and lower opportunities for solitude west of Dry Mesa Road and in the southeastern portion of the unit, make manageability for wilderness characteristics more difficult in these areas. Therefore, only the portion of the unit east of Dry Mesa Road and on the northern portion of the southeastern lobe will be carried forward into analysis. Removal of the other portions of the unit should make the analysis unit more manageable for wilderness characteristics.

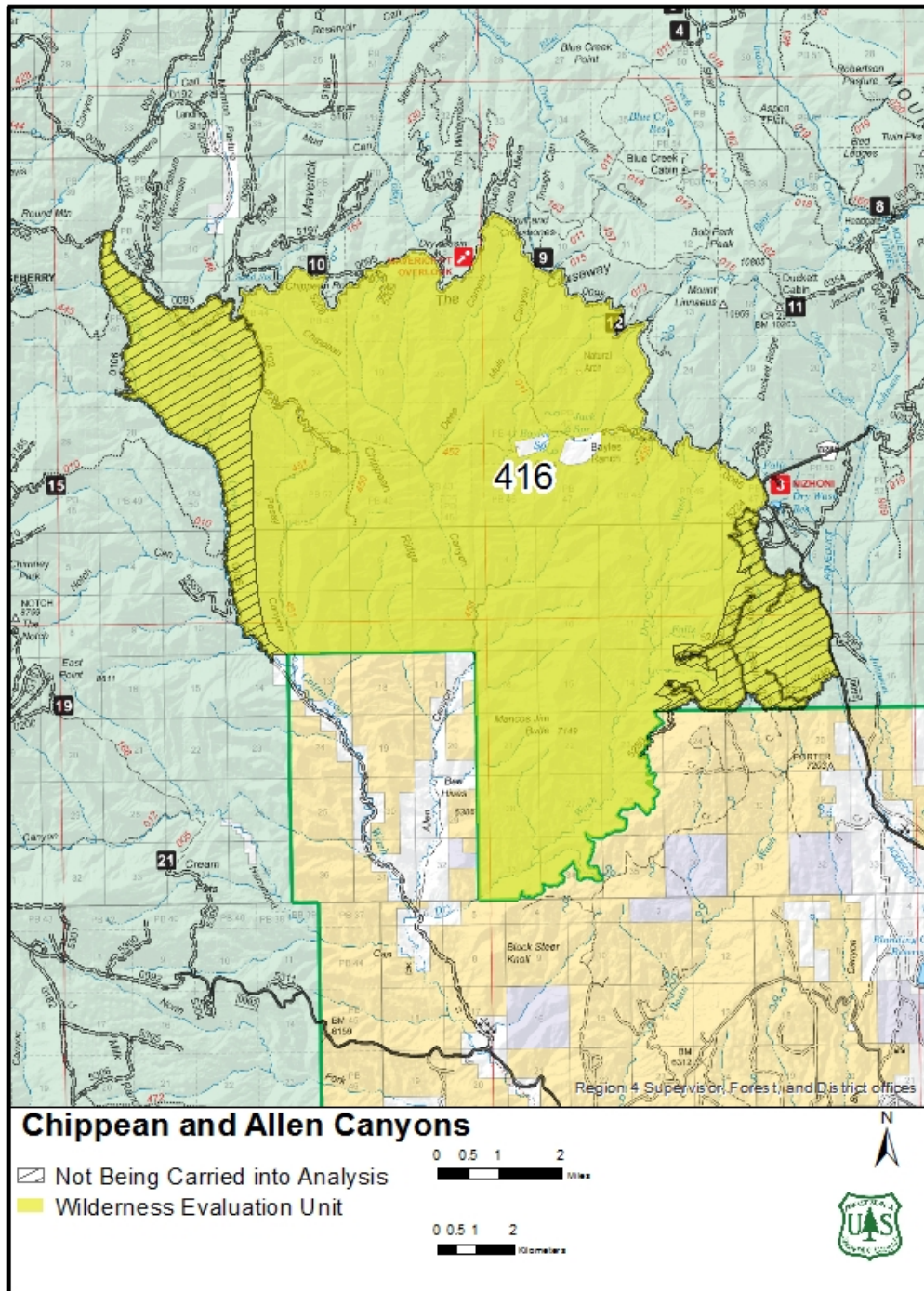
416-Chippean and Allen Canyons

Name: Chippean and Allen Canyons

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 416

Acres: evaluation 39,943, analysis 33,358



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural within the unit. Noxious weeds are generally not present within the unit, although about 28.26 acres are known. Most of these are along roads and are composed of bindweed and knapweed. Smooth brome and Kentucky blue grass is also present in many areas, and crested wheatgrass is present at lower elevations where it has been seeded after vegetation treatments. Some musk thistle is also present at an old mine site within the unit. This unit is primarily a pinyon and juniper woodland, although there are pockets of Gambel oak, and important wetland and riparian components. There are stands of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer scattered around the unit. Species of conservation concern plants in the unit include *Cymopterus beckii*, and *Erigeron kachnensis*. There is also suitable habitat for *Oxypolis fendleri*, and *Plantanthera zothecina*. The species of conservation concern wildlife species Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis occur in the unit. Other wildlife includes ringtail cats, woodrats and western rattlesnakes. The unit contains the Cliff Dwellers Pasture Research Natural Area which was designated in 1991 to protect a unique mesic oak, maple, and water birch plant community due to a shallow water table. This is an ungrazed box canyon is surrounded by Navajo sandstone cliffs and contains a significant sandstone arch.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural in the unit. Vegetation treatments have occurred in the Brushy Basin portion of the unit including chaining and mastication. The projects have been designed to mimic natural disturbances and are not substantially noticeable. The treatments are in a small portion of the unit. Commercial logging has occurred in the northern portion of the unit, over 20 years ago and appears to have regrown and become less noticeable. Signs from the logging operations are primarily cut stumps and some old remnants of haul roads that are reclaiming. The Johnson Creek prescribed fire and thinning projects were conducted a small portion of the unit to reduce the density of ponderosa pine forest and to restore those areas to a more natural ponderosa pine forest. The effect of the prescribed fire is currently noticeable due to browned pine needles, but it will naturalize over time and appears as a natural impact from wildfire.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

The evidence of human activities occurs in scattered spots and the appearance of the developments do not detract from apparent naturalness in most of the unit. There are eight stock ponds, nine troughs and about two and a half miles of barbed wire fence. There are spring developments, pipelines, ditches and diversions located between the two private inholdings. All reservoirs and stock ponds in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are

not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. There is very little change to the overall landscape due to the livestock infrastructure. There is 1600 feet of buried water pipeline and associated air relief valves within the unit that is part of the Blanding municipal water system. The pipeline is located approximately 200 feet from the Johnson Creek road and affects the naturalness of a small portion of the unit along the road. There are three, lightly used motorized trails in the unit totaling less than four miles. There are eighteen miles of non-motorized system trails in the unit, but they are not regularly maintained and rarely used. About 25 miles of level one roads are present within the unit, including those that were associated with old logging operations. These roads have mostly been reclaimed and are not noticeable to the casual viewer. Old decommissioned roads in the Brushy Basin and Mancos Jim Butte areas are also present but not noticeable. There are impacts associated with past mining activity along the South Cottonwood Road that are noticeable and impact the naturalness of that portion of the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities for solitude and the feeling of being alone are common within this unit. There is a little used cherry stem route along Chippean Ridge. There are two private inholdings in the Bayles Ranch Area with a cherry stem access road, but most of the unit is free from the impacts of roads. The 18 miles of non-motorized trails located within the unit are rarely used and do not impact the opportunities for solitude. Access to the southern portion of the unit is difficult because of the adjacent Ute Allotment lands, which are closed to the public. This increases the opportunities for solitude in the unit. Range management activities in the unit are minimal and occur generally in June and October. Opportunity for solitude is possible throughout much of the area. The eastern portion of the unit adjacent to the Johnson Creek Road is used for firewood gathering, hunting, and dispersed camping but does not impact the overall opportunities for solitude throughout the unit.

Rating: High

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include excellent day hiking and some backpacking opportunities. There are no regularly maintained trails and many of the routes are restricted by Ute allotment lands with no public access. There is also excellent big game hunting as well as opportunities for visiting heritage sites which are of high quality.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, the unique vegetation in Cliff Dwellers Pasture Research Natural Area.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Yes, a large arch and unique vegetation in Cliff Dwellers Pasture, and the Chippean rock formations.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

Yes, numerous National Register eligible sites with several of regional significance. Portions of this parcel have high cultural resource values, especially Allen and Chippean Canyons.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

Yes, Cliff Dwellers Pasture Research Natural Area.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

Yes, the unique vegetation and pack rat middens and cultural sites in Cliff Dwellers Research Natural Area.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The extent of other uses and management considerations affects isolated spots and makes management to preserve the areas wilderness characteristics possible throughout the area. There are two inholdings and a few cherry stem roads, but most of the unit is undeveloped with no conflicting uses. Two Inventoried Roadless Areas, Chippean Ridge and Cliff Dwellers Pasture cover about 14,753 acres or 37 percent of the unit. The unit also includes the Cliff Dwellers Pasture research natural area. The 1994 Oil and Gas decision excluded most of the area from oil and gas leasing. Ute allotment lands make it difficult to access the area from the south. There is a ten-acre parcel of private land within the unit.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 416-Chippean and Allen Canyons is one of the largest and most undeveloped of the inventory unit and is difficult unit to access due to Ute Allotment lands bordering the unit in the south and west. Cliff Dwellers Pasture research natural area, which contains unique vegetation communities is within the unit. The Brushy Basin portion of the unit is well-roaded, contains some range improvements, and evidence of previous mining activities. The area around the South Cottonwood road contains impacts from past uranium mining operations. Table 12 lists each of the four criteria used to determine the overall value for wilderness characteristics of the unit.

Table 12. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Chippean and Allen Canyons unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Reviewers identified cultural resources and a large natural arch within the Cliff Dwellers Pasture area as being significant, and range improvements, including stock ponds, spring and trough developments, that are currently periodically maintained by motorized equipment, including dozers and trackhoes.

Comments suggested that designation as wilderness would preclude or severely limit maintenance of these improvements by use of mechanized equipment. Commenters noted evidence of uranium mining and commercial logging. The area was characterized as typical of most of the Pinyon/Juniper areas on the Monticello District and throughout the County and was suggested not to have any outstanding wilderness attributes.

Additional reviewers described the area as providing outstanding quality scenery, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation including hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, scenic photography, and cultural exploration. Views from vantage points were described as awe-inspiring and archeological resources in the unit as significant. The Cliff Dweller's Pasture Research Natural Area was described as containing unique plant communities that invite scientific study of the area.

Several level one, non-motorized trails, and some non-Forest Service roads were identified for consideration of impacts east of Chippean Canyon and a section that previously branched off South Cottonwood Road and lead up to Mancos Jim Butte.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stemmed roads, species management concerns relating to ponderosa pine and pinyon juniper, and water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

Most of the unit will be carried forward except the portion of the area in Brushy Basin and a portion along the westside of the unit. The area around Brushy Basin has several cherry stem roads and recent vegetation treatments which make the area more difficult to manage for its wilderness character. The portion of the unit along the South Cottonwood road to the ridgeline contains past mining activity and will not be carried forward into analysis.

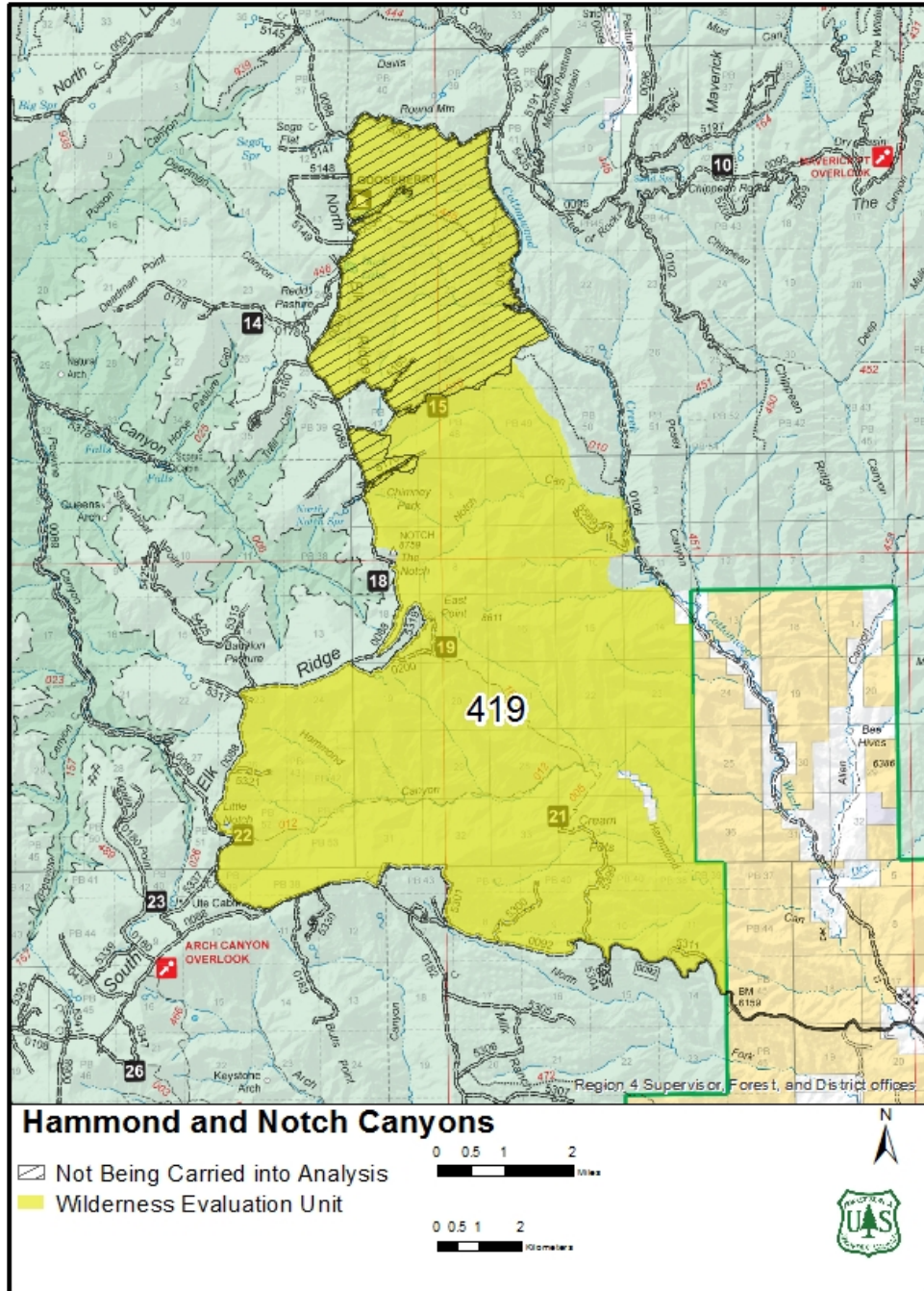
419-Hammond and Notch Canyons

Name: Hammond and Notch Canyons

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 419

Acres: evaluation 31,374, analysis 24,880



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Abert's squirrels are found in this unit, as well as summer and winter range for big game. Species of conservation concern wildlife include two bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis. Species of conservation concern plants that may occur in the unit are *Penstemon navajoa* and *Erigeron kachinensis*. Non-native plant species include tamarisk in Hammond Canyon, but it has been treated and is not commonly present. Some Canada thistle is also located in several areas in the unit near the Gooseberry Guard Station. About 201 acres of invasive species are present across the unit.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation in this unit appears natural. Commercial logging has occurred along the edges of the unit on the mesa tops. The commercial logging is over 20 years old and appears to have regrown and become less noticeable. Signs from the logging operations are primarily cut stumps and some old remnants of haul roads that are reclaiming. Thinning has occurred more recently, but those treatments are not highly visible and not substantially noticeable.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Within Hammond and Notch Canyons there is no evidence of modern human disturbance, except for the past farming that occurs on the private inholding in the bottom of Hammond Canyon. On the mesa tops overlooking the canyons, there is some evidence of human activity and developments. Areas where mining impacts are noticeable in South Cottonwood were removed from the unit. Other areas containing old reclaimed mines on the mesa top near East Point and the top of Notch Canyon are not substantially noticeable and were left in the unit. There are thirteen stock ponds, nine troughs, about six and a quarter miles of barbed wire fence located in the uplands and mesa tops of the unit. All reservoirs and stock ponds in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. Temporary aspen enclosures were built in the unit as well as an additional wood and wire permanent enclosure. There are about three and a half miles of motorized trails in the northern portion of the unit. Approximately ten miles of non-motorized trails are also present in the unit. User created routes and about eight miles of level one roads can be seen in a few areas but are very minimal and are being reclaimed. An old wood range line cabin is located on the mesa top in Poso Pasture that is in disrepair.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities for solitude and the feeling of being alone and remote from civilization are prevalent throughout most of the unit. The Gooseberry and Chimney Park off highway vehicle Trails are in the northern portion of the unit and receive relatively low levels of use but do have an impact on the opportunities for solitude in the northern portion of the unit. An inholding exists at the bottom of Hammond Canyon that was farmed in the past but is no longer used and does not have an access road. The unit is adjacent to the Elk Ridge and South Cottonwood Roads that are major access routes to the area and receive relatively high levels of use, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the roads. In the canyons, roads and human activities are not visible and the sound of vehicles cannot be heard. It is easy to get a feeling of remoteness and solitude when away from roads and off highway vehicle trails. There are two allotments in this unit, but they are not currently active and have not been since 2002.

Rating: High

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are abundant high-quality opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include excellent day hiking, backpacking and horse riding. There is also excellent big game hunting. High quality opportunities for visiting heritage sites exist in the unit. Some rock climbing has been developed and opportunities for new routes exist. The steep and rugged terrain provides a high level of challenge and risk.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, these areas are critical habitat for Mexican spotted owls, and for peregrine falcons, golden eagles, and spotted bats. Abert's squirrels are also in this unit. Species of conservation concern wildlife includes the two bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis. Species of

conservation concern plants that may occur in the unit are Navajo penstemon and Kachina daisy.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, large sandstone towers and hoodoos.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

Yes, there are multiple National Register eligible sites of regional significance.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, perennial stream and riparian zone which is unique to the area.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes, cultural sites.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The extent of other uses and management considerations affects isolated spots and makes management to preserve the areas wilderness characteristics possible throughout the area. There is one inholding and a few short cherry stem roads, but most of the unit is undeveloped with no conflicting uses. 16,413 acres or about 52 percent of the unit is within the Hammond and Notch Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. The unit is also adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands found to have wilderness character but are not managed to protect the wilderness character. The livestock allotments in the unit have been in non-use since 2002 and not grazed. The 1994 Oil and Gas decision removed a portion of the unit from possible oil and gas leasing. 7,593 acres or about 24 percent of the unit was also proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah's Congressional delegation in 2016. The northern portion of the unit contains the Gooseberry and Chimney Park off-highway-vehicle trails which would make management for wilderness character more difficult in that area.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 419-Hammond and Notch Canyons is generally characterized by mesas and canyons, including the notable Hammond and Notch Canyons. The mesa tops include some of the most popular dispersed camping on the District along cherry stem roads and provide scenic views of the canyons below. Motorized use is concentrated in the northern portion of the unit, and the entire unit is popular for

hunting, especially along Elk Ridge Road. The unit contains a notable density of cultural resources, and the canyons provide opportunities for solitude and backcountry recreation.

Table 13. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Hammond and Notch Canyons unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Commenters described the mesa top as having been impacted by commercial timber sales as well as past and current timber stand improvement activities including thinning, under-burning and ponderosa Pine seedling plantations. Comments noted the Forest Service built enclosures including North and South of the Gooseberry Guard Station, along the road to Deadman Point, and in the Redd Pasture area as visible and apparent. Some noted that due to past and present activities related to commercial logging such as roads and visible stumps, livestock use such as developed ponds, springs and fences, mining such as roads, tailings dumps, aspen stand enclosures, open and closed roads along the mesa tops, and two motorized trails leading from the mesa down to the South Cottonwood Road #0106. Ratings for apparent naturalness, solitude, and manageability were recommended to be moderate for the mesa tops area and for the slopes dropping into South Cottonwood from Chimney Park North.

Some reviewers noted that the apparent naturalness, opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and manageability should be valued high for the unit and described the landscape as magnificent with deep rocky canyons, rugged escarpments, and abundant wildlife. Comments suggested that the potential for wilderness extended beyond the boundary of the unit.

Comments also identified several roads in the northern portion of the unit that are not a part of the Forest Service network. One connecting South Cottonwood Road to North Elk Ridge and Causeway Road. San Juan County identified unauthorized routes in the northern portion of the unit as part of their proposed trail network.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, Canada thistle and pinyon and juniper species management as well as water quality concerns. Others felt this unit could easily be managed as wilderness.

Unit to be Analyzed

Most of the unit will be carried into the analysis step. The area north of motorized trail 010, contains two well used motorized trails and recent vegetation treatments which make the area more difficult to manage for its wilderness character. This portion of the unit is not being carried into analysis to increase the overall manageability of the remaining unit.

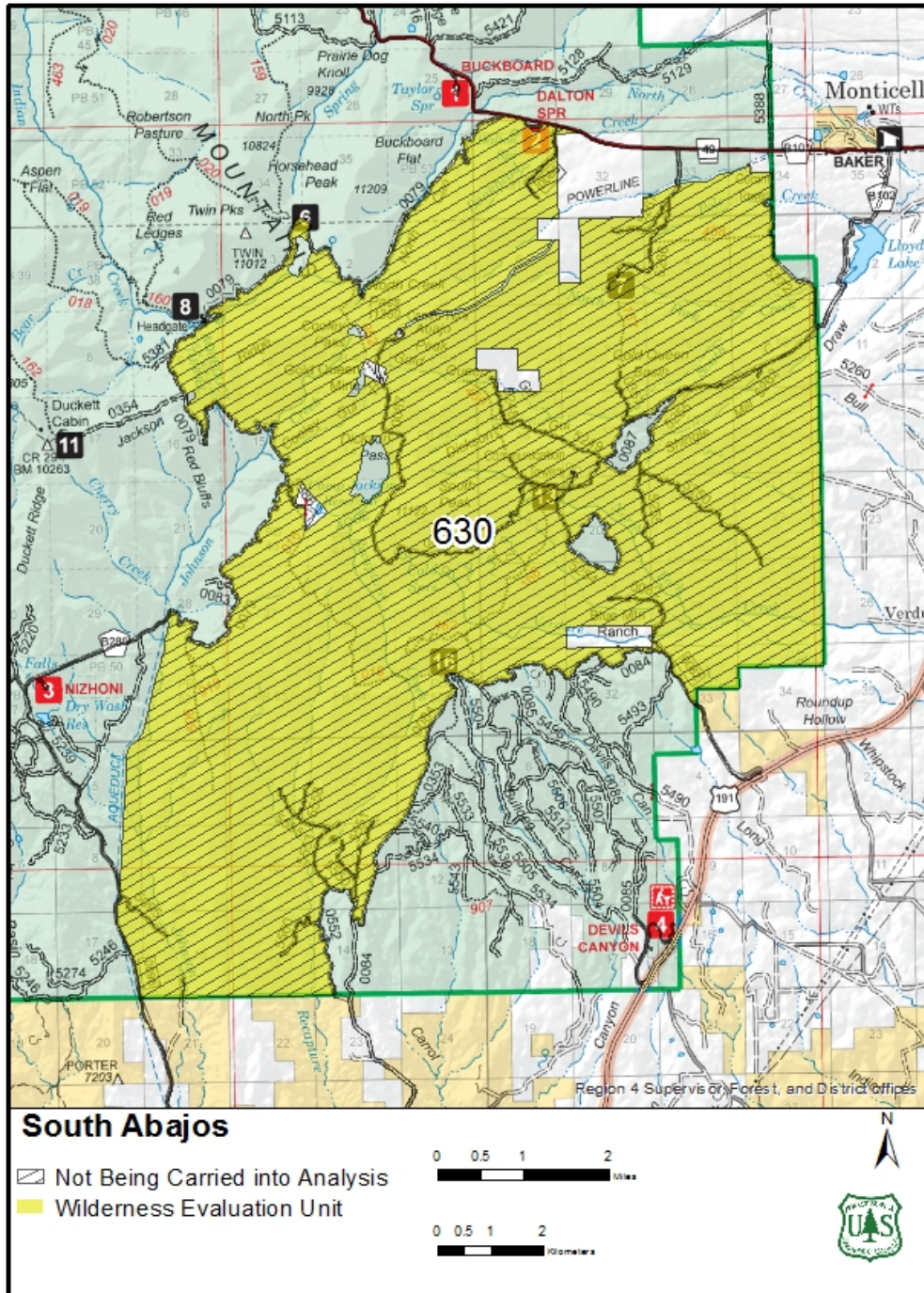
630-South Abajos

Name: South Abajos

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 630

Acres: 29,710



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appears natural in most of the unit. The vegetation is diverse across this unit. The lower edge of the unit has pinyon/juniper and Gambel oak woodlands, grading into ponderosa pine stands which have been managed for timber production. Non-native species are evident in isolated areas of the unit. Non-native plants in the unit include about twenty acres of Canada thistle and bull thistle, which are located mostly on the east side of the unit. There is approximately ten acres of Russian knapweed near the old Blue Mountain Ski Lift. Crested wheat grass, Kentucky blue grass, smooth brome and cheat grass are also present in disturbed areas in the lower elevations. Higher elevation slopes in the unit contain spruce and fir, aspen and subalpine meadows. Some wetlands and riparian habitats are in this unit as well. The area is important mule deer summer range, with big game winter range in the lower country. Northern goshawks have been found within the unit as well. Species of conservation concern wildlife includes the two bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis. The species of conservation concern plants in the unit are *Erigeron abajoensis* and *Oxypolis fendleri*.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in scattered spots within the unit. A variety of vegetation treatments including commercial timber harvest and fuels thinning projects have occurred in several areas such as North creek, Brushy Basin, and Blue Mountain Ranch area. The area around Blue Mountain Ranch has been logged as recently as 2016. Signs of the logging operation are currently noticeable such as temporary roads, decking piles, and cut stumps. The Brushy Basin treatments, including mastication and hand thinning, were conducted within the last five years but have been designed to mimic natural disturbances and are not substantially noticeable.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness across much of the area.

Developments, past human activities and motorized trails are spread throughout the unit. There are 27 stock ponds and 34 troughs, as well as 11 miles of barbed wire fence. Several wood corrals are also located in the unit. All reservoirs and stock ponds in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. The old Blue Mountain Ski Area is also within the unit. The lift towers and cables have been removed but the wood buildings at the bottom and top of the lift remain in place. The two old cut ski runs are still noticeable as well as the access route to

the towers. Wagon Wheel, Camp Jackson and Pipeline motorized trails are within the unit and are all heavily used. Ditches, maintenance roads and diversion structures associated with the Blanding and Monticello municipal water systems exist within in the unit. The large Abajo Peak communication site is outside of the unit but visible from within much of the unit. Several areas of gold mining activities took place in this unit in the early 1900s. Old mine workings are apparent in the upper drainages of Gold Queen and Cooley Gulch. There were mills constructed in both the Gold Queen and Cooley Gulches. There was also gold mining activity in Dickson Gulch and the North Creek Drainage. Tailings piles, adits, and access routes resulting from this mining activity are evident in these areas. There are twelve miles of motorized but no non-motorized trails. Decommissioned roads are located parallel to the South Creek Road and within the Shingle Mill area. Due to the proximity to the towns of Monticello, Blanding and the Blue Mountain Ranch, there are about 22 miles of user created trails that are used for unauthorized motorized access into the unit.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities for solitude are limited in this unit. There are numerous cherry stem roads throughout the unit that are heavily used due to the proximity to Monticello and Blanding. The Abajo Peak cherry stem road that provides access to the Abajo Peak communication site, nearly divides the unit in half. There are four private inholdings, three of them contain residential structures and other associated developments that are surrounded by the unit. The parcel in Gold Queen Basin includes a cabin. The Blue Mountain Ranch inholding contains numerous residential structures including an organized camp owned by a local church that is used extensively in the summer months for youth and group activities. The Camp Jackson inholding also contains residential structures around a small lake. The unit is adjacent to the paved Harts Draw road that is the primary access to the District. The popular Wagon Wheel, Camp Jackson and Pipeline off highway vehicle Trails are within the unit. From within the area, the Abajo Peak communications site is highly visible from much of the unit. Visitors can see the towns of Monticello and Blanding as well as a large area of wind turbines from within much of the unit. The North Creek Area within the unit is popular for winter recreation including snowmobiling. Hunting in this unit is popular in the fall and spring. Range management activities occur throughout the area. Range permittees use motorized vehicles as well as horses to maintain range facilities. The cherry stem roads within the unit introduce motorized uses and their associated sounds into the interior of the unit. Opportunities for solitude are available in areas of the Abajo Mountains such as Jackson Ridge, but opportunities in the unit overall are limited.

Rating: Low

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit. Opportunities include peak bagging, hiking, backpacking, excellent hunting opportunities, horseback riding, and winter recreation which include backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker and Yavapai mountain snail. Additionally, two species of conservation concern wildlife species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis. The species of conservation concern plants in the unit are *Erigeron abajoensis* and *Oxyopolis fendleri*.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

No.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

Yes, National Register eligible sites with several of regional significance.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. This uses include

numerous cherry stem roads, and motorized trails as well as established motorized use winter. There are about 45 acres of private land within the unit and surrounded by the unit as well.

Manageability Rating: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 360-South can be characterized as the backyard for the communities of Monticello and Blanding and is popular for a variety of recreation activities and multiple uses. This unit contains some of the District's most popular motorized trails and dispersed camping areas and contains cherry stem roads distributed throughout the unit. Due to the proximity of the unit to the communities of Monticello and Blanding, management of the Wildland Urban Interface is of critical concern.

Table 14. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for South Abajos unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments characterized the area as containing lots of activities, structures, and improvements that distract from apparent naturalness, solitude, and manageability for the unit. Comments suggested the unit should be rated somewhere between low and moderate for these values. Comments identified numerous roads, motorized and non-motorized trails in the unit that receive a high level of use, that the area is a popular for recreation and dispersed camping, and hunting for turkey, deer, elk, bear and mountain lion.

Comments identified three communication towers in the unit, and a history of commercial logging and gold mining in the area.

Several routes were identified by name as having substantial impacts to the unit including sections of Harvey John Road, Johnson Creek Road, Ski Lift Road, Logging Road, TV Tower Road and several sections of roads in and around Shingle Mill Draw. The unit was identified to contain several motorized trail segments that are of high priority for the County.

Comments recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, ponderosa pine, Canada thistle, aspen, and pinyon juniper management, and water quality concerns. Additional comments received recommended modifying the unit boundary to eliminate areas of human activity and to re-evaluate the unit.

Unit to be Analyzed

The overall rating of the South Abajos unit is low, it will therefore not be carried into the analysis step.

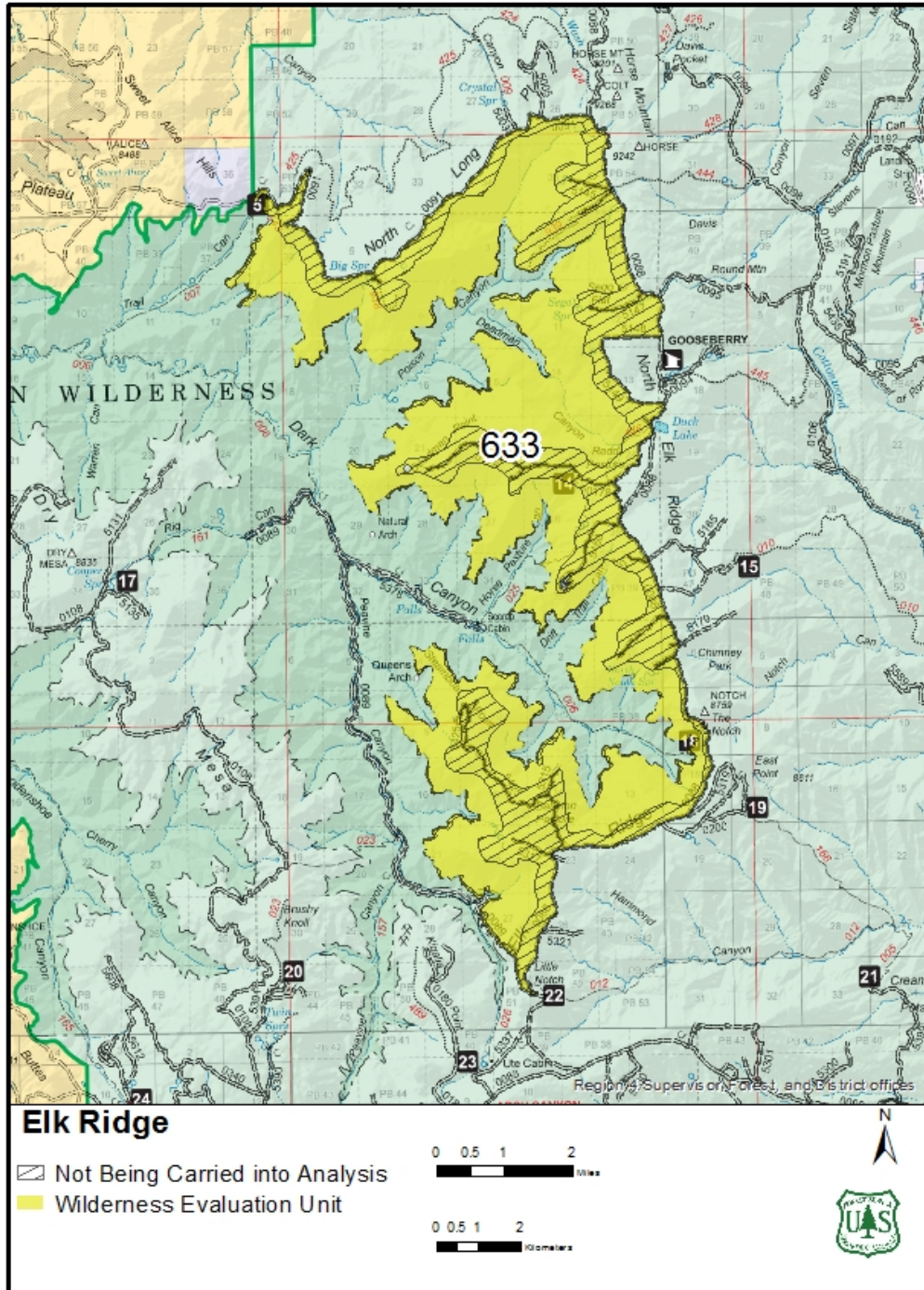
633-Elk Ridge

Name: Elk Ridge

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 633

Acres: evaluation 19,887, analysis 12,920



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural. Noxious weeds occupy about a third of an acre and is primarily crested wheat grass. This unit is located along the rim of Dark Canyon and is dominated by ponderosa pine forest, mixed with Gambel oak and aspen. There are mixed conifer-aspen forests on the slopes below the mesa top. There are occasional springs and seeps and open grassy meadows which provide an important forage resource. The area is used by deer, elk and turkeys for summer range. There are Abert's squirrels and northern goshawks. Two species of conservation concern species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, occur in the unit. species of conservation concern plant species include *Penstemon navajoa*, *Cymopterus beckii*, *Erigeron kachnensis*, and *Allium geyeri* var. *chatterleyi*.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. Commercial logging has occurred within the unit but is over 20 years old and appears to have regrown and become less noticeable. Signs from the logging operations are primarily cut stumps and remnants of reclaimed haul roads. Non-commercial thinning has occurred more recently, but those treatments are not highly visible and not substantially noticeable. Recent thinning treatment on North Elk Ridge remain noticeable on the landscape.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas, primarily on the mesa tops. There are 12 stock ponds and 21 troughs as well as about 5.5 miles barbed wire fence. There is one corral in Big Flat. All reservoirs and stock ponds in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. Mining claims and developments are not substantially noticeable within the unit. Two miles of motorized trails exist in the unit, as well as two miles of non-motorized trails. Several temporary aspen enclosure fences exist within the unit as well. Old decommissioned roads exist in the unit near the head of Dark Canyon, Redd Pasture Area, Deadman Point, but they are reclaiming. Fourteen miles of level one roads also exist within the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities for solitude are possible throughout much of the area. The western edge of the area is adjacent to the designated Dark Canyon Wilderness. Several cherry stems roads provide motorized access into the unit that have potential to impact solitude, but most are little used. Dispersed camping is popular occur along the main roads. There is moderate to high hunting use in the spring and fall. Dark Canyon Wilderness users pass through the unit to access the Wilderness. There are three allotments within the unit, two of which have not been used since 2002. The Big Flat area gets relatively high levels of use around the corral and cabin associated with livestock grazing. The further visitors get away from the cherry stem roads and down into the canyons, the better the opportunities for solitude become.

Rating: High

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are excellent opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation when viewed in context with the adjacent Dark Canyon Wilderness. These opportunities include hiking and backpacking. There is also excellent big game hunting as well as horseback riding.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, Abert's squirrels and northern goshawks. The two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, occur in the unit. Species of conservation concern plant species include *Penstemon navajoa*, *Cymopterus beckii*, *Erigeron kachnensis*, and *Allium geyeri* var. *chatterleyi*.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Yes, including unique views of Dark Canyon, from North Longs Point and Dead Man Point.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

No.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The extent of other uses and/or other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. There are numerous cherry stem roads within the unit all located above the canyons on Elk Ridge. The unit is adjacent to the designated Dark Canyon Wilderness. The top portions, about 10,317 acres, or 52 percent of the canyons are within the Dark Canyon and Woodenshoe Inventoried Roadless Area. There are existing mineral claims in this unit that could be developed in the future. There are several motorized trails within the unit that are little used. The North Elk Aspen Treatment project is a signed decision and is located partially within the unit. The project entails building aspen enclosures and conducting restoration thinning and burning.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 633-Elk Ridge borders Dark Canyon Wilderness and contains several cherry stem roads which lead to trailheads that serve as primary access points for the Wilderness area. There is a high level of dispersed camping along roads, and grazing improvements within the unit are also concentrated along roads.

Like other units the use is concentrated along the mesas, and the canyons provide more opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Table 15. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Elk Ridge unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Comments noted that the unit is well roaded and has become increasingly travelled since the Bears Ears National Monument designation in 2016 while others emphasized the roadless portions of the unit as outstanding. Comments also identified past and present activities including timber harvesting, stand

improvements, mining activities, and structural range improvements that they suggested should result in a rating of moderate for apparent naturalness, solitude, and manageability in this unit. Other recommended these areas containing human activity be removed from the unit boundary and that the overall rating for Opportunities for solitude be increased.

Comments identified portions of level 1 roads, and some unauthorized routes, on the South Ridge right at the end of Dark Canyon, a section of road northeast of Drift Trail Canyon, two sections of road just west of North Elk Ridge on Redd Pasture, a section of road just south of Poison Canyon, and two branch-off roads just north of North Long Point as impacting the unit.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, ponderosa pine, and Canada thistle species management, and Water Quality concerns, others suggested that after removing areas of human activity the unit would be appropriate for wilderness recommendation.

Unit to be Analyzed

The portion of unit from the Dark Canyon Wilderness boundary to the top of Elk Ridge will be carried forward into analysis. This is the portion that is below the canyon rim. The portion of the unit on top of Elk Ridge is more influenced by multiple cherry stem roads, making it more difficult to manage its wilderness character. The mesa top portion of the unit is also within the signed North Elks fuel reduction project that began to be implemented in 2019. Therefore, this portion of the unit will be removed from analysis.

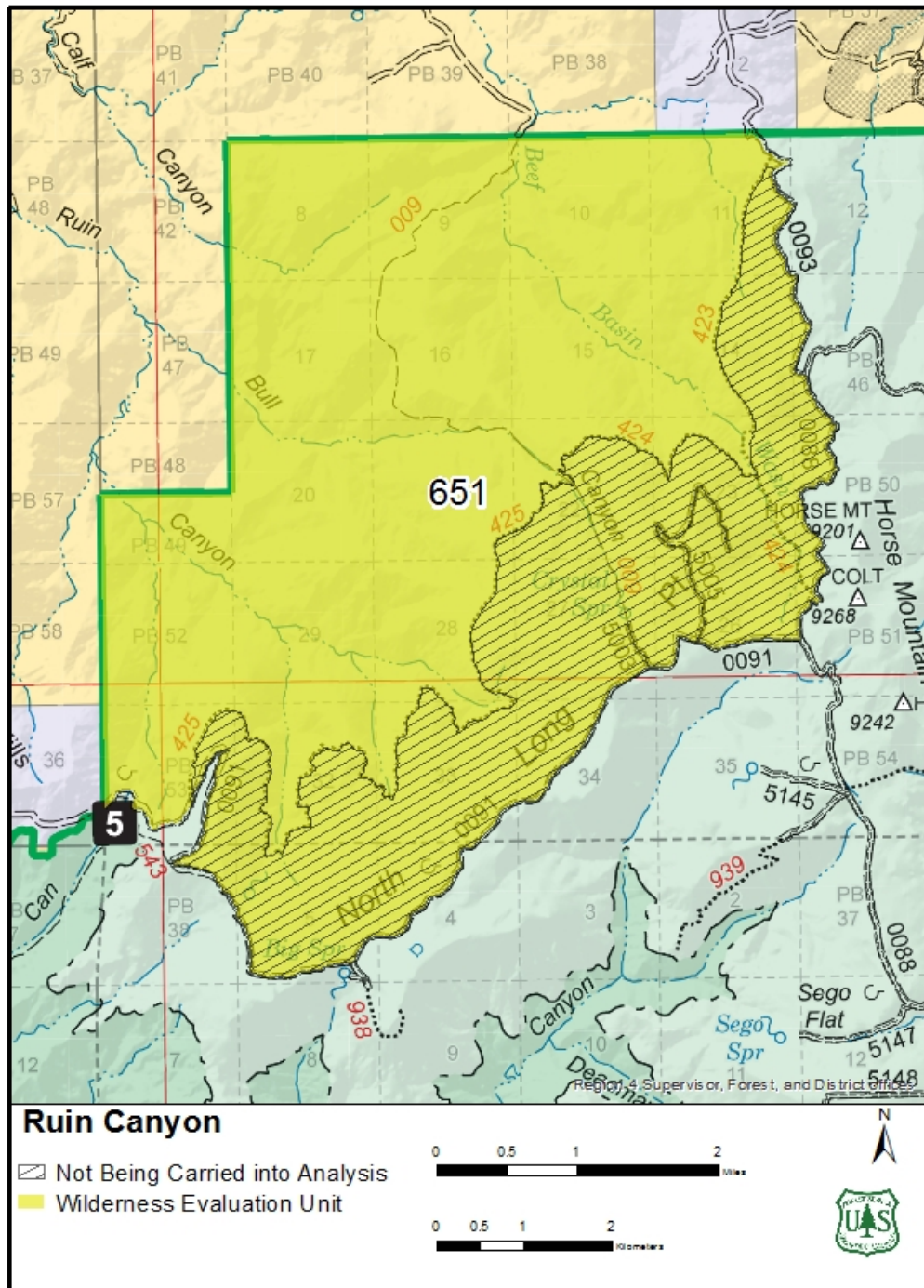
651-Ruin Canyon

Name: Ruin Canyon

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 651

Acres: evaluation 13,649, analysis 9,021



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and Animal communities appear natural. Non-native species are not evident. This unit is dominated by pinyon-juniper woodland. There is ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, aspen, big sagebrush and Gambel oak in the upper portions. This area has elk winter range, and important black bear habitat. The two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, occur in the unit. Species of conservation concern plant species include *Allium geyeri* var. *chatterleyi* and possibly *Plantanthera zothecina*. No invasive species are known in the unit, but areas that were chained were also seeded with non-native smooth brome and crested wheat grass.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. Commercial logging has occurred within the unit but is over 20 years old and appears to have regrown and become less noticeable. Signs from the logging operations are primarily cut stumps and some old remnants of haul roads that are reclaiming. An area of planted ponderosa pines that were planted and appear uniformly distributed but may not be notable to the average visitor.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is little evidence of human activity and developments are scattered in the unit. Improvements include one corral, two reservoirs, two troughs, and two and a half miles of barbed wire fence. The reservoir and troughs in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. The White Rim motorized trail cuts through the center of the unit. There are several unauthorized user-created trails, but they are not highly noticeable.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible due to the White Rim motorized trail, which is in the unit. Hunting occurs in the spring and fall, but generally not a lot of recreation use is occurring in the area. There is a low occurrence of range management activities occurring in the area.

Rating: Moderate

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation such as day hiking, possible backpacking, and hunting for big game. The Beef Basin non-motorized trail is in the unit but is not maintained.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, the two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat, and fringed myotis, as well as spotted bats, occur in the unit. Species of conservation concern plant species include *Allium geyeri* var. *chatterleyi*, and possibly *Plantanthera zothecina*.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

No.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

No.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. The 8,296-acre Ruin Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area is located within the unit, covering about 60 percent of the unit. The White Rim motorized trail is located within the unit and forms the southern boundary of the Ruin Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. The unit is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands found to have wilderness characteristics, a portion of which are managed to protect those characteristics.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 651-Ruin Canyon is characterized by the high mesa top of North Long Point a portion of the larger Elk Ridge which contains ponderosa pine stands. The rest of the unit is characterized by the deep canyons draining from the mesa into Beef Basin. The primary use within Unit 651 is concentrated to the White Rim off highway vehicle trail, and dispersed camping along the roads. The landscape is characterized by canyons and unique views from North Long Point into the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park.

Table 16. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Ruin Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Moderate	High	High

Public Comment

Comments received recommended that the unit be evaluated by splitting the unit based on evidence of past activities. The canyon bottoms of Beef Basin Wash, Calf Canyon, Bull Canyon and Ruin Canyon up to the top of the rim below the White Rim Motorized Trail's numbers 424 and 425 could be analyzed separately from the remainder of the unit as these areas show little evidence of human activity.

The area on the mesa top down to the White Rim Trail was recommended to be rated as moderate for apparent naturalness, solitude, and manageability because of logging, timber stand improvements, motorized trails, and grazing activities in this area. The area north of the White Rim Trail to the Forest boundary was recommended to have higher rating values than the mesa tops and characterized as of the pinyon and juniper woodland on Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands in the area. Management was recommended to be complementary to management on adjoining Bureau of Land Management lands.

Reviewers also described the unit as natural, with little evidence of human activity, and providing opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation feeling that the popular White Rim off highway vehicle trail was not a detractor.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, pinyon and juniper species management, and water quality concerns, others suggested the unit would be appropriate for wilderness recommendation.

Unit to be Analyzed

The portion of the unit south of the White Rim off-highway vehicle trail offer fewer opportunities for solitude. This southern area is a fairly narrow portion of the unit located between a road and motorized trail and contains two cherry stem roads. The northern area also better matches the inventoried roadless area boundary. Therefore, most of the unit will be carried into analysis except the portion south of the White Rim motorized trail. Excluding this portion of the unit makes the remaining portion more manageable for wilderness characteristics.

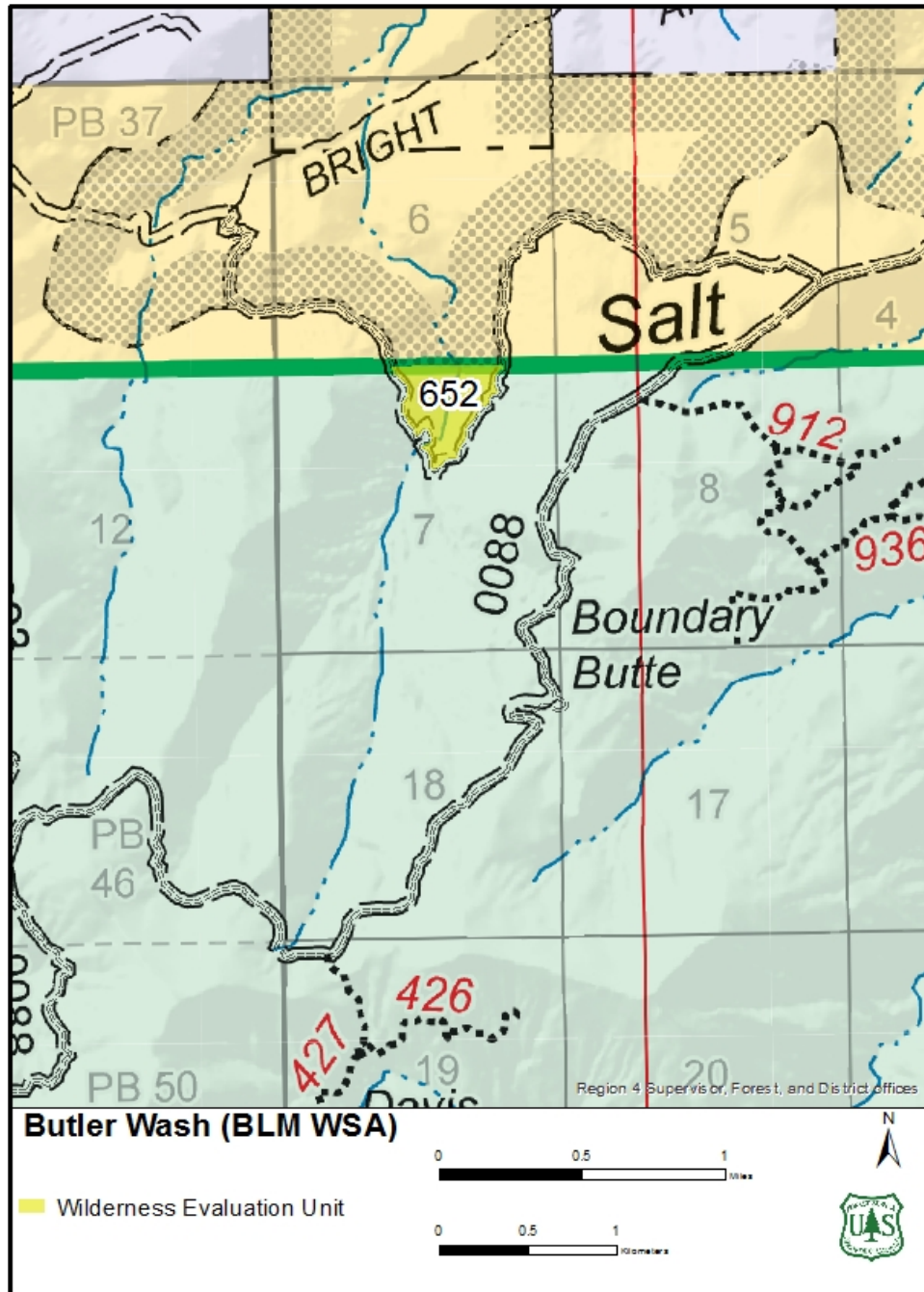
652-Butler Wash, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area

Name: Butler Wash, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area

Ranger District: Monticello

Acres: 51

Number: 652



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

This unit is primarily pinyon and juniper woodland and barren rock. Big game in the winter, and pinyon and juniper associated migratory birds, such as black-throated gray warblers and gray vireo, may use the unit. There are no known occurrences of species of conservation concern species or non-native species.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There have been no vegetation treatments in the area.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is no evidence of human activity and developments in the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone due to the size of the unit and its proximity to a road. Solitude is possible when viewed in the context of adjacent Butler Wash Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area.

Rating: Low

- 2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

Opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation are limited by the area's small size.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

No.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

No.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

No.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

There are no conflicting uses but due to the small size of the unit managing it for wilderness character would be difficult. The adjacent larger Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area makes managing wilderness characteristics possible. The unit is bounded by a low use road on the non-Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area side.

Manageability Rating: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 652-Butler Wash, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area is untrammled by man primarily due to its small size but is not large enough to stand alone as a wilderness area.

Table 17. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Butler Wash, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments described the unit as typical pinyon and juniper landscape. Commenters recommended the unit be rated High for apparent naturalness, but moderate for solitude and manageability. Additional comments received suggested the boundary of the unit was arbitrary and inappropriately lowering the ratings for wilderness characteristics of the area. Commenters suggested that the area provides opportunities for primitive recreation and an exceptional feeling of isolation and solitude.

Unit to be Analyzed

While the overall value for this unit is low, in part due to its small size, it is bounded by the adjacent Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area on its northern side. When taken in the context of being an extension of this area, it may be more manageable for wilderness characteristics and will therefore be carried forward into the analysis step.

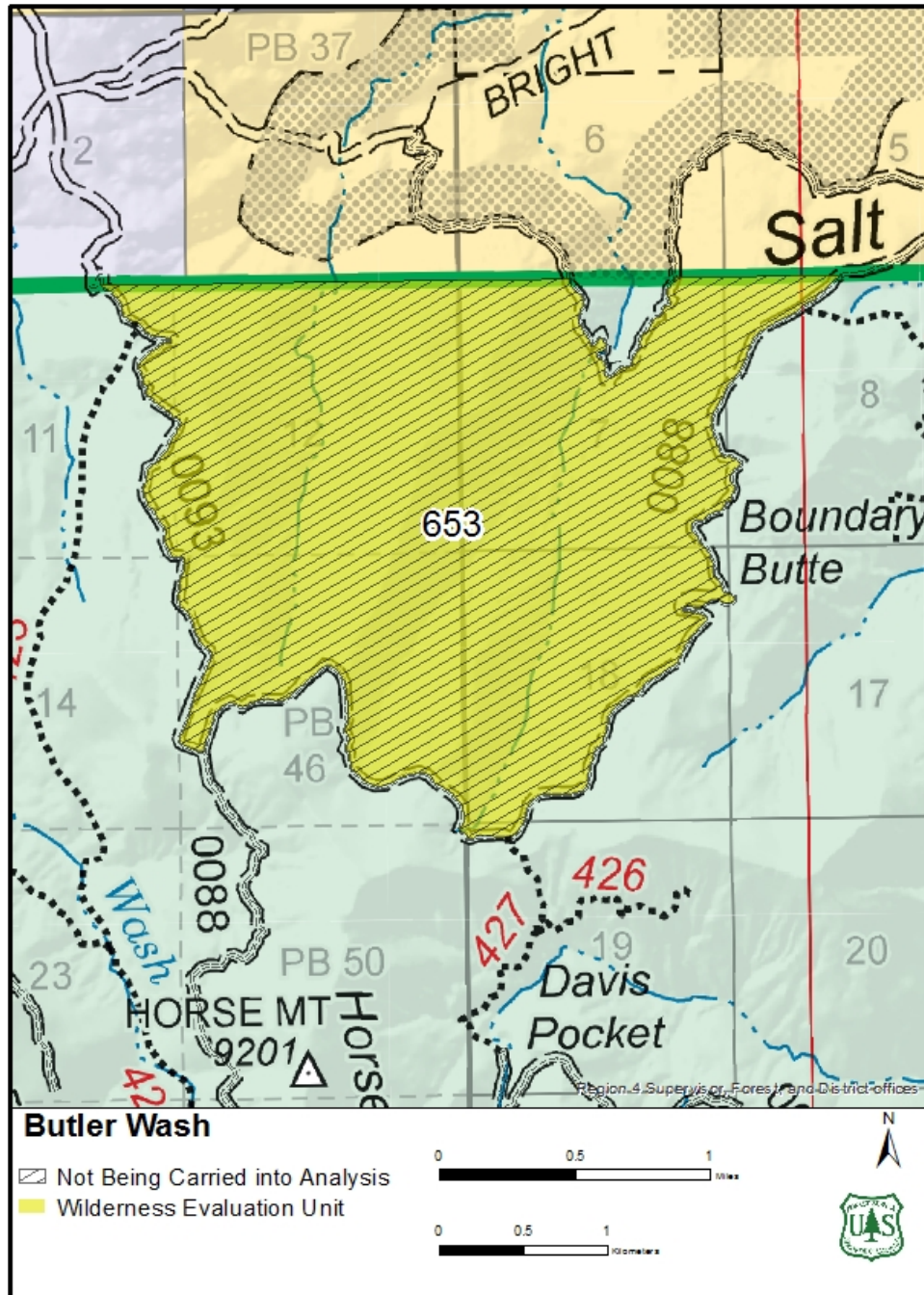
653-Butler Wash

Name: Butler Wash

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 653

Acres: 2,189



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural. Non-native species are not evident. The unit is dominated by pinyon-juniper woodland with some ponderosa pine, Gambel oak and mixed conifer stands in the upper portions. The area is important elk winter range. The two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, occur in the unit. The species of conservation concern plant species *Allium geyeri* var. *hatterley* is also found in the unit is also found in the unit. There are no known non-native species, though cheat grass and smooth brome likely in the mountain brush area.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There have been no vegetation treatments in the area.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is some evidence of human activity. One and a third miles of decommissioned road nearly bisects the unit and there is less than a tenth of a mile of fence as well as some old mining access roads.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Very little use occurs in the area. This area is small and does have a nearby, although not adjacent, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area. There is a small sliver of non-wilderness study area land along the border of this unit and the area designated by the Bureau of Land Management as a wilderness study area. The small sliver while not designated, possesses wilderness characteristics even though it is not managed for their protection. Opportunities for solitude exist in the canyons or when viewed in context with adjacent Bureau of Land Management land.

Rating: Moderate

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation are limited by the area's small size, but they do exist. Opportunities for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding are all available.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

No.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

No.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

No.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

There are no conflicting uses but due to the small size of the unit managing it for wilderness character would be difficult. When viewed in conjunction with the larger Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area that is nearby but not adjacent, managing the wilderness character of the unit would be possible.

Manageability Rating: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 653-Butler Wash provides views of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park but otherwise has no other unique or outstanding features identified. Its small size may make management for wilderness characteristics difficult, but it is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands with wilderness characteristics.

Table 18. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Butler Wash unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Unit 653 was described by some as being untrammelled by man but is so small it would not stand alone as a wilderness area. Comments described the unit as typical pinyon and juniper landscape common to the area. Comments suggested the unit be rated High for apparent naturalness, but moderate overall for solitude and manageability due to its size. Comments also identified portions of Bridger Jack Road and its offshoots throughout the unit.

Some reviewers suggested the unit not be evaluated independently, but in conjunction with units 651 and 652. Low use of the area was suggested to increase opportunities for solitude and that in context of the larger landscape, the areas manageability rating could be increased to moderate.

Comments suggested the unit be removed from further consideration due to pinyon and juniper species management, water quality concerns, being less than 5000 acres in size, and not being adjacent to designated wilderness.

Unit to be Analyzed

The unit will not be carried into analysis due to its low overall value rating.

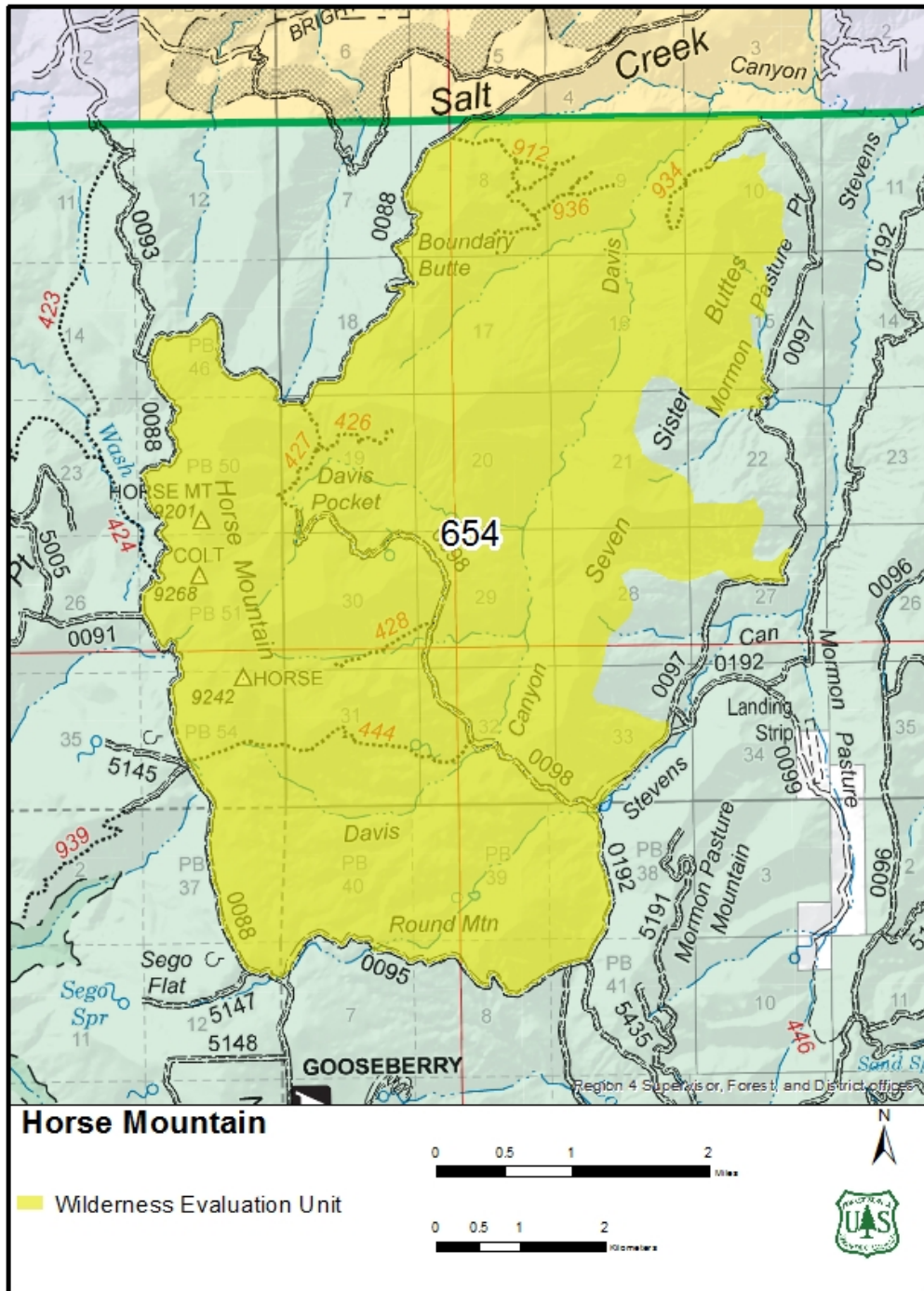
654-Horse Mountain

Name: Horse Mountain

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 654

Acres: 12,627



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural. Non-native species are not readily evident except about one acre of Canada thistle at the very southern end of the unit. This unit is composed primarily of Gambel Oak and pinyon and juniper woodlands with ponderosa pine stands on the north facing slopes of the canyons, as well as some Douglas-fir mixed conifer stands. The Gambel oak habitat is used for deer fawning, and Abert's squirrels live in the ponderosa pine. There are also black bears, turkeys and flammulated owls. Species of conservation concern wildlife include the two bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, while there are no known populations of species of conservation concern plants.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. The Big Flat vegetation treatments are over 20 years old and appear to have regrown and become less noticeable. Some vegetation mastication (chipping) has occurred in a small portion of the eastern edge of the unit.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. There are ten stock ponds six troughs, and about six miles of fence. All reservoirs and troughs in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. There are some mining impacts such as tailings, adits, and access roads in the northern portion of the unit but most have already been removed from the unit. There are five miles of motorized trails, but no non-motorized trails. Approximately two miles of closed roads are located around Round Mountain in the southern portion of the unit.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities for solitude exist in the area, although the motorized trails in the unit do influence the solitude. There are several motorized trails in the area, Davis Pocket and Horse Mountain trails, which receive a fair amount of use, especially during the hunting season. The unit is almost cut in half with the Davis Pocket cherry stem road. Low levels of visitation increase opportunities for solitude.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation such as day hiking, hunting and horseback riding but they are impacted by the cherry stem roads and motorized trails. There are no non-motorized trails within the unit.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Abert's squirrels, flammulated owls. species of conservation concern including the two bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and Fringed myotis.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The extent of other uses and/or other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout a portion of the area. However, the unit is nearly cut in half by a cherry stem road and the unit contains numerous motorized trails which would make it difficult to manage the unit for wilderness character. Some range management activities occur within the unit as well.

Manageability Rating: Moderate.

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 654-Horse Mountain contains several large mesas including Horse Mountain and Boundary Butte. Scattered stands of ponderosa pine and other conifers exists as well as Gambel oak. Motorized trails bisect the unit making manageability potentially difficult.

Table 19. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Horse Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Comments received described the Horse Mountain unit as containing many human features that affect the apparent naturalness, solitude, and potential primitive and unconfined opportunities for recreation. Comments recommended that due to commercial timber activity, grazing and range improvements, mining and motorized trails, present in the unit that the overall rating for apparent naturalness, solitude and manageability should be moderate. Comments described the landscape as providing outstanding solitude and a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. Boundary Butte and the Seven Sisters Buttes were described as unique locations. Comments suggested the unit boundary be drawn to exclude the Davis Pocket route and extend the boundary along the route to the Elk Ridge Road near the southeast flank of Horse Mountain. Excluding the Davis Pocket route, the unit was then suggested to be described as providing a high degree of wilderness character. Others, in contrast, felt that the manageability of the unit should be ranked as high after eliminating areas of human activity.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, ponderosa pine, Canada thistle and pinyon and juniper species management as well as water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will be carried forward into the analysis step due to its overall moderate value. While commenters did note that the Davis Pocket route may reduce the wilderness characteristics of apparent naturalness and solitude, it is felt that the unit's evaluation boundary captures sufficient wilderness characteristics and is manageable without alterations to the boundary at this point in the wilderness process.

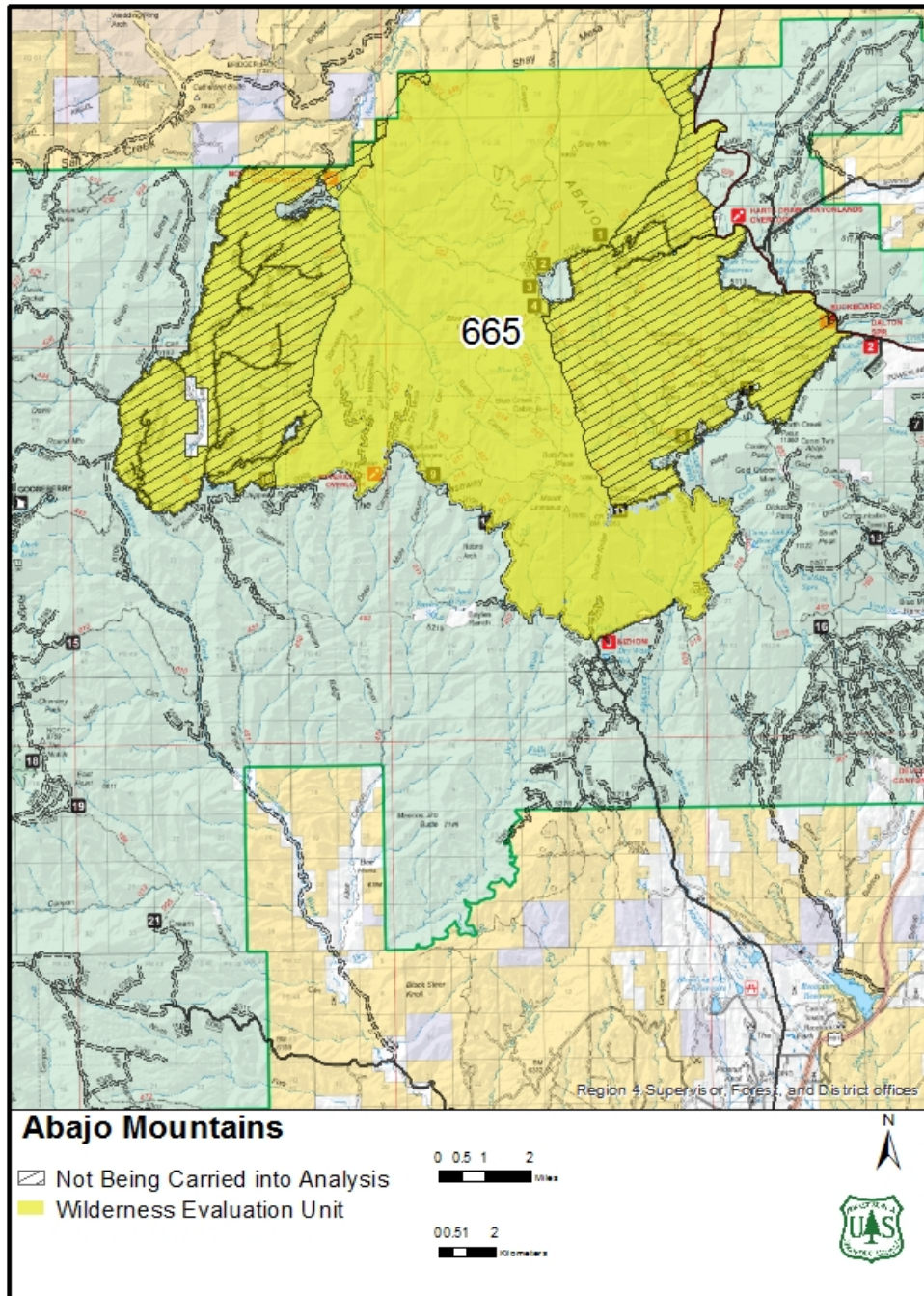
665-Abajo Mountains

Name: Abajo Mountains

Ranger District: Monticello

Number: 665

Acres: evaluation 71,277, analysis 41,022



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities generally appear natural. This large and diverse unit has representation of all the vegetation types on the Monticello District, including pinyon and juniper, ponderosa pine, aspen, and Gambel oak and riparian habitats. On the peaks of the Abajo Mountains there are spruce-fir and mountain shrub and meadow communities. Wildlife in the unit includes mule deer, elk, turkeys, bobcat, northern goshawk, and Abert's squirrel. Two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, occur in the unit. There is also habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. Several species of conservation concern plant species are found in the unit, including *Erigeron abajoensis*, *Erigeron kachnensis*, *Allium geyeri* var *chatterleyi*, *Cymopterus beckii*, and *Oxypolis fendleri*. Invasive species cover about 48.86 acres of the unit, and include bindweed along roads, as well as Kentucky blue grass and smooth brome dispersed throughout the unit. Areas on Maverick Point contain crested wheat grass.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation generally appears natural. The Nizhoni Fire and Planting Treatments mimic natural disturbances and are not substantially noticeable. Recent mastication work in the Mormon Pasture area was designed to mimic natural landscapes and processes. Several prescribed and natural fires were managed for resource benefit and appear natural. The Little Dry Mesa and Starvation Point Treatments, which included commercial logging and tree planting, are over twenty years old and appear to have regrown and become less noticeable.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of developments detract from apparent naturalness in some areas within the unit. There are 16 stock ponds and 33 troughs, as well as about 6 miles of barbed wire fence. All reservoirs and troughs in the unit are generally masked by surrounding vegetation and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors, unless they are standing directly at the development. There are line cabins in Allen and Blue Creek associated with the range allotments in the area. There are 160 acres of private inholdings in the Mormon Pasture area where there is a cabin and corrals used for management of the Cottonwood Allotment. Several drill roads are noticeable east of the North Cottonwood Guard Station in Hop Creek in the area of the Hop Creek Trail. The Dream Mine Gold Mill is in this unit just north of the Camp Jackson access road. Several of the Dream Mine tailings piles are visible on the east of road 0079. There is a rock quarry at the end of road 5220 northwest of the Nizhoni Campground. There were also several mines on the east and west sides of Shay Mountain. Shay Ridge, Shay Mountain, Aspen Flats, Red Ledges, Vega

Creek, Indian Creek and Robertson Pasture motorized trails are located within the unit which total about 40 miles. Some of these motorized trails have seasonal closures for a portion of the year. In addition, there are 62 miles of non-motorized trail. There is some unauthorized user created routes in the unit, primarily in the Maverick Point and Shay Mountain areas. Ditches, transmission lines, maintenance roads and diversion structures associated with the Blanding water system exist within the unit. There is a tunnel and ditch that brings water from the Dry Wash Canyon drainage over into the Johnson Creek drainage where water is stored in the Dry Wash Reservoir. The Blanding Tunnel, which carries water from Indian Creek to reservoirs above Blanding has its entrance and exit to the tunnel in this unit. There is also a water transmission line that conveys water from the Cherry Creek, Johnson Creek, and Cooley Gulch drainages to reservoirs north of Blanding, a portion of this line is located within the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Excellent opportunities for solitude exist in portions of the unit such as in the Tuerto Canyon, Trough Canyon and Blue Canyon areas. Opportunities for solitude in other portions of the unit are harder to find such as in the main portion of the Abajo Mountains where densities of roads and motorized trails are higher. There are several large cherry stem roads and numerous motorized trails in the unit which impact opportunities for solitude. Some of the most popular motorized trails on the District are found in this unit and they receive a fair amount of use. These trails include; Shay Ridge, Shay Mountain, Robertson Pasture, Aspen Flat and Vega Creek. Although most of these motorized trails are in forested areas, visitors can hear motorized sounds from much of the unit near these trails. The unit is also popular for motorized winter recreation which occurs primarily in the North Creek area of the Abajo Mountains. This unit is a popular area for dispersed camping. The range line cabins in Allen Canyon, Blue Canyon and Mormon Pasture decrease the opportunities for solitude the immediate area. Range management activities occur from spring to fall throughout the unit. From much of the eastern portion of the unit the town of Monticello is visible, but from most of the unit you cannot see human developments.

Rating: High

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include peak bagging, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, excellent hunting opportunities for big game, and winter recreation such as skiing, and snowshoeing.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, northern goshawk with 5 territories in the unit, and Abert's squirrel. The two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis, occur in the unit. There is habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. Several species of conservation concern plant species are found in the unit, including *Erigeron abajoensis*, *Erigeron kachnensis*, *Allium geyeri var chatterleyi*, *Cymopterus beckii*, and *Oxypolis fendleri*.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout portions of area, however conflicting uses and developments would make management difficult in other portions. Numerous motorized trails and cherry stems exist in the unit which would make managing the area for wilderness character difficult. There are two Inventoried Roadless Areas, Shay Mountain and Blue Mountain, covering about 34,481 or 48 percent of the unit. The private inholdings within the unit and surrounded by it, might make some areas more difficult to manage.

Manageability Rating: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 665-Abajo Mountains is large and varies in use and character within the unit boundary. The landscape contains landscape features of canyons and mountains including the Abajo Mountains on the east, including Horsehead Peak and Shay Mountain. Use in the unit can be characterized by predominantly motorized use in the eastern portion, and non-motorized use in the west. The unit contains the best suitable timber lands on the District in the Maverick Point area and surrounds one of the largest inholdings.

Table 20. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Abajo Mountains unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Due to the size of the unit comments suggested that the unit be broken up for further evaluation. With the exception of the Blue Creek Canyon, Trough Canyon, Tuerto Canyon, and Hop Creek drainages the rating for Apparent Naturalness, Solitude, and manageability were recommended to be moderate because of the timber, grazing, and mining activities, water transmission line, roads, and motorized and non-motorized trails in the area. The four named canyons listed above were suggested to be assessed higher, although the landscape can generally be characterized as Pinyon/Juniper vegetation type typical to the area.

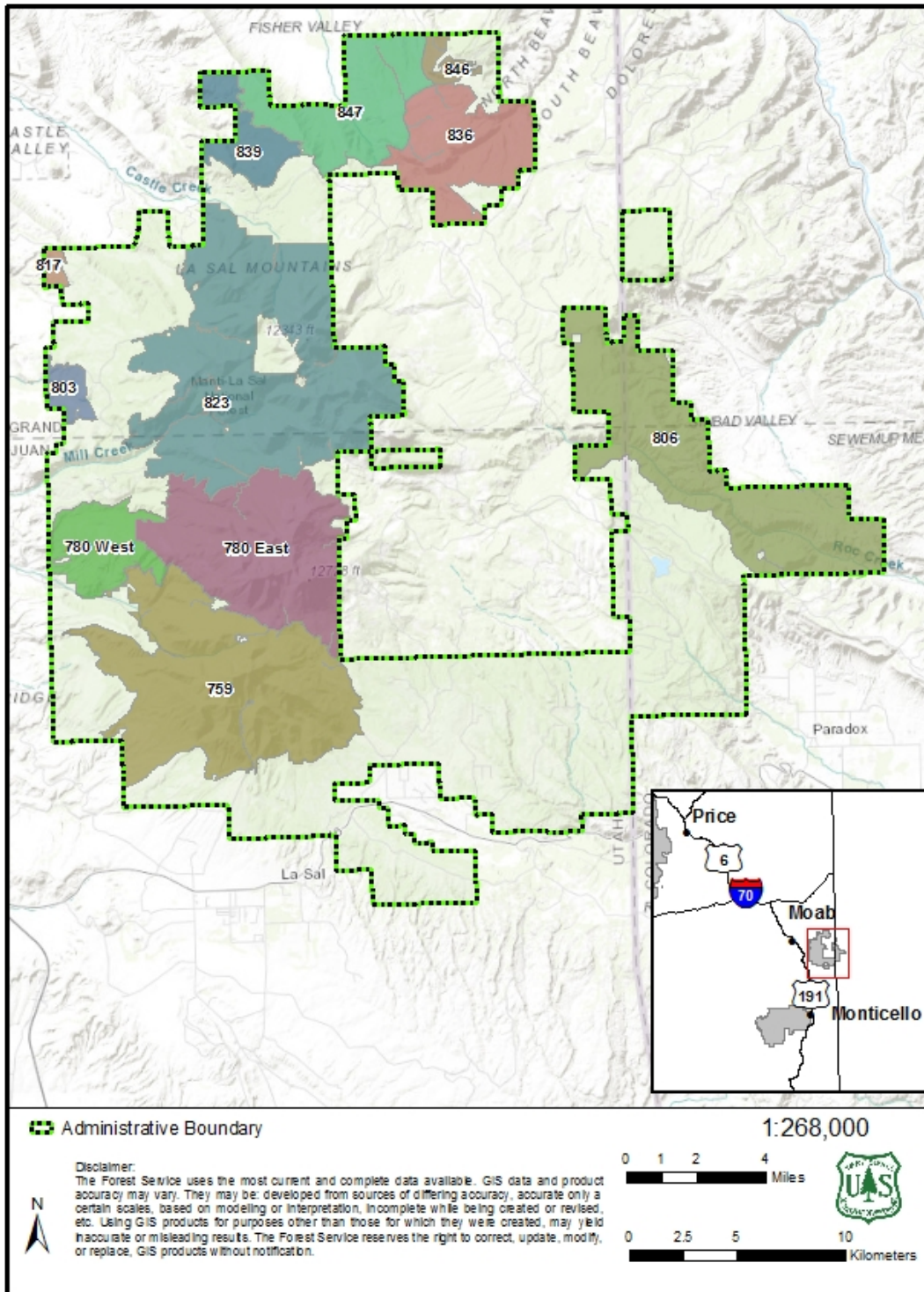
Comments identified level one roads north of Maverick Point leading up to Mud Canyon, a road that runs along the northwest boundary of the allotment parallel to North Cottonwood Road, and a section of road just south of Starvation Point. The County identified several high priority motorized routes within the unit.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, ponderosa pine, aspen stands, and pinyon and juniper species management as well as water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

The core area within the unit around Blue Creek and Hop Creek will be carried into the analysis step. Areas east of Shay Ridge off-highway vehicle trail, west of the Vega Creek motorcycle trail, and east of the Indian Creek trail will not be carried forward due to the reduced opportunities for solitude, the lower apparent naturalness and potentially more difficult ability to manage for wilderness characteristics in these areas. Public comments were generally in consensus to remove these portions of the unit.

Moab District



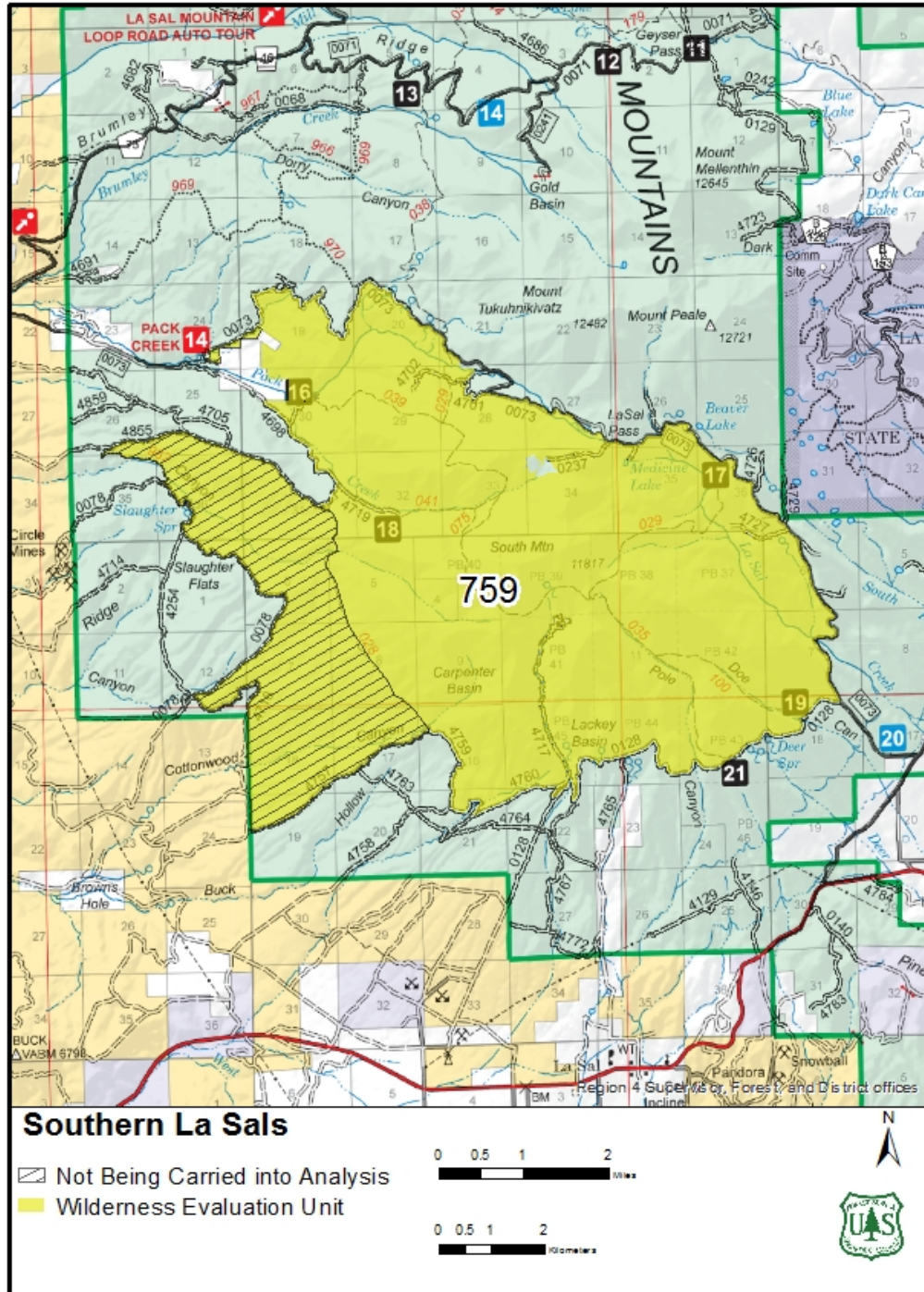
759-Southern La Sals

Name: Southern La Sals

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 759

Acres: evaluation 19,092, analysis 15,171



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural. Non-native species are not evident. This unit contains diverse plant and animal communities from alpine to low elevation pinyon and juniper woodlands. Habitats in this unit include spruce and fir forest, Gambel oak, sub-alpine meadows, mixed conifer and aspen forest and ponderosa pine. Animals in the unit include northern goshawk, golden eagle, Virginia's warbler, and three wildlife species of conservation concern species American pika, Townsend's big-eared bat and black-rosy finch. The unit includes big game summer and winter range. Species of conservation concern plant species known to occur in the unit are *Erigeron mancus*, and *Senecio serra var. admirabilis*. Non-native species include Kentucky blue grass and crested wheatgrass at lower elevations.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Ecological conditions and the amount they have been impacted by human intervention vary greatly across this unit. The upper elevations and high elevation spruce and fir forests are little changed by human intervention. The lower elevations are more influenced by human interventions such as vegetation treatments. Vegetation treatments include 1960s chaining in the western portion of the unit. The treatments are not currently apparent on the landscape, but there are remnant piles of scattered logs and roots, and a lower density stands of pinyon and juniper.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is little evidence of human activity throughout most of the unit and developments are scattered. Developments detract from apparent naturalness at lower elevations of the unit. Range improvements include nine stock tanks, thirteen earthen reservoirs, one trough, five ponds, and several miles of barbed wire fence. The unit contains several non-motorized trails including the Pack Creek, Medicine Lake, Hells Canyon, South Mountain, Doe Canyon, Pole Canyon, and Carpenter Basin trails which total about 21 miles of non-motorized trail. There is one mile of motorized trail. The area contains a few unauthorized motorized routes, some of these in the La Sal Creek area have been closed and are naturally reclaiming.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities for solitude are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are present. The northern boundary of the unit is the La Sal Pass Road which is heavily used and is popular for dispersed camping. Opportunities for solitude exist away from trails, roads and camping corridors. The Lackey Basin cherry stem road goes deep into the unit and impacts solitude on the southern slopes of South Mountain.

Rating: High

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include peak bagging, hiking, backpacking, hunting, and winter recreation such as backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and mountaineering. The steep, and rugged country in the higher elevations provide for opportunities for challenge and risk.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Overall Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, animals in the unit include species of conservation concern species American pika, as well as other wildlife including northern goshawks, gray jays and fringed myotis. Several plant species of conservation concern are in the unit including the *Erigeron mancus*, *Bakers oreoxis*, *Senecio fremontii* var. *inexpectatus*, and *Symphyotrichum laeve* var. *geyeri*.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, the area contains glacial features including cirques and moraines.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses occurs in scattered areas and makes management to preserve the unit's wilderness characteristics possible in most areas. 14,700 acres or about 77 percent of the unit is located within the South Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. The Lackey Basin cherry stem runs deep into the unit on the southern slopes of South Mountain. Several relatively popular mountain bike trails are in the northern portion of the unit which would make management more difficult in those portions of the unit.

Manageability: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 759-Southern La Sals is the largest roadless area on the Moab District, and is a very diverse area ranging from a high elevation alpine ecosystem, spruce and fir forest, aspen stands all the way down to lower elevation pinyon and juniper woodlands. Wilderness character varies throughout the unit with generally more solitude and more naturalness at the higher elevations. The unit is popular for backcountry activities including hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and skiing.

Table 21. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Southern La Sals unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Comments note that most of the unit is free of noticeable human impacts, with the exception along the western benches where several past vegetation removal projects have occurred. Comments recommended modifying the boundary of the western portion of the unit around the Carpenter Basin trail. The remainder of the unit was described as providing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The upper elevations in this unit were described as showing little influence of man but the lower elevations, especially in the southwestern part of the unit, show evidence of old chaining with chaining debris piles including uprooted trees as well as other range improvements such as fences, stock ponds and water troughs. Naturalness was recommended to be rated high in the higher elevations and moderate in the lower elevations. Solitude was recommended to be rated moderate due to signs of civilization both inside and outside the unit. Opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation were

recommended to be rated high, manageability as moderate due to scattered multiple uses, and the presence of range improvements and non-motorized trails.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, Engelmann spruce, and pinyon and juniper species management as well as water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

The central and higher elevation portion of the unit will be carried into the analysis step. Commenters were in consensus about removing the lower elevation portions of the unit, where lower quality wilderness characteristics are present due to past vegetation treatments west of Carpenter Basin.

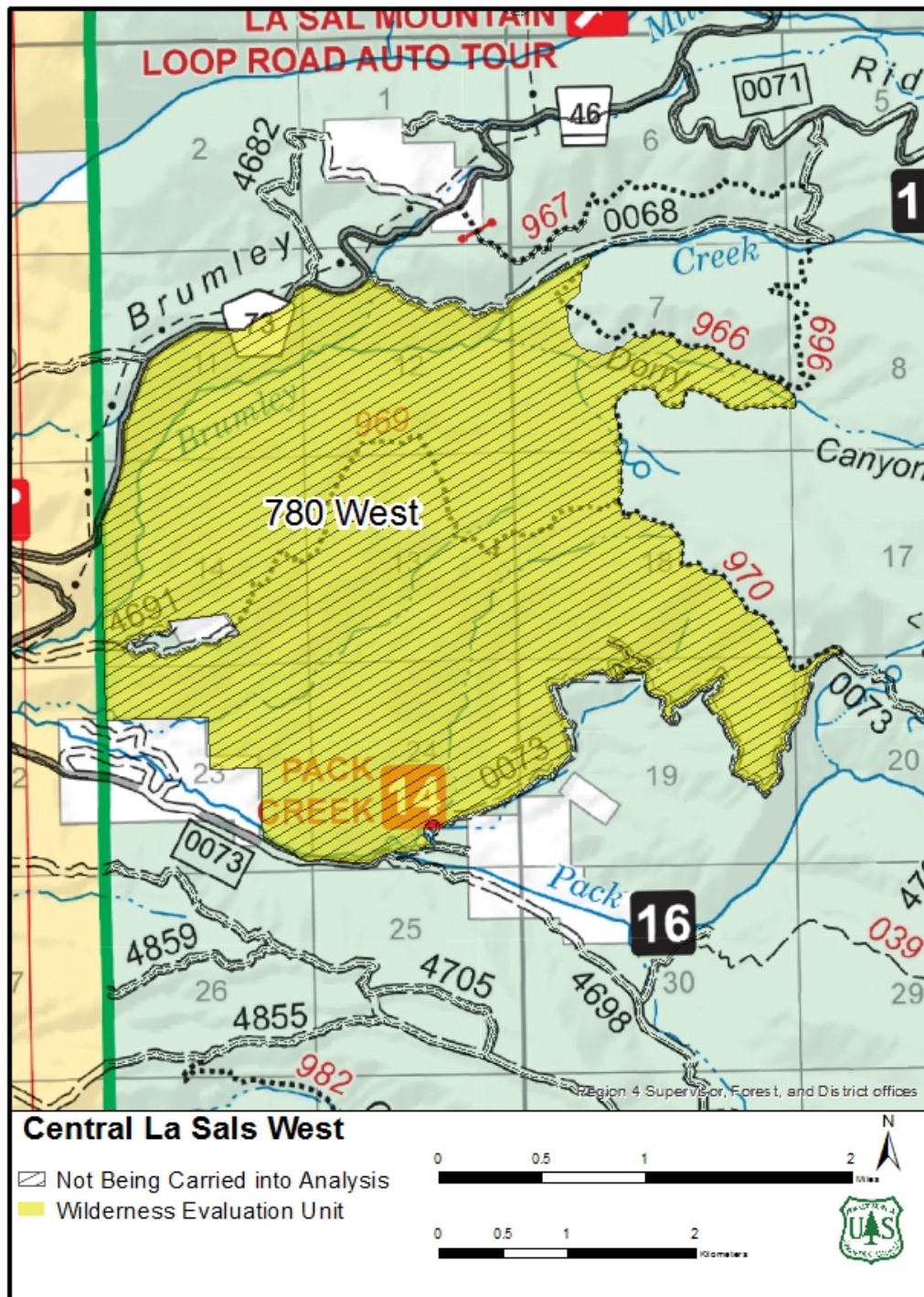
780w-Central La Sals, West

Name: Central La Sals, West

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 780w

Acres: 4,059



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural throughout the unit. Non-native species are not evident on the landscape. Habitat type is primarily pinyon and juniper, with extensive riparian areas along Dorry and Brumley Creek. Douglas fir occurs in Dorry Canyon. Some Gambel oak is also present in the unit. species of conservation concern species include the Townsends big-eared bat and *Astragalus iselyi*, which can be found along Brumley Ridge. This unit contains elk and deer winter range. Common riparian and upland animal communities are in this unit. Noxious weeds include some scattered cheat grass and crested wheat grass.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in scattered spots. There are past vegetation treatments, including chaining, all throughout the unit that occurred in the 1960's. The treatments are not currently readily apparent on the landscape, but there are remnant piles of scattered logs and roots and a lower density of pinion and juniper within the treatment. There are obvious cut stumps present in the southwest portion of the area from vegetation treatments in 2004.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is noticeable evidence of human activity that impacts the apparent naturalness in most areas. Range improvements include three troughs made of fiberglass and, three post and pole exclosures, one earthen stock pond, and a mile of barb wire fence. The unit contains about seven miles of motorized trail, including the Brumley Creek trail, and trail 969. Evidence of many old closed roads are still apparent within the unit including about eight miles of level one roads.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities for solitude are limited in this unit. The unit is adjacent to the La Sal Loop Road which is a paved scenic backway and is very popular throughout the entire year. The Brumley

Creek motorized trail receives a fair amount of motorized use. Grazing management activities occur throughout the unit. A year-round residence is located on a private inholding near the western boundary of the unit. The unit is adjacent to the Pack Creek subdivision along its southwest corner. Numerous residential structures are located on the subdivision.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include hiking, hunting, rock climbing, and canyoneering.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Isley's milkvetch and Townsend's big-eared bat.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

Yes, there are some regionally significant cultural sites found in a high density. Some of the known sites are National Register eligible sites. Fossils are also present.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses occurs across most of the area and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics difficult in most areas. There are several short cherry stem roads within the unit. Three motorized trails run through the middle of the unit and divide the unit into smaller sections. Range management activities occur throughout the unit. One private inholding of about nine acres lies within the unit. The unit is adjacent to developed private land subdivisions. A decision to construct a new mountain bike trail within the unit has been signed. The entire unit is also managed as a Wildland Urban Interface to protect the municipal watershed and the adjacent Pack Creek subdivision.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 780-Central La Sals, West contains the Brumley Creek motorized trail and evidence of extensive mining activity and chaining to the north of the unit. The unit can be generally characterized by the evidence of previous management activities.

Table 22. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Central La Sals, West unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments described the evidence of human activity as detracting from the naturalness of the area including old chaining, cut stumps, range improvements, motorized trails and closed roads. Comments suggested the rating of apparent naturalness to be low, solitude and opportunities for primitive recreation to be low or moderate, and manageability generally as low.

Comments identified two roads within the unit not previously identified in the draft evaluation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed for the purposes of pinyon and juniper species management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step because the overall value is low.

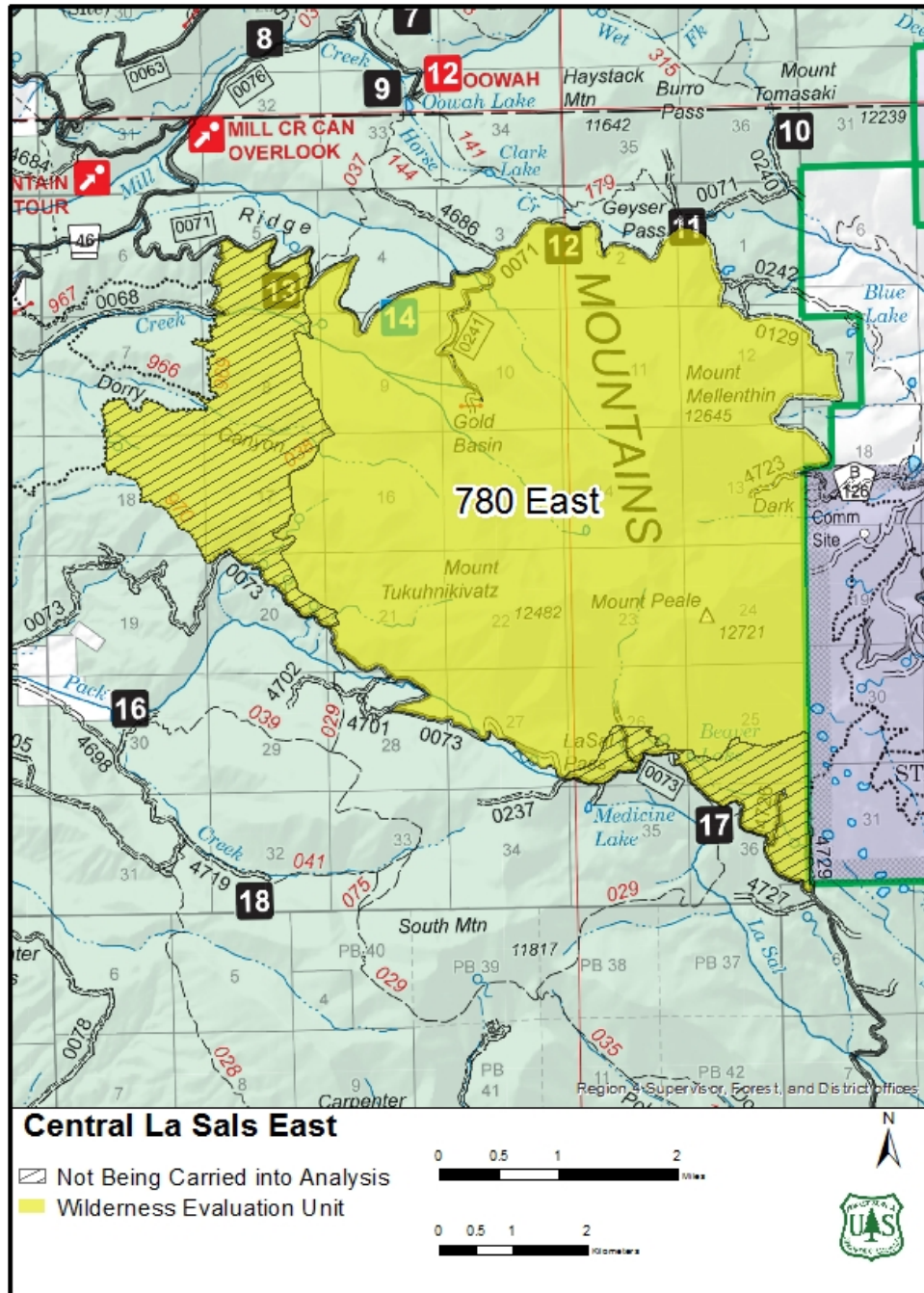
780e-Central La Sals, East

Name: Central La Sals, East

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 780e

Acres: evaluation 12,661, analysis 10,228



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The upper elevations of the unit contain a unique alpine ecosystem. Habitats in this unit also include spruce and fir forest, Gambel oak, sub-alpine meadows, mixed conifer and aspen forests. Animals in the unit include northern goshawk, golden eagle, band-tailed pigeon, three-toed woodpecker and species of conservation concern species black-rosy finch. Introduced mountain goats use the high country of this unit. Several plant species of conservation concern include *Erigeron mancus*, *Oreoxis bakeri*, *Senecio fremontii* var. *inexpectatus*, and *Podistera eastwoodiae*.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural in this unit. There was some old timber salvage in the 80s, but the impacts are no longer apparent on the landscape.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is little evidence of human activity in this unit. Range improvements include one trough, and three and a half miles of barbed wire fence. Several non-motorized trails are within the unit including the Squaw Springs, Gold Basin, Tuk Trail and the Burlfriends trail. The Squaw Springs and Burlfriends trails are also open to mountain biking. A few unauthorized motorized routes that have been closed are present in the area and naturally reclaiming. Several small-scale vertical structures are located within the unit including, a small radio tower, two SNOTEL sites and a weather station. These structures are screened by trees and not generally noticeable. There is one recreational yurt under special use permit that is located along the edge of the unit during the winter months.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities for solitude are possible throughout the unit. The northern boundary is adjacent to the Geyser Pass road and the southern boundary is the La Sal Pass road which are both heavily used, and popular for dispersed camping. The town of Moab is visible from the higher portions of the unit. Although opportunities for solitude do exist away from roads, human activities can often be seen from within the unit.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation such as peak bagging, hiking, backpacking, hunting, and non-motorized winter recreation such as backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and mountaineering. Rock climbing and canyoneering opportunities also exist in the unit. The steep, and rugged country in the higher elevations provide opportunities for challenge and risk.

Rating: High

**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: High**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, alpine ecosystems within the Colorado Plateau are uncommon.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, the area contains glacial features including cirques and moraines. Rock Glaciers are in the unit and have been studied in the area. The La Sal range is the second highest range in Utah. Brumley Creek also contains a large rock arch and waterfall.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

Yes, Mount Peale Research Natural Area.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, the headwaters of Mill Creek, which is important for municipal water supply.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes, glacial features and geology of the area have been a focus of university study.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

Presence and extent of other uses and management considerations affects isolated spots and makes management to preserve the areas wilderness characteristics possible throughout the area. Four short cherry stem roads occur in the unit along the edges. The Mount Peale Research Natural Area lies within this unit, and surrounds Mount Peale. The Mount Peale Research Natural Area was established to protect the unique alpine ecosystem in the high elevations around the peaks. 9,261 acres of about 76 percent of the unit is located within the Mount Peale Inventoried Roadless Area. 4,301 acres of the unit, or about 34 percent of the unit was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative in 2016. The central portion of the unit is closed to motorized over-snow travel. Several authorized outfitter and guides operate in the unit including a permit for a yurt. All permitted uses would be compatible with managing the area for its wilderness character.

Manageability: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 780e-Central La Sals, East contains the middle portion of the La Sals and the highest peaks in the range. The unit contains more perennial water than other unit on the Forest. The unit is popular for recreation including hiking, peak bagging, mountain bike riding in the southern portion, and is a popular area for backcountry skiing. This unit currently contains winter closures to motorized use for backcountry recreation.

Table 23. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value for Central La Sals, East unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Comments received described the unit as primarily natural with human improvements mostly unnoticeable. Comments described opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation particularly in the higher elevation areas and suggested manageability should be rated mostly high even with the four cherry stemmed roads. Comments identified Mount Mellenthin and Mount Tukuhnivatz as being unique features.

Comments identified two closed roads not discussed in the initial draft narrative including a branch off Dorry Canyon and a branch off Geyser Pass Road.

Comments suggested unit boundary be modified to include additional isolated areas around the unit. Comments suggested that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation should be ranked higher. Comments noted that Gold Basin is popular for winter backcountry recreation, and that the unit in general is popular for hunting, rock climbing, photography, and fishing.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to pinyon and juniper stand, and Engelmann spruce species management, and water quality concerns. Additional comments received suggested preservation for the unit is warranted.

Unit to be Analyzed

Most of the unit will be carried forward into analysis. The area west of Squaw Springs Trail and the area around the Burlfriends mountain bike trail will not be carried forward due to the lower ability to find solitude in these areas and the public consensus to remove them from the larger unit for analysis. Manageability for wilderness characteristics of the remaining unit would increase with the removal of this portion of the unit. Public comments indicated consensus to remove these portions of the unit.

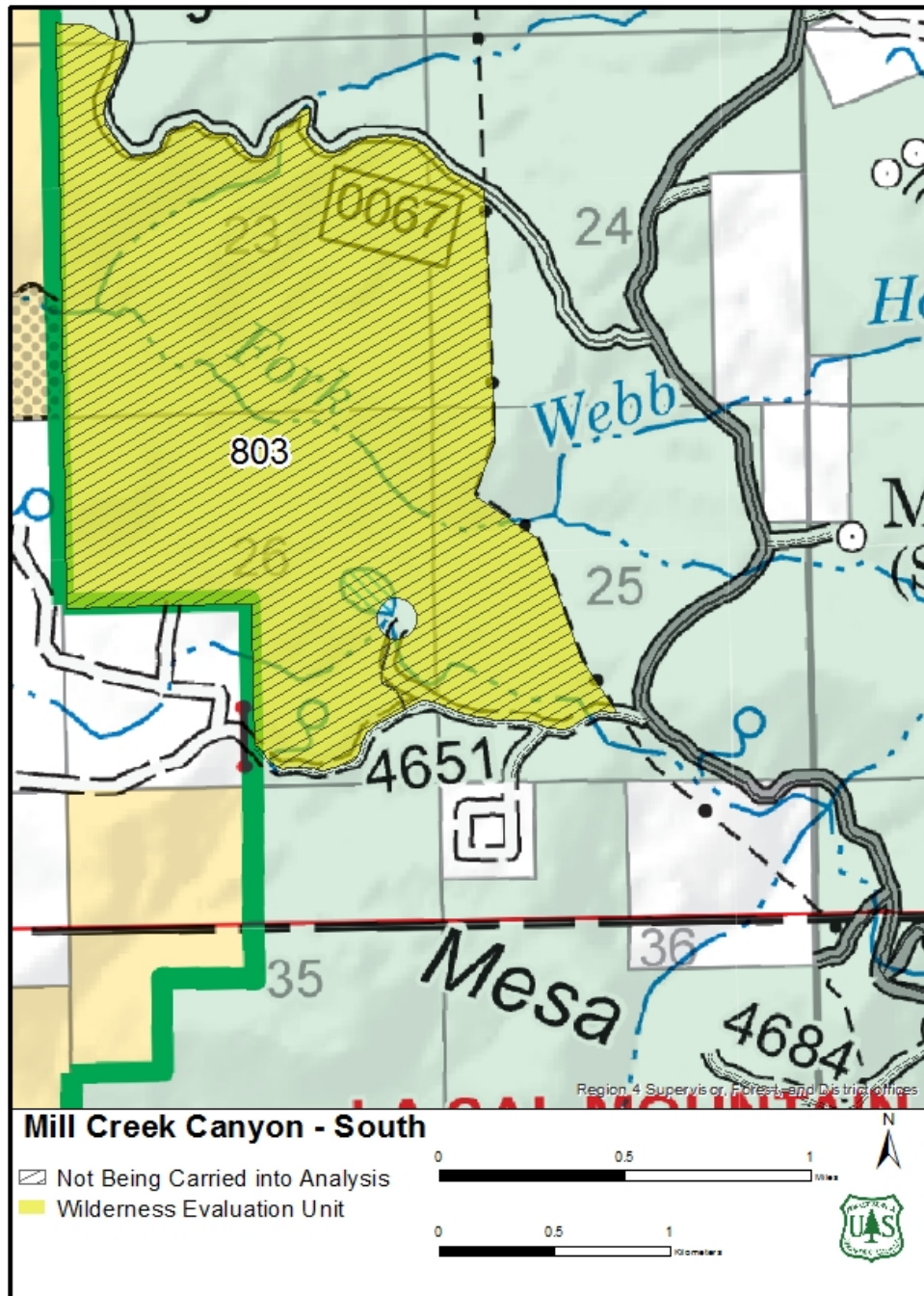
803-Mill Creek Canyon, South Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area

Name: Mill Creek Canyon, South Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area

Ranger District: Moab

Total Acres: 1,152

Number: 803



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural in this unit with no non-native species on the landscape. Vegetation communities are primarily pinyon and juniper woodlands and mountain brush.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated spots. There are old chaining and recent mastication vegetation treatments in the unit. Over time the treatments will become less apparent.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is noticeable evidence of human activity in portions of the unit. Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. There are old mining exploration scars, and a ditch line associated with the South Mesa Reservoir.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Human activity is common in the area which limits the opportunities for solitude. This unit is adjacent to developed private property with agricultural fields to the southwest. There is a utility line that receives regular maintenance along the eastern boundary.

Rating: Low

- 2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

Existing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the size. There are some day hiking opportunities, and hunting.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No, only a few National Register eligible properties.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The unit is a small area and is adjacent to developed private lands. A short section, 0.3 miles of the boundary is also adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management managed Mill Creek Wilderness Study Area, which is managed to protect its wilderness character. 921 acres of the unit or about 80 percent of it, was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah's Congressional delegation in 2016.

Manageability: Low**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 803-Mill Creek Canyon, South Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area is located adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management Mill Creek Wilderness Study Area along a small portion of the unit's western boundary. The unit is also adjacent to agricultural lands and a reservoir that were removed from the unit boundary, but still influences the character of the landscape. Evidence of historic mining activities are found throughout the unit. The North Fork of Mill Creek has opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and contains a historic trail.

Table 24. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mill Creek Canyon, South Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received described the lands within this unit as possessing high-quality water resources important for the communities of Moab, and Spanish Valley.

Reviewers identified a network of level 1 roads at the center of the unit not previously described in the draft evaluation. It was suggested that the unit be evaluated as part of the larger Mill Creek Canyon roadless area, and that southern portions of the unit be removed from further consideration including South Mesa and the reservoir.

Comments received recommended this for removal from further consideration for the purposes of cherry stem roads, pinyon and juniper species management, and inadequate size, as the unit is less than 5,000 acres, and lack of adjacency to existing wilderness. Other comment recommended the area be considered for further analysis for the purposes of protecting water resources.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, pinyon and juniper species management, water quality concerns, size less than 5000 acres, and lack of adjacent designated wilderness. Additional comments received suggested preservation for the unit is warranted to protect water resources and because of the adjacent Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried forward in the analysis step due to small size, small border with Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area and low overall value.

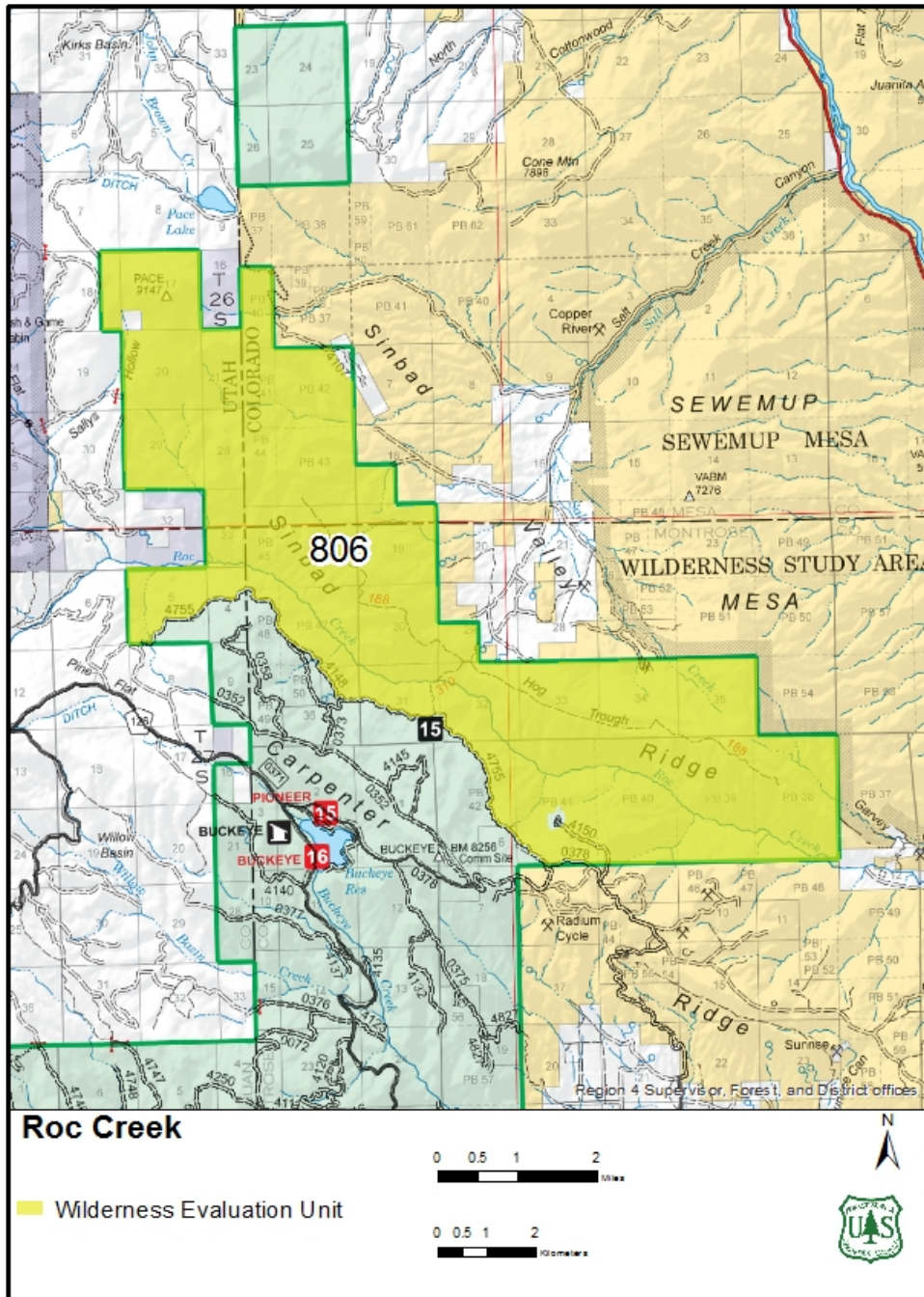
806-Roc Creek

Name: Roc Creek

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 806

Acres: 15,835



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural in this unit with no non-native species in the unit. Vegetation community types include aspen and ponderosa pine at higher elevations and pinyon and juniper woodlands at lower elevations with riparian vegetation in Roc Creek Gorge.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no recent vegetation treatments in the unit.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. There are some old mining impacts such as access roads, and adits on the rim of Roc Creek Gorge. Several decommissioned motorized routes are found in the northern portion of the unit. The Roc Creek Gorge itself has no developments or signs of human activity.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is a common feeling of being alone and remote to civilization in this unit. Buckeye Reservoir and a campground are located to the south of the unit, but they are not visible. A ranch house and some agricultural fields are located to the north but are also not visible from most of the unit. Human activities are rare within the unit as access to the area is difficult.

Rating: High

- 2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include day hiking, backpacking, outstanding big game hunting, and some opportunities for fishing are available in Roc Creek. The unit contains the Roc Creek non-motorized trail that is little used.

Rating: High

**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: High**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Colorado cutthroat trout.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, deep sandstone canyon and perennial stream.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, Roc Creek is a fishery and perennial stream.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations affects isolated spots and makes management to preserve the areas wilderness characteristics possible throughout the area. The area is in a remote part of the forest and adjacent to the Sewemup Mesa Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area in Colorado. 12,633 acres or about 80 percent of the unit is within the Roc Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. The portion of the inventoried roadless area in Colorado is managed as an *Upper Tier* unit under the Colorado Roadless Rule, which is the highest level of protection under the rule. The portion of the unit within the State of Colorado is proposed for wilderness designation in a bill sponsored by Representative DeGette of Colorado. Access to some of the unit is difficult, due to adjacent private lands.

Manageability: High**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 806-Roc Creek can be characterized by a deep canyon with a perennial stream which support native Colorado cutthroat trout. The unit is popular for backcountry hunting and contains some old forest growth ponderosa pine.

Table 25. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Roc Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Comments received described the unit as having an appearance of naturalness that could be rated as high in the Roc Creek drainage. Solitude and opportunities for primitive recreation were described as moderate to high. Manageability in the Utah portion of the unit was described as high due to inaccessibility.

Comments received identified several sections of unauthorized roads within the northern and western portion of the unit previously not considered in the draft evaluation narrative. Reviewers also identified popular activities for the unit to include hiking, backpacking, hunting, and horseback riding.

Comments received recommended that this unit be removed from further consideration due to water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will be carried forward into the analysis step due to its overall high value.

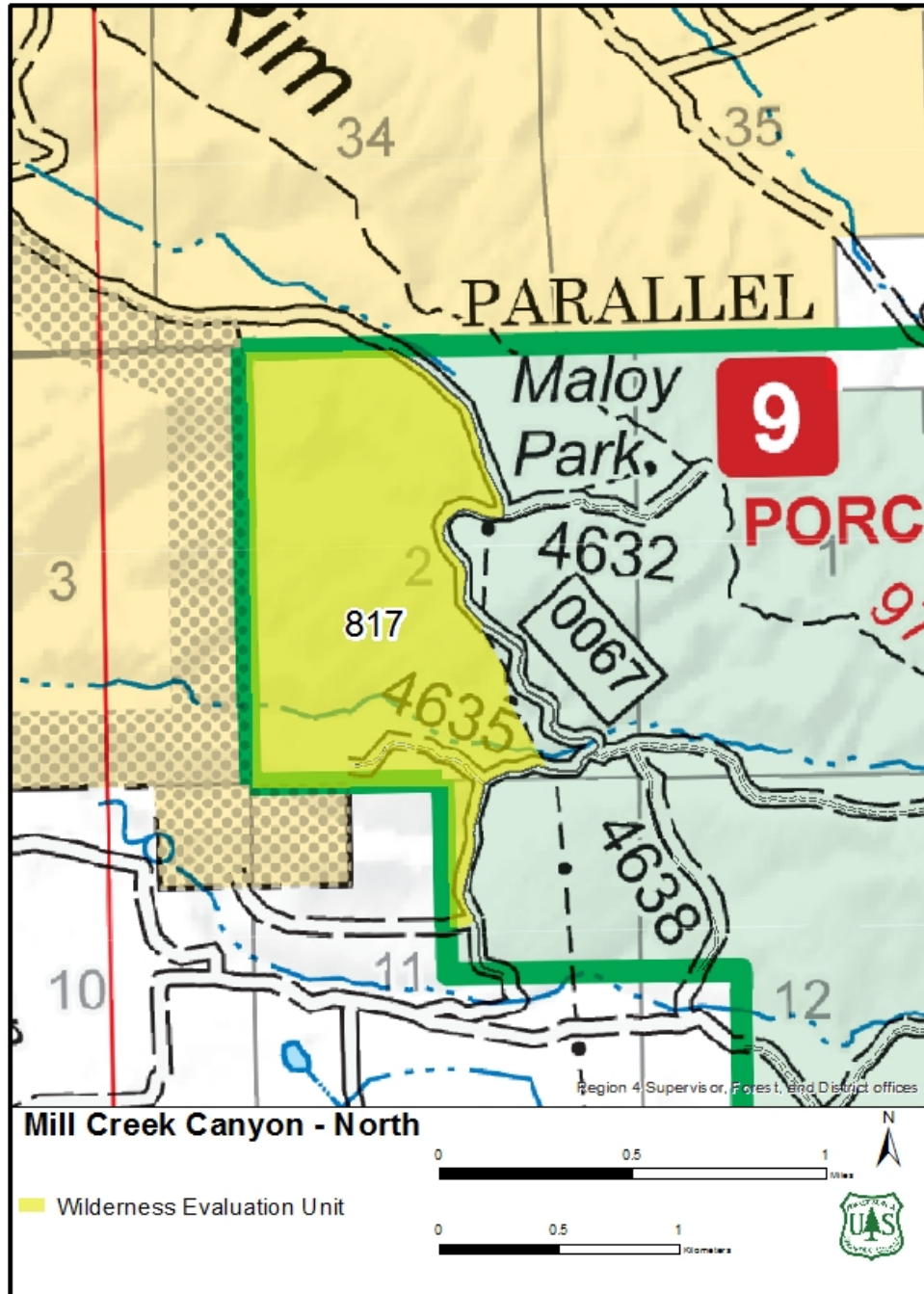
817-Mill Creek Canyon, North Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area

Name: Mill Creek Canyon, North Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area

Ranger District: Moab

Acres: 445

Number: 817



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural with no non-native species evident. Vegetation types include primarily pinyon and juniper woodlands with some ponderosa Pine. There are large areas of bare slick rock in the unit.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no recent vegetation treatments in the unit.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

No improvements are present within the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are also possible due to the small size of the unit. This unit is adjacent to developed private property on the south with a house on the property. The unit is also adjacent to the heavily used Sand Flats Road on the east and a Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area on the west.

Rating: Moderate

- 2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include day hiking and hunting. The canyons, towers and boulders have potential for bouldering and rock climbing. There are no trails or other facilities in this unit.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, habitat for Canyonlands biscuitroot.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, interesting rock fins and towers.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No, the unit is mostly un-surveyed and contains no known sites. Moderate potential for National Register eligible properties to be present.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. This is a small area that is adjacent to developed private land and utility lines. It is also adjacent to a small portion of the Mill Creek Wilderness Study Area. 397 acres of this unit, or about 89 percent of the unit was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah's Congressional delegation in 2016.

Manageability: Moderate

Public Comment

Comments received described the Mill Creek Unit as containing much of the upper portion of the Castle Valley watershed which is an important source of high-quality water for town.

Reviewers identified several unauthorized roads not previously discussed in the draft evaluation narrative and suggested that the Mill Creek Canyon North and South units be evaluated as a whole, as they are contiguous to the larger roadless Bureau of Land Management lands.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, pinyon and juniper species management, water quality concerns, size less than 5000 acres, and lack of adjacent designated wilderness. Comments received also recommended this unit be considered for additional analysis for the purposes of watershed protection.

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 817-Mill Creek Canyon, North Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area can be characterized by unique rock fins and towers. The area is popular for dispersed camping, hiking, and bouldering. The unit was included in the 2016 Utah Public Lands Initiative and is adjacent to a Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area. The unit is adjacent to some private property and is bordered to the east by a utility corridor.

Table 26. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mill Creek Canyon, North Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will be carried forward into the analysis step because of both the overall moderate value and adjacency on the western boundary to the Bureau of Land Management Mill Creek Wilderness Study Area.

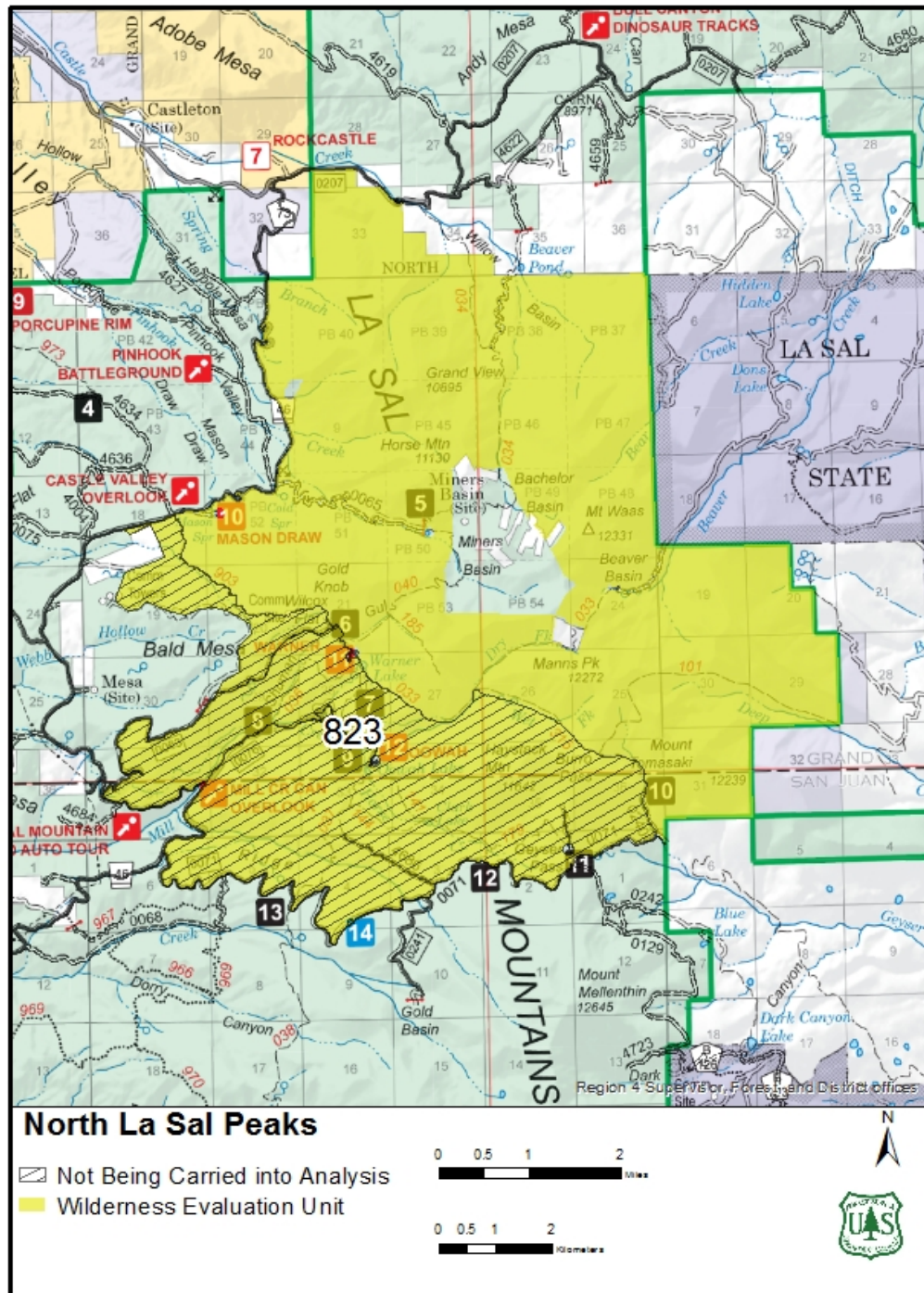
823-North La Sal Peaks

Name: North La Sal Peaks

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 823

Acres: evaluation 23,550, analysis 15,843



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural and diverse. Noxious weeds are not evident, though Kentucky bluegrass is found throughout the unit. The upper elevations of the unit support an alpine ecosystem. Habitats in this unit include spruce and fir forest, Gambel oak, sub-alpine meadows, mixed conifer and aspen forest. Animals in the unit include two species of conservation concern species, American pika and black rosy-finch, as well as dwarf shrew and prairie falcon. Introduced mountain goats use the high country of this unit. The unit contains several plant species of conservation concern including *Erigeron mancus*, *Oreoxis bakeri*, *Senecio fremontii* var. *inexpectatus* and *Podistera eastwoodiae*. The unit contains big game summer range.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are some recent vegetation treatments along the northern portion of the boundary, but they were designed to mimic natural disturbances and appear natural.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas primarily in the lower elevation western portions of the unit. Range improvements include nineteen stock tanks, three earthen reservoirs, one trough and some barbed wire fencing. There about 30 miles of non-motorized trails, including three heavily used mountain bike trails: Whole Enchilada, Moonlight Meadows and Clark Lake trails. Some unauthorized motorized routes also exist in the unit. There is one recreational yurt under special use permit that operates year-round. Areas that were heavily influenced by human activities were removed from the unit including the mining developments around Miners Basin and the Bald Mesa communication site.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible as well. This unit is adjacent to developed private property (Willow Basin) on the north, with numerous residential structures and access roads. This unit is also adjacent to the heavily used and paved La Sal Loop Road and Gateway Roads and the popular Geyser Pass Road on the south. There are several cherry stems that are located deep within the unit, including Miners Basin, Beaver Creek, and Willow Basin roads, which make obtaining solitude difficult around the cherry stem roads. There are also heavily used mountain bike trails in the area that see hundreds of riders a day during the summer and fall seasons. This unit is adjacent to the popular developed campgrounds at Warner Lake and Oowah Lakes. Located at the center of the unit are mining claims and undeveloped private property.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include peak bagging, including Mount Waas the county highpoint, hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing on small lakes, and winter recreation that include backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and mountaineering. Clark Lake, the only back country lake in the La Sals is in the unit provides fishing opportunities. The steep, and rugged country in the higher elevations provide opportunities for challenge and risk.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: High**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, species of conservation concern include American pika, and black rosy-finch. Other wildlife in the unit includes northern goshawks, dwarf shrews and spotted bats. Plant species of conservation concern include the *Erigeron mancus*, *Androsace chamejasme ssp. lehmanniana*, *Senecio serra var. admirabilis*, and *Podistera eastwoodiae*.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, the unit contains glaciated features such as moraines and cirques.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

Yes, The Miners Basin townsite is of local and regional significance. Other, primarily prehistoric National Register eligible sites are also present in low density.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4b. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. There are several long cherry stems that dissect the unit, mining claims, adjacent private property and adjacent developments such as communication sites. There are about 34 acres of private inholdings within the unit, which could make management more difficult in those areas. This area contains popular and heavily used mountain bike trails in the southern portion of the unit. 20,687 acres or about 88 percent of the unit is within the Horse Mountain, Manns Peak Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 823-North La Sal Peaks is characterized by the northern peaks of the La Sal Mountain range which includes alpine tundra and glaciated features. The unit surrounds the historic Miners Basin townsite which is accessed by a cherry stem road and is popular for off highway vehicle use. Most of the hiking and mountain bike use on the La Sals occurs within the unit, including the popular Whole Enchilada and Moonlight Meadows bike trails.

Table 27. *Weighting method key to determine overall unit value North La Sal Peaks unit.*

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Comments described the high peaks and slopes of the unit as having higher opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and appearance of naturalness than Boren Mesa which contains several range improvements. Comments described the southern portion of the units as having low manageability due to the road bordering the unit and various cherry-stem roads.

Reviewers named Grand View, Horse Mountain, Mount Waas, Manns Peak, Mount Tomasaki and Haystack Mountain as unique features, and identified perennial creek headwaters on the unit. Some suggested that Bald Mesa, lower Shuman Gulch, Mill Creek, Boren Mesa, lower Horse Creek Area and

designated mountain bike trails be removed from further consideration due to the presence of human impacts.

opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were described to include climbing peaks, hiking, backpacking, and scenic photography.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, Engelmann spruce species management, and water quality concerns. Other comments suggested the portion of the unit contained within the Horse Mountain and Manns Peak Inventoried Roadless Area.

Unit to be Analyzed

The portions of the unit in the high peaks, north of Burro Pass Trail will be carried into analysis. The portion of the unit around Boren Mesa and between the Oowah and Geyser Pass Roads contains lower value wilderness characteristics and public comment consensus was to remove these portions of the unit. The area containing the Burro Pass portion of the Whole Enchilada trail would also not be carried forward into analysis.

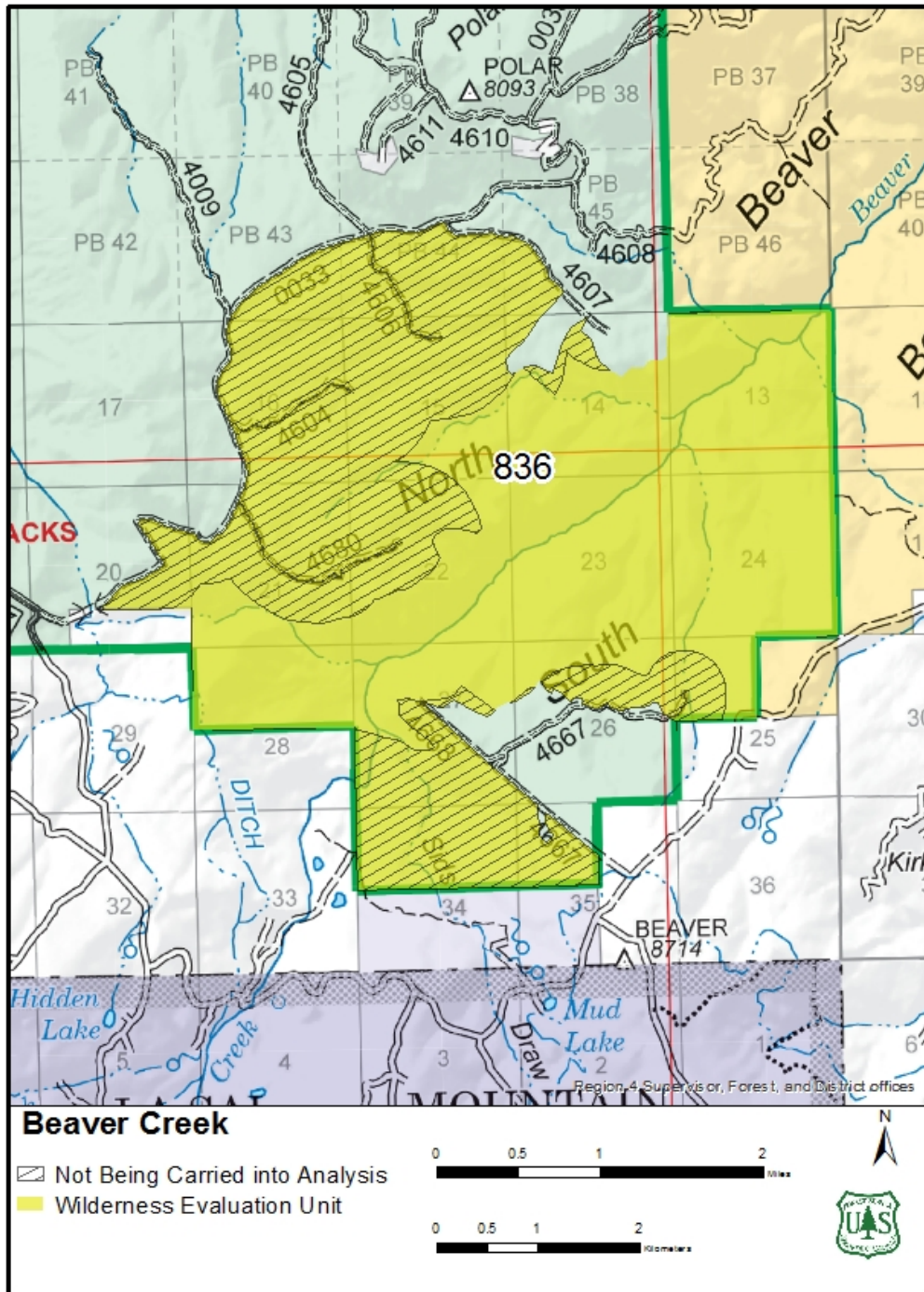
836-Beaver Creek

Name: Beaver Creek

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 836

Acres: evaluation 7,025, analysis 3,852



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Plant and animal communities appear natural. Non-native species are not readily evident on the landscape. Noxious weeds include cheat grass, and crested wheatgrass. Vegetation communities in the unit include mostly pinyon and juniper woodland, with scattered ponderosa pine and aspen. Cottonwood and alder are also present in the riparian areas along Beaver Creek. Animals in the area include deer and elk, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and saw-whet owl. The unit contains big game winter range.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated spots. Some chaining has occurred in the past along the northern edge, but it has naturally reclaimed. Areas of obvious treatment were removed from the unit.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. There are thirteen reservoirs in the unit, all are located on the top of the mesas in pinyon and juniper woodlands and are not visible or noticeable to most visitors. There is very little change to the overall landscape from the reservoirs and stock ponds or other range developments. Three cherry stem roads access the center of the unit.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, primarily in the canyon portion of the unit. The area is small, but it is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management Beaver Creek Natural Area, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan.

Rating: High**2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation which include day hiking, backpacking, and hunting when combined with Bureau of Land Management lands. This unit is undeveloped with no trails. There are no facilities or user controls.

Rating: Moderate**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation****Rating: High****Unique and Outstanding Qualities**

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

No.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

No.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

No.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. The unit is small, but it is adjacent to the much larger Bureau of Land Management

Beaver Creek Natural Area, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan. 6,771 acres of the unit, or about 96 percent of it, was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah's Congressional delegation in 2016.

Manageability: High

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 836-Beaver Creek is primarily composed of mesas and the canyon of Beaver Creek. The unit is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management Beaver Creek Natural Area, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan. The mesa tops have obvious evidence of previous chaining which were removed from the unit. The area is popular for firewood gathering and hunting on the mesas, dispersed camping on the west side of the unit, and contains cherry stem roads accessing stock ponds.

Table 28. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Beaver Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	High	High	High

Public Comment

Comments identified sections of On the Mountain Road as not previously addressed in the draft evaluation narrative.

Reviewers described the canyon system and upper contiguous lands as free of substantially noticeable human impacts, and that when taken in consideration with surrounding Bureau of Land Management lands, the opportunities for solitude were described as abundant. Comments received described the area as remote, with varied topography, remarkable scenery and outstanding opportunities for Solitude and Primitive Recreation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, Engelmann spruce species management, and water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

Only the Beaver Creek Gorge portion of the unit will be carried forward into analysis. Beaver Creek Gorge has higher wilderness characteristic values than the surrounding mesa tops where evidence of past vegetation treatments is present.

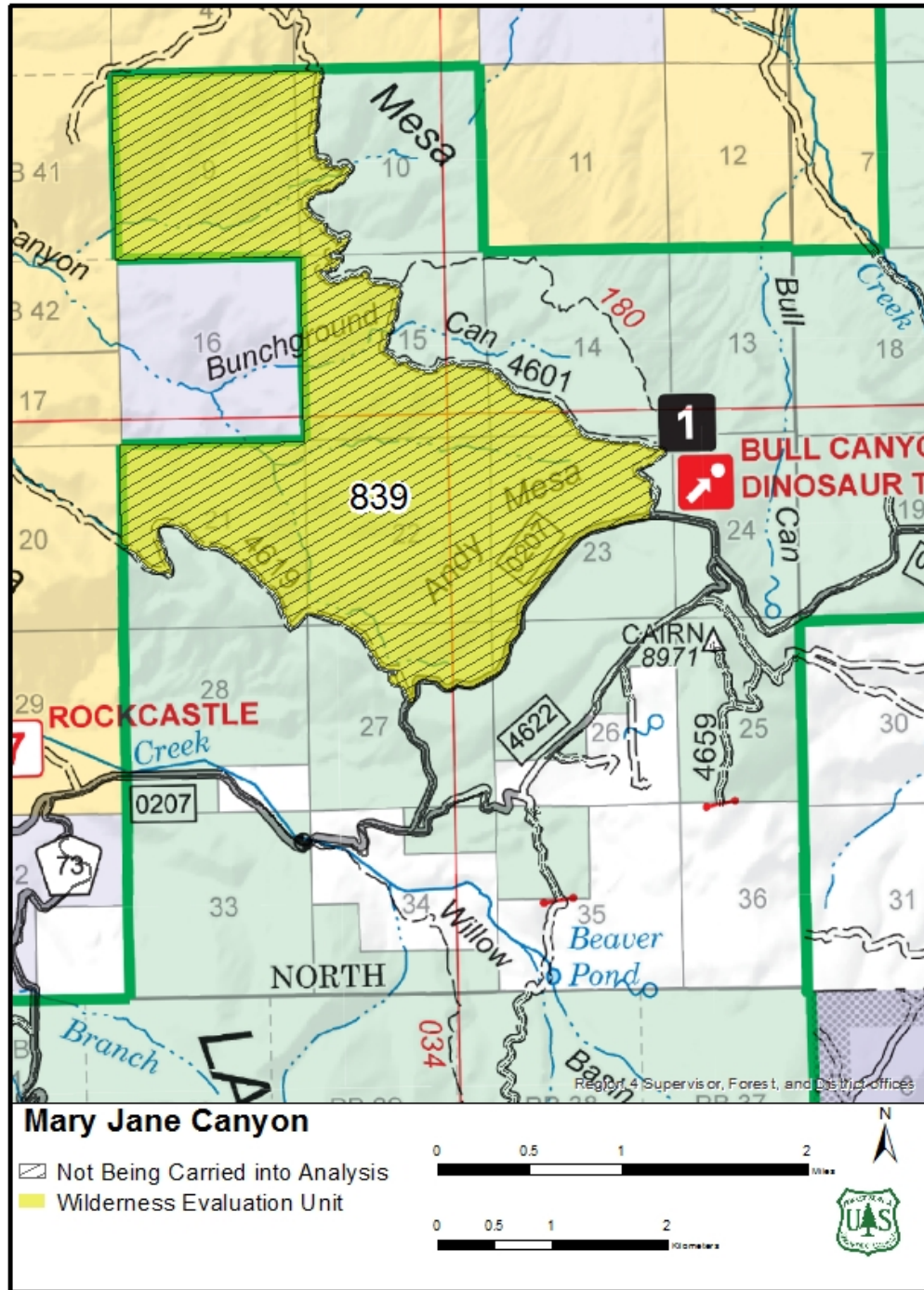
839-Mary Jane Canyon, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Name: Mary Jane Canyon, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Ranger District: Moab

Acres: 2,775

Number: 839



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. The vegetation in the unit is primarily pinyon and juniper with some ponderosa pine, aspen and Gambel oak stands. Animal species in the unit include deer, elk, bear, juniper titmouse, Clark's nutcracker, and mature piñon juniper bird species. This unit is also a winter range for big game. Noxious weeds include scattered cheat grass, but mostly appears natural.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There have been some mastication treatments that occurred within the last 5 years, but it appears mostly natural on the landscape. Some chaining has occurred in the north end in the 1960s but are not evident to the average visitor.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is little evidence of human activity. The presence of improvements does not detract from apparent naturalness. There are no trails in the unit. Seven earthen dams and associated reservoirs are present but are naturalized and screened. Old mining exploration roads are present in the southwestern corner.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. The southern boundary is defined by the paved Gateway road which receives relatively high levels of use and is popular for dispersed camping. When away from the motorized road, opportunities for solitude exist. Some range management activities occur about one month out of the year.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

Any existing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are poor, but include day hiking, canyoneering, and hunting. This unit is undeveloped with no trails. This unit does not have facilities or user controls.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, there are outstanding views from the rim of the mesa into Professor Valley and of Castleton Tower.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. This small size of the unit would make managing the area for wilderness character difficult but when viewed in context with the adjacent Bureau of Land Management Mary Jane Canyon Natural

Area it would be possible. The unit is adjacent, for about a sixth of a mile, to the Bureau of Land Management Mary Jane Canyon Natural Area, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan. Grazing management activities occur in the unit. The southern half of the unit is within the Wildland Urban Interface.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 839-Mary Jane Canyon, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area is adjacent to a Bureau of Land Management Natural Area, but is small, with a southern boundary road that includes dispersed camping use as well as is a popular area for picking pinyon nuts.

Table 29. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mary Jane Canyon, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments noted the lack of impacts from human activity within the unit, describing it as appropriate for wilderness management.

Reviewers felt the value for opportunities for solitude should be increased, describing it as outstanding and easy to attain in the unit, and described the areas of Andy Mesa, Mary Jane or Bunchgrass Canyons as wild, expansive and containing exceptionally stunning scenery.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, water quality concerns, smaller than 5,000 acres, lack of adjacent designated wilderness, and Wildland Urban Interface management concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to the overall low value.

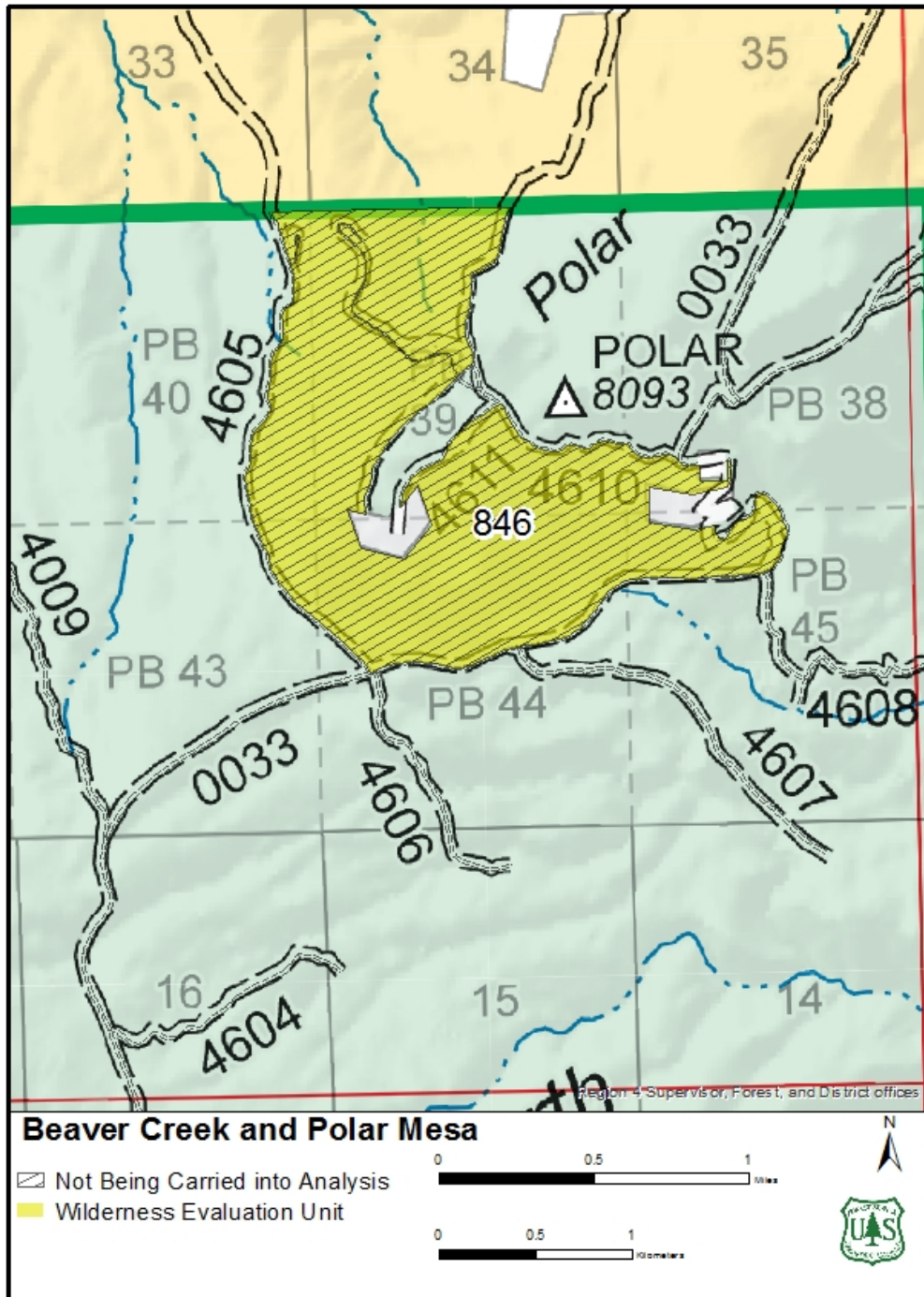
846-Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Name: Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Ranger District: Moab

Acres: 808

Number: 846



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The dominant vegetation is ponderosa pine and pinyon and juniper with sagebrush openings on the mesa top. This area is important elk winter range. Common forest animal species include warblers, black bear and mule deer. Several bat species occur in the unit, including fringed myotis and Allen's big-eared bat. Noxious weeds include crested wheat grass and cheat grass. One area has been planted with alfalfa.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in scattered spots. Plowing and seeding in the southern portion of the unit is apparent.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas. The area has a high level of human disturbance. The unit contains old exploration roads, old mining equipment, old milled timber structures, waste rock piles, roads, and dump sites. All of these are related to the patented mill site. There is a big earthen stock pond for range management in the unit, as well as contour plowing for watershed improvements.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There are no opportunities for feeling alone in this unit. Due to the small size of unit, you are close to roads anywhere you go in the unit. Range management activities occur only once every 4 years, but the small section below the rim is used annually. Firewood gathering is popular in May through November in the area. The popular Kokopelli mountain bike trail is adjacent to the unit.

Rating: No**2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Any existing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are poor. There are no trails. Any opportunities include day hiking and viewing historic mining. Some bear and lion hunting occur in the area with the use of off highway vehicles.

Rating: Low**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation****Rating: Low****Unique and Outstanding Qualities**

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, there are two species of conservation concern bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat and fringed myotis.

3b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

No.

3c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?

Yes, National Register eligible and regionally significant Polar Mesa cave is present within the unit. The cave is significant because it is an alcove site with 6,000 years of deposits. Other eligible prehistoric and historic sites are also in the unit.

3d. Are there any research natural areas?

No.

3e. Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?

No.

3f. Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations in the area is pervasive making it impossible to manage most of the area to preserve wilderness characteristics. Numerous cherry stem roads dissect the unit in three places. Private property and roads were removed from the interior of the unit creating a reduced core of the unit. Range activities include motorized use. No Inventoried Roadless Areas are located within the unit. Half a mile of the unit and forest boundary is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management Beaver Creek Natural Area, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan. Many of the roads are impassable. 563 acres of the unit, or about 70 percent of it, was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah’s Congressional delegation in 2016.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 846-Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area is characterized by the evidence of extensive mining. The unit contains historic uranium sites which require environmental remediation and is a popular off highway vehicle touring area to see old mining activity.

Table 30. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Beaver Creek and Polar Mesa, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers described this unit as rugged, and appropriate to evaluate in the larger context of the Beaver Creek Unit 836, and Bureau of Land Management Beaver Creek Natural Area and as land with wilderness characteristics.

Comments suggested the boundary be evaluated to remove previous mining activities and that the wilderness characteristic of solitude be re-evaluated and increased, describing the presence of primitive recreation opportunities to include hunting, hiking and photography.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to water quality concerns, low wilderness characteristics ratings, smaller than 5,000 acres, and lack of adjacent designated wilderness. Other commenters described the area as appropriate for management as wilderness.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to the low overall rating.

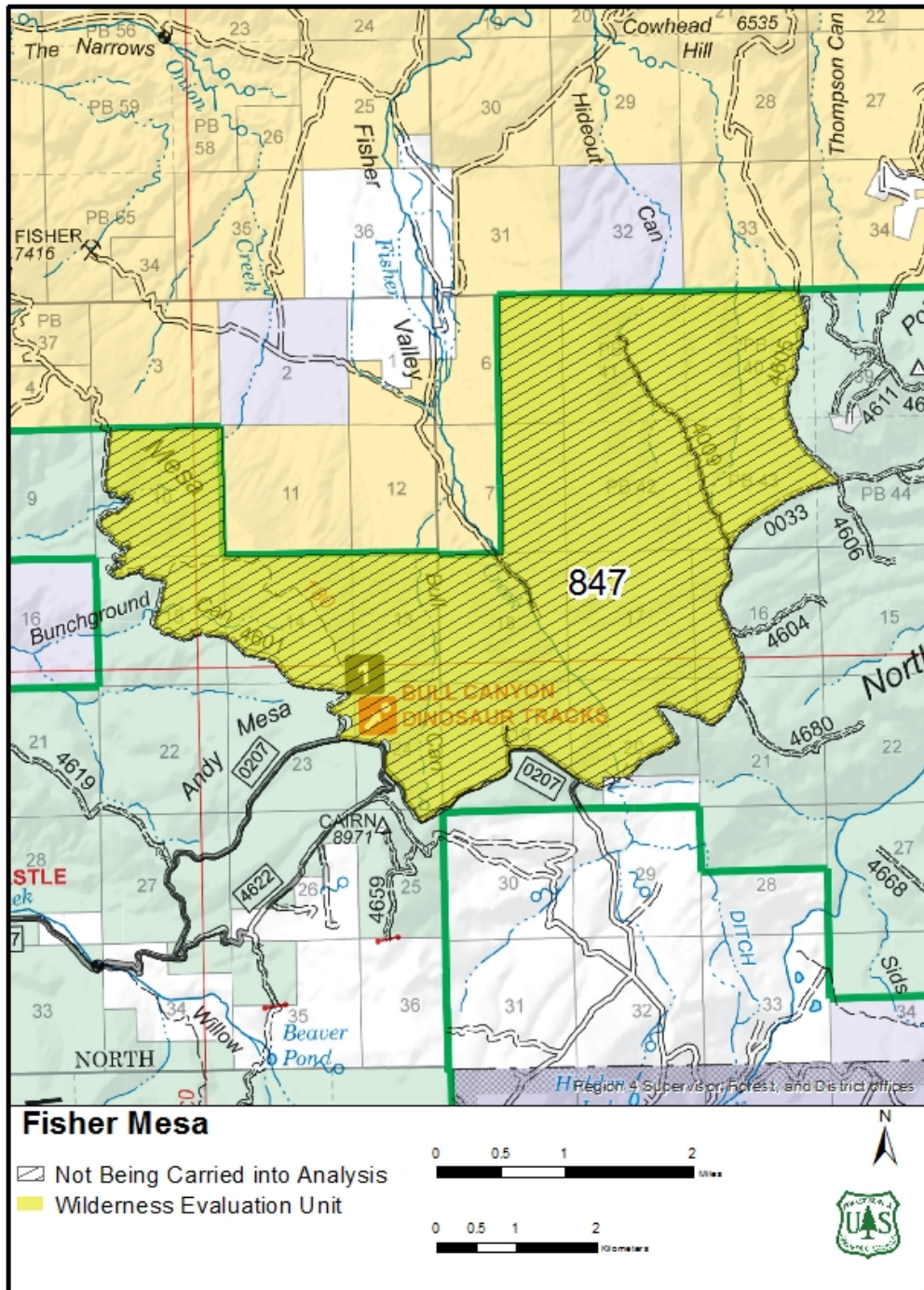
847-Fisher Mesa

Name: Fisher Mesa

Ranger District: Moab

Number: 847

Acres: 7,357



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal species appear natural. Vegetation in this unit is mostly pinyon and juniper woodland, with scattered ponderosa pine and aspen. Cottonwood and alder are in riparian areas. This unit is in elk and deer winter range. Animal communities in this unit include golden eagles, peregrine falcons, saw whet owl. Crested wheatgrass is present in this unit but appears natural.

Rating: High

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. Chaining has occurred in the past along the eastern edge but is naturalized.

Rating: High

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

There is little to no evidence of human activity. Prevalence of improvements is scattered throughout the unit. There are eight reservoirs and one stock tank, which are all located on top of mesa in pinyon and juniper woodlands. They are not visible or noticeable to most visitors. There is also one trough, and barbed wire fencing which total to approximately 2 miles. There are also three range and research exclosures in the area. There is a stock driveway in the unit which is a very steep route. There are a few user created routes, but they are not prevalent on the landscape. The non-motorized Fisher Mesa trail is in the unit. There is an exploratory drill hole in the western portion of the area, but it was reclaimed in 1983.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in this unit. You can hear or see the heavily used Gateway road from most of the unit. From the mesa tops you can see irrigated ranch land below on private property. There is a mountain bike trail in this unit but it is not heavily used. This unit contains an allotment that is used annually in the spring and fall. Most of the use in this unit is

on the mesa, so opportunity for solitude is possible in the canyons and away from roads. Dispersed camping occurs on the road in the east. Steep canyons in the unit can provide some solitude by shielding the user from the sights and sounds of the adjacent roads.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, hunting.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, Bull Canyon Overlook is in the unit. The overlook provides views from the edge of the mesa into deep canyon. The viewpoint also includes numerous, dinosaur tracks. High quality three toed dinosaur tracks are present.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

Yes, there is a regionally significant dinosaur trackway.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes, dinosaur tracks.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

There are several cherry stem roads in the unit. The Fisher Mesa non-motorized trail is open to mountain bike use. Range management activities occur within the unit. Approximately 30 percent of the unit is in a wildland urban interface.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 847-Fisher Mesa contains unique views of Fisher Valley and Bull Canyon and is characterized by high mesas dropping into deep valleys. The unit contains the popular Kokopelli mountain bike trail. Dispersed camping and hunting are popular in the eastern portion of the unit, which also contains a large cherry stem road.

Table 31. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Fisher Mesa unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments identified a road parallel to Fisher Creek not considered in the initial draft Wilderness Evaluation.

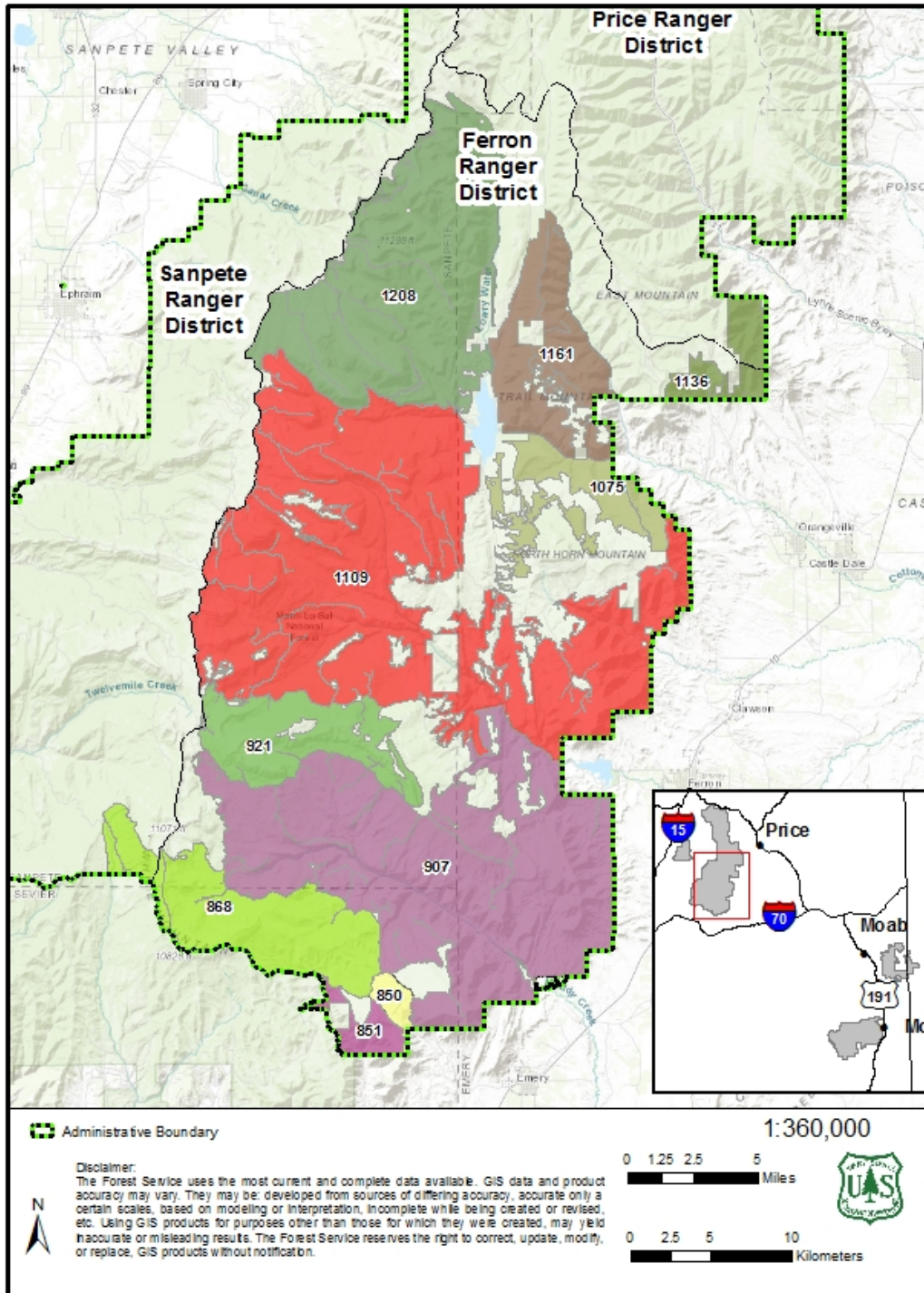
Reviewers described the area as unique and scenic, including Fisher Valley, Wingate Faces, Fisher Creek, and providing opportunities for primitive recreation. Reviewers described the impacts of Gateway Road as to not be significant and would warrant increasing the opportunity for solitude in the area. Comments suggested the boundary be modified to exclude the water improvements in Fisher Creek at the head of Fisher Valley, using the Fisher Mesa Bike trail as a new boundary.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to cherry stem roads, Engelmann spruce species management, water quality concerns, and wildland urban interface maintenance.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value rating.

Ferron District



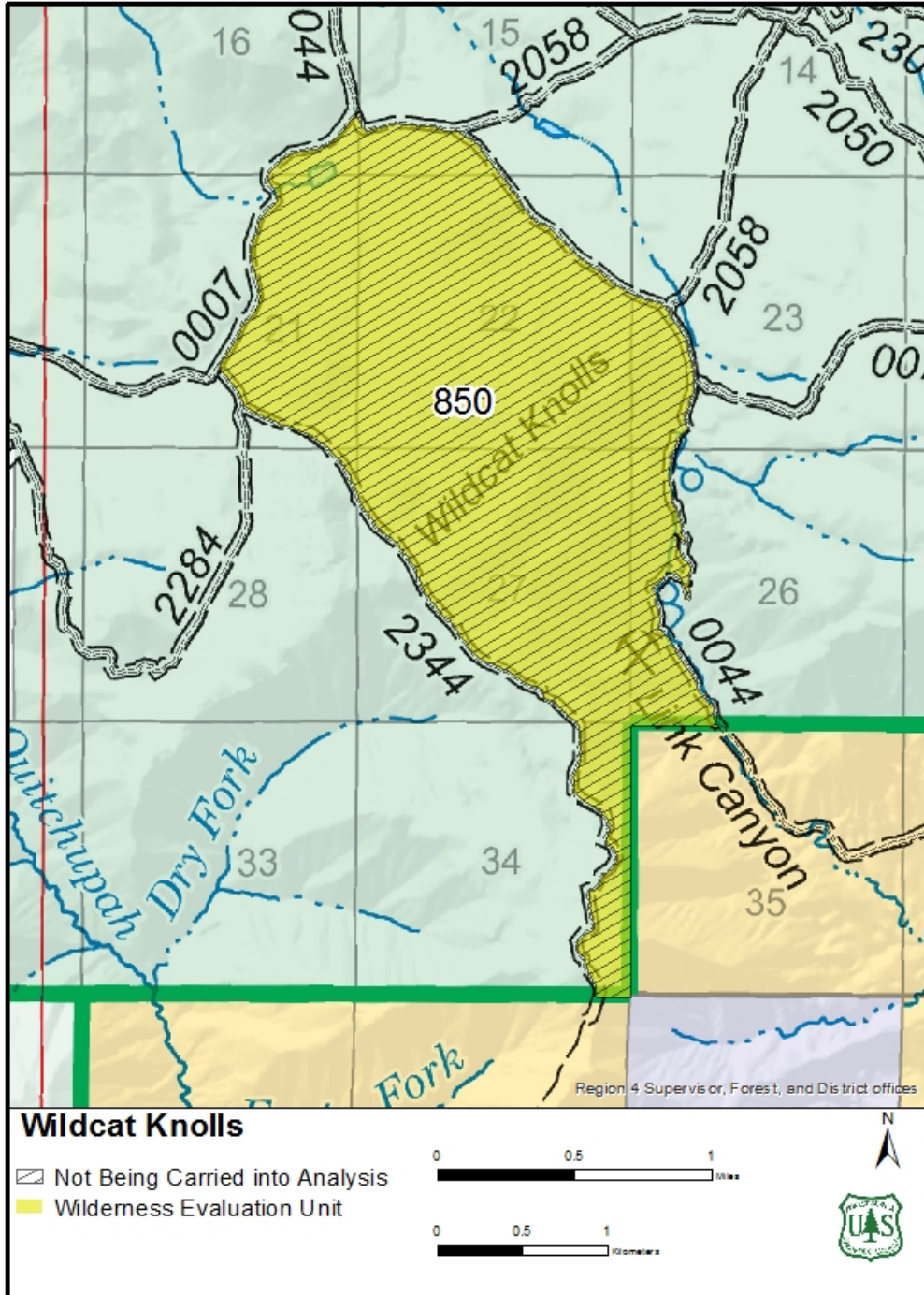
850-Wildcat Knolls Ext, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Name: Wildcat Knolls Ext, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Ranger District: Ferron

Acres: 1,611

Number: 850



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant communities appears natural in most areas. The unit is part of a large contiguous sagebrush habitat with ponderosa pine and aspen scattered throughout. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots or low numbers, especially in areas of past vegetation treatment. Specifically, the area has a lot of non-native smooth brome and crested wheatgrass. The composition of animal communities also appears natural in most areas. Generic wildlife species can be found in the area. Additionally, the area is one of five active sage grouse leks, or mating areas, on the Forest. Sage grouse is a species of conservation concern. The unit is important big game winter range on the North end of the Forest and a many animal species winter there including deer and elk. The area also has golden eagle nesting habitat and contains flammulated owls.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Portions of the area have undergone sagebrush restoration, including disking and harrowing, a process to remove shrubs and break up and smooth out the surface of the soil. Following disking and harrowing, treated areas were seeded with forbs and grasses. Additional vegetation treatments include prescribed maintenance burning that occurred within the last four years but looks natural on the landscape. Evidence of past vegetation treatments include some stumps, even age young trees, and some cleared grassy areas.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas. The prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area and is often concentrated. Although spots where improvements are absent or unseen are not common, they exist. 1,608 acres or just about 100 percent of the unit is within a coal lease. Mining improvements consist of subsidence cracks as a result of past coal mining. While most are naturally filled in, some are still distinct. Two wildlife guzzlers are very noticeable on landscape. Range improvements include three earth bermed ponds spread throughout the identified area, between one to two miles of barbed wire fence line, and approximately five miles of surface livestock water pipelines and troughs. Additional improvements include several user created roads interspersed throughout the unit that may be associated with old mining exploration. In Link Canyon there is a mining portal vent, with electricity through it, and an associated transmission line that supports an active mine that is located right along the road and unit boundary.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation**

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Human activities or presence is common, and signs of civilization are common or likely. There is little opportunity of feeling alone due to the small size of the unit, the presence of roads surrounding the unit that can be seen and heard from most places within the unit, mining exhaust fans that echo throughout Quitcupah Canyon, and motorized activities associated with range management. The cattle allotment is used in June and July each year.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation and any existing opportunities are poor. Primitive recreation opportunities include big game and shed hunting. The area is not a popular location with big game hunters but is popular for shed hunting. There is some off-highway vehicle use in the area, though it is not extensive and there are no popular trails within the unit.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low**Unique and Outstanding Qualities**

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, sage grouse, flammulated owls and golden eagles are all found within the unit and are identified in the Utah Wildlife Action Plan as species of greatest conservation concern within the state.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No, there are a few lithic scatters, but that are regionally or nationally significant.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Specifically, activities associated with mining leases, including the SUFCO mine lease, as well as motorized maintenance of range resources in this small area, would make managing to preserve wilderness characteristics difficult. The area is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management Wildcat Knolls Ext Natural Area, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan. 1,525 acres or about 95 percent of the unit is within and much of the area is located within the Wildcat Knolls Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no identified Wildland Urban Interface lands.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 850-Wildcat Knoll Ext, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area sits above the town of Emery. It is a small unit with the appearance of natural vegetation in most areas, but improvements are prevalent and detract from the apparent naturalness. Sounds from the SUFCO Mine carry down the canyon and can be heard throughout the unit.

Table 32. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Wildcat Knoll Ext, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received noted that the unit contains the SUFCO Mine lease boundary, is associated with motorized access for location monitoring and helicopter supported drilling activities and contains an existing ventilation facility and substation that is crucial to the operation of the mine. Due to mine related infrastructure and activities the area was suggested to have low manageability for wilderness designation.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics and should be re-evaluated for apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to vegetation treatments for invasive species, pinyon and juniper, aspen, and sage grouse species management, and water quality concerns.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to the low overall value.

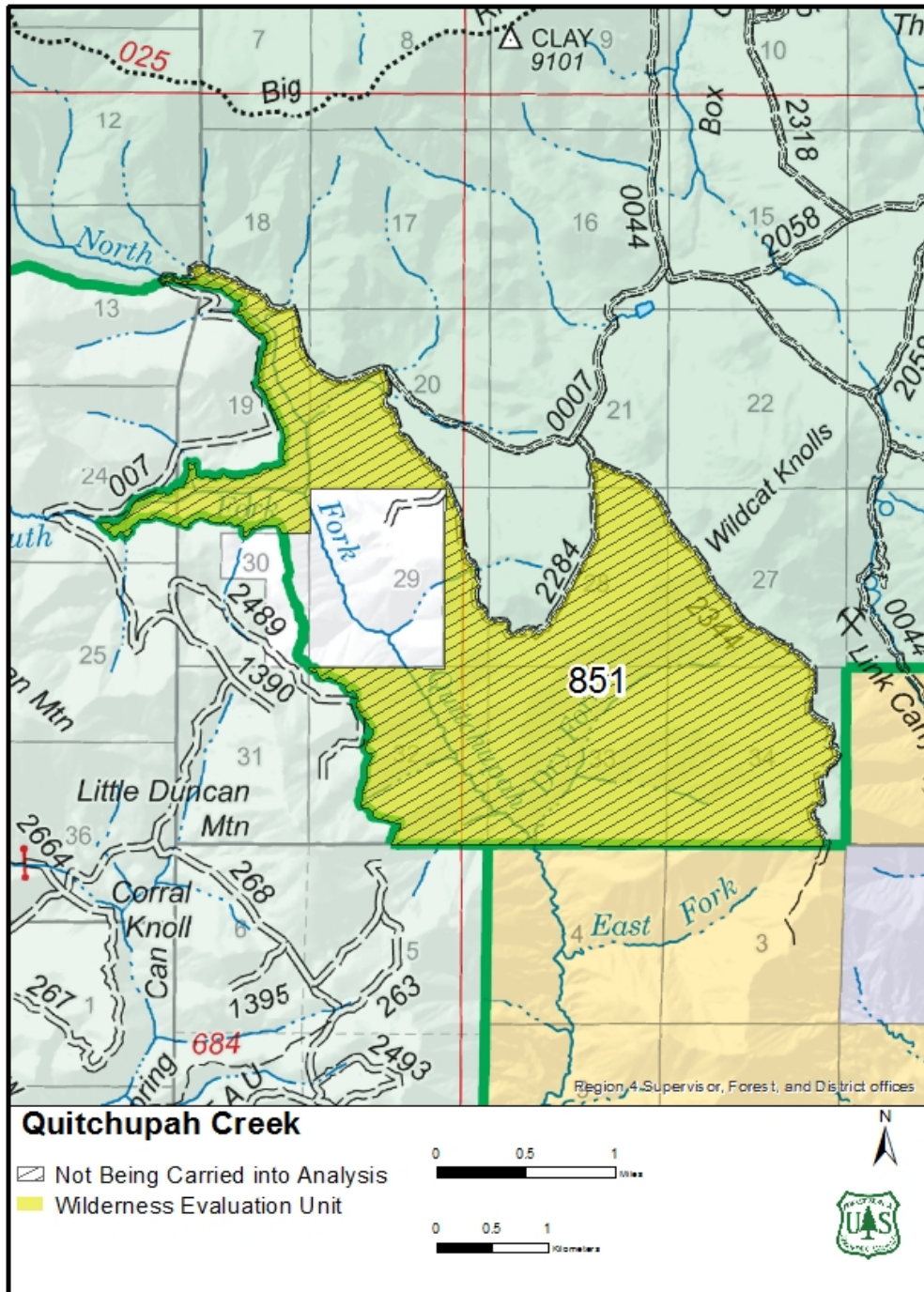
851-Quitcupah Creek, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Name: Quitcupah Creek, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area

Ranger District: Ferron

Acres: 2,836

Number: 851



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant communities appears natural in most areas. The area consists of sagebrush with scattered ponderosa pine, aspen, and pinyon and juniper. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots or low numbers. Specifically, the area has a lot of non-native smooth brome and crested wheatgrass. The composition of animal communities also appears natural in most areas. Generic wildlife species can be found in the area. Additionally, the area is one of five active sage grouse leks, on the Forest. Sage grouse is a species of conservation concern and is listed on the State Wildlife Action Plan as a Species of Greatest Conservation Concern. The unit is important big game winter range on the north end of the Forest and a well-used winter habitat for several animals, including deer and elk. The area also has golden eagle nesting habitat and contains flammulated owls, which are both on the State Wildlife Action Plan list.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Portions of the area have undergone sagebrush restoration, including disking and harrowing, a process to remove shrubs and break up and smooth out the surface of the soil. Following disking and harrowing, treated areas were seeded with forbs and grasses. Additional vegetation treatments include prescribed maintenance burning that occurred within the last four years but looks natural on the landscape.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas. While improvements are often concentrated within the unit, they are common throughout. Although spots where improvements are absent or unseen are not common, they exist. 2,833 acres or almost 100 percent of the total unit is within a coal lease. Evidence of improvements include subsidence cracks as a result of past coal mining, while most are naturally filled in, some are still distinct, and range improvements, including several miles of surface livestock water pipelines and troughs.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation**

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Human activities or presence is common, and signs of civilization are common or likely. There is little opportunity of feeling alone due to the small size of the unit, the presence of roads surrounding the unit that can be seen and heard from most places within the unit, mining exhaust fans that echo throughout Quitcupah Canyon, and motorized activities associated with range management. The cattle allotment is used in June and July each year.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation and any existing opportunities are poor. Primitive recreation opportunities include big game and shed hunting. The area is not a popular location with big game hunters but is popular for shed hunting. There is some motorized use in the area, though it is not extensive and there are no popular trails within the unit.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low**Unique and Outstanding Qualities**

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, sage grouse, flammulated owls and golden eagles are all found within the unit and are identified in the Utah Wildlife Action Plan as species of greatest conservation concern within the state.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4b. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Specifically, activities associated with mining leases, including the SUFCO mine lease, as well as motorized maintenance of range resources in this small area, would make managing to preserve wilderness characteristics difficult. Located on adjacent private land to the west is a mining portal vent, with electricity through it, and an associated transmission line that supports an active mine. The area is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management Wildcat Knolls Ext, an area found to possess wilderness characteristics and managed for these characteristics under their current management plan. 2,707 acres or about 95 percent of the unit lies within the Wildcat Knolls Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no identified Wildland Urban Interface lands.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 851-Quitcupah Creek, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area is a small unit that is characterized by deep canyons with rugged, steep slopes. Coal leases cover most of the area and sounds from the SUFCO Mine can be heard throughout the unit.

Table 33. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Quitcupah Creek, Bureau of Land Management Natural Area unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received noted the unit is within the SUFCO Mine lease boundary, and that activities associated with the mine include exploration work such as drilling and seismic surveys, along with monitoring sites. Comments also highlight poor water quality and need for treatment.

Comments noted the area is heavily used for camping along the road during hunting season and that due to vegetation treatments, much of the landscape appears altered. It was suggested that the area

should be rated low for wilderness characteristics. Comments noted a road running parallel on the west side of the unit as having additional impacts to wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness, solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to pinyon and juniper, aspen, and sage grouse species management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to the overall low value rating.

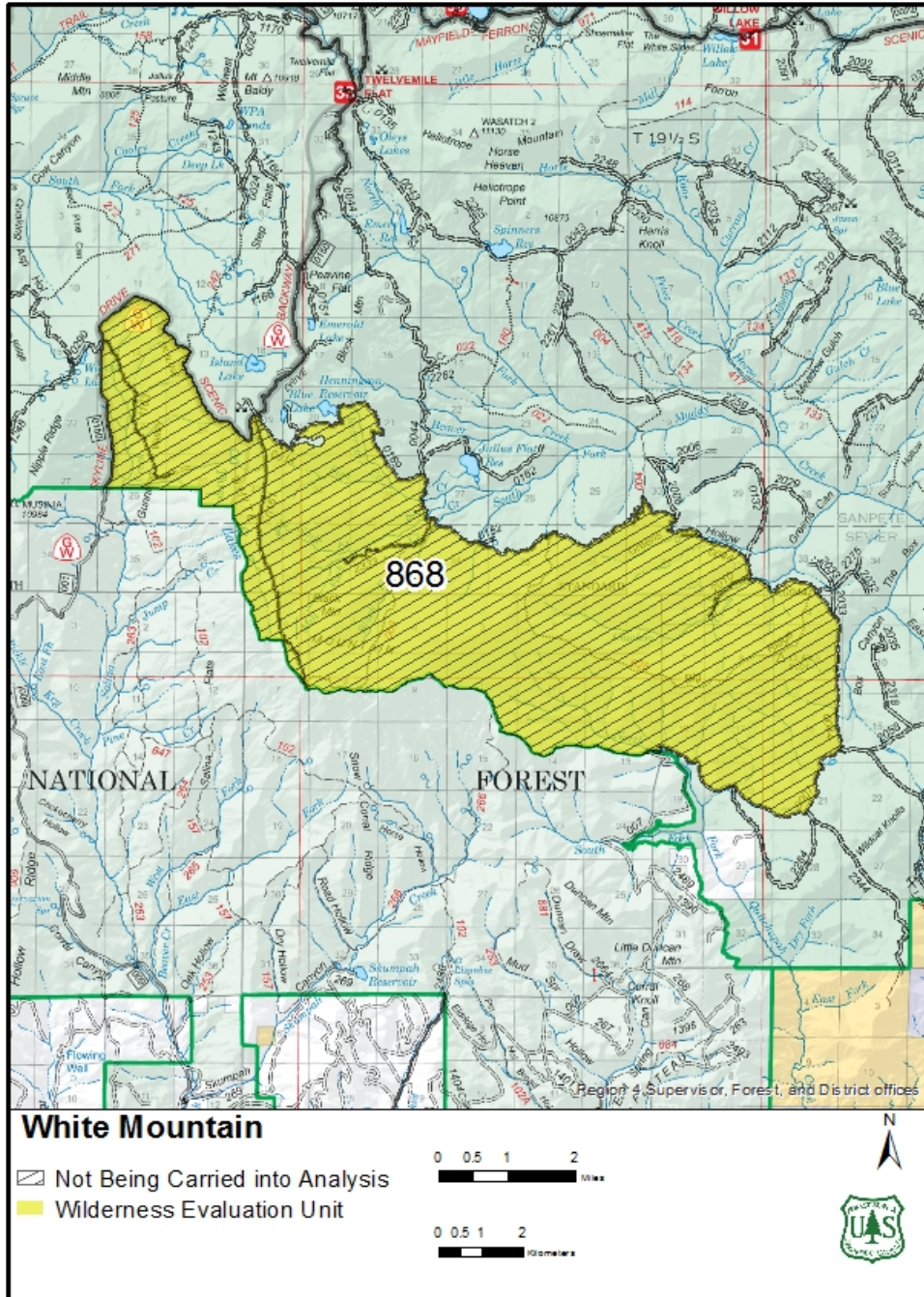
868-White Mountain

Name: White Mountain

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 868

Acres: 19,771



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant communities appears natural in most areas. Bench lands consist mainly of aspen, sagebrush, grass, and Douglas fir. Glaciated basins and wetlands are common before reaching the plateau top. Vegetation in the glacial basin area is dominated by mountain brush, grass and forb communities, aspen, and spruce and fir on north slopes. Finally, the plateau top at the skyline is dominated by spruce and fir, and grass and forb communities. Heliotrope milkvetch, endemic to the state of Utah, and a federally listed threatened species, is found within the unit on White Mountain. Non-native species are evident in low numbers scattered throughout and concentrated in some isolated spots. Musk and Canada thistle and hound's tongue are the primary non-native species evident in the area. The composition of animal communities appears natural in most areas. In addition to common wildlife species, the species of conservation concern American pika is present on White Mountain at the higher elevations. There is also a small section of the unit that is a sage grouse lek. Big game is present throughout the year, though no seasonal importance has been identified. There are also goshawk nesting territories within the area.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Vegetation treatments include prescribed burning, the South Manti, Duck timber sale, and the Southeast Wildcat prescribed burn. Evidence of treatments include stumps and some piles. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 1,750 acres or 9 percent of this unit. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include seventeen stock ponds, four water troughs, one stock tank, and several miles of fencing throughout the entire area. Recreation improvements include about nine miles of off highway vehicle trails, approximately four miles of high-clearance vehicle trails, and several user-created off highway vehicle trails that are evident on the landscape in the northwest corner and southern section. 5,886 acres or about 30 percent of the total unit lies within a coal lease.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are currently possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. Human activities are uncommon. Little evidence of modern human use but encounters with other individuals are more common in summer and fall. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return to a state like that before the treatments, even though the evidence of harvest activities would persist for many years. Range management activities associated with a sheep allotment in the northwest corner and a cattle allotment that covers the remainder of the area occur and impacts opportunities for solitude during periods of active range operations. Use of the Big Ridge Trail, a motorized trail, occurs during the summer and fall. In the winter, some snowmobiling occurs, but is not extensive. In August, the northwest corner of the unit is a destination for wildflower and forb seed harvesting.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation. At least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Specifically, hunting deer and elk, dispersed camping, and seed harvesting are all popular primitive activities in the area.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Heliotrope milkvetch, a federally threatened species, American pika, a species of conservation concern, and northern goshawks are all found in the area.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, the eastern half especially around White Mountain provides impressive views as the terrain drops off precipitously towards the south.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No, however water sources in the northwestern portion are part of Muddy Drainage which supports the municipal water source for the town of Emery.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, makes it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The 1,750 acres or 9 percent of the unit to be harvested in the Canyons Project will be concentrated in the western portion of the unit but the remaining portion of the unit is bisected by motorized trail number 025, 7-Mile Big Ridge trail, which is part of the Arapeen off-highway vehicle trail system. This bisecting trail will make it difficult to manage this area to preserve wilderness characteristics. In addition, there are several cherry stem roads and motorized trails distributed throughout the area. The unit is adjacent to the Fishlake National Forest Inventoried Roadless Area in a section of the forest that is remote. 7,580 acres or about 38 percent of the unit is within the White Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no areas identified as Wildland Urban Interface lands. Demand for seed harvest results in high activity in late summer in the northwest corner of the unit.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 868-White Mountain is a dry unit where the impacts of multiple uses are apparent. Several cherry stem roads are present and a portion of the Arapeen off-highway vehicle trail system divides the unit in the east. The unit is a popular recreation site, particularly in the fall.

Table 34. *Weighting method key to determine overall unit value White Mountain unit.*

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received noted the proposed area is within the SUFCO Mine lease boundary, and that activities associated with the mine in this area include exploration work such as drilling and seismic surveys, along with monitoring sites.

Comments noted the area is heavily used for camping along the road during hunting season. Comments described the visible presence of vegetation treatments making the landscape appears altered, and suggested the unit be given a low rating for wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness sand solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to vegetation management for invasive species, aspen, and sage grouse species management, and water quality considerations.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

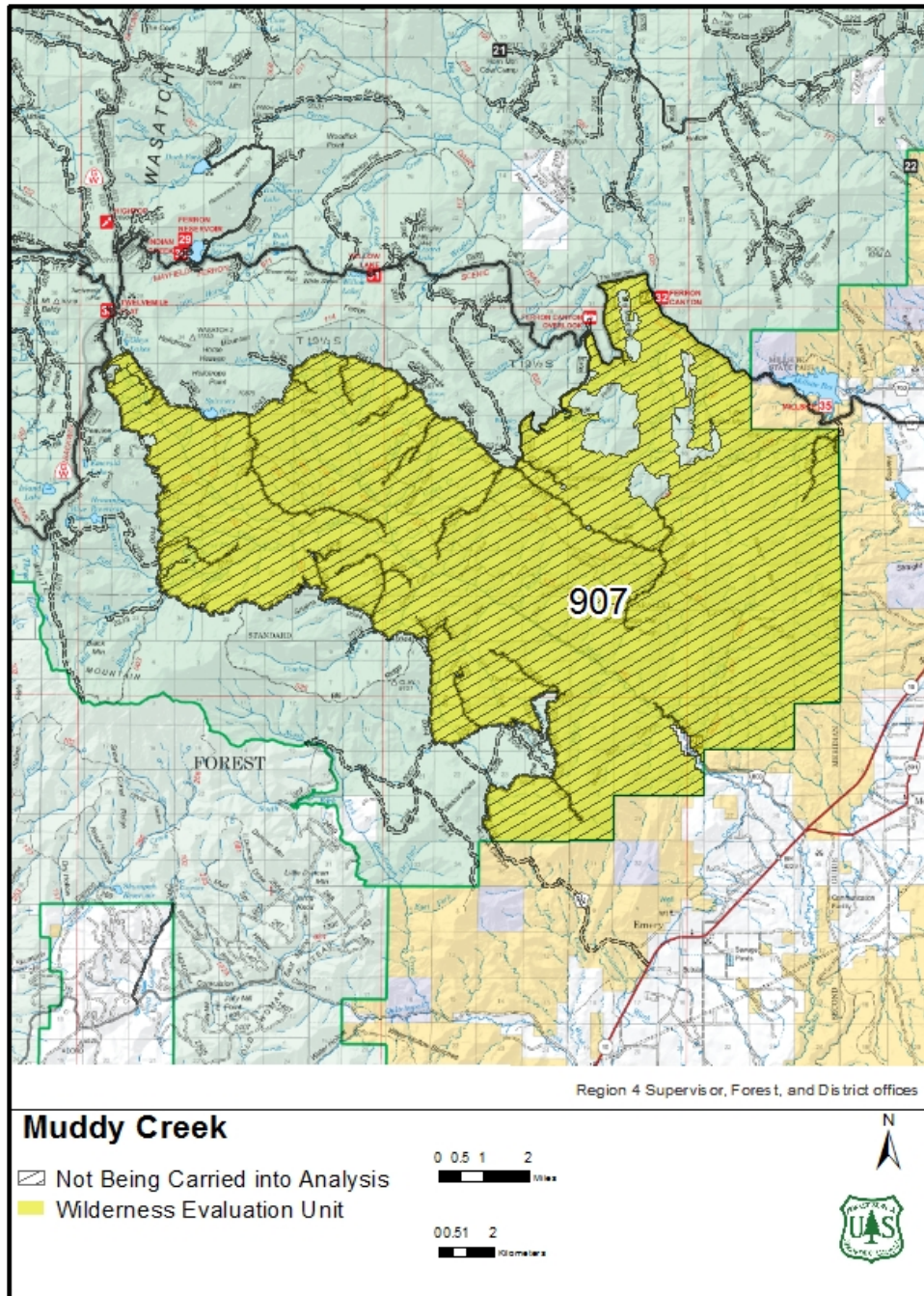
907-Muddy Creek

Name: Muddy Creek

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 907

Acres: 66,194



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Bench lands consist of aspen, sagebrush, grass, and Douglas fir. Glaciated basins and wetlands are common before reaching the plateau top. Vegetation in the glacial basin area is dominated by mountain brush, grass and forb communities, aspen, and spruce and fir on north slopes. Finally, the plateau top at the skyline is dominated by spruce and fir and grass and forb communities. Several species of conservation concern, and important wildlife habitat occur in the area. Plant species of conservation concern in the area include *Salix arizonica*, and *Cryptantha creutzfeldtii*. The eastern half of the unit is big game summer and winter range, the northeastern portion of the area is important golden eagle nesting habitat with 37 nesting sites. Three species of conservation concern animal species, sage grouse, American pika and Colorado River cutthroat trout occur in the unit. Four goshawk territories, a State Conservation Agreement Species, are also present. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots with crested wheat grass and smooth brome planted in the southeast portion of the unit and covering approximately five percent of the unit.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated spots. Commercial thin and salvage logging occurred south of 12-Mile Flat campground resulting in stumps, a more open landscape, and approximately five percent in the northwest corner was planted with spruce. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 148 acres or less than one percent of the unit.

There was some sagebrush disking and reseeding in the southeastern section of the unit in 2008 that is obvious on the landscape. The Pines prescribed burn occurred in the southeast corner affected about ten percent of the unit but looks natural. Spruce beetle have killed over 90 percent of the spruce in stands and the resulting removal of the dead trees shows noticeable contrast in line and form to adjacent unaffected stands. It will be several decades before forest stands return to a pre-disturbance state in terms of mature stand structure and line and form appearance. Additionally, the 2017 Dry Wash restoration treatment mechanically treated pinyon and juniper, resulting in piles throughout 1000 acres on the far eastern boundary.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area. Range and wildlife improvements include 15 stock ponds constructed from native soil and materials and dug out from the surrounding area, 34 water troughs with head boxes, 3 exclosures, 1 wildlife guzzler that consists of two above-ground 1000 gallon tanks with two large aprons, fence and steel

pipe, and 15 to 20 miles of barbed wire fence. Recreation improvements include, 20 miles of off highway vehicle trail, including Dry Wash, Hole Trail, Muddy Trail, and Crossing and Spinners Trail, 15 miles of single track motorized trail, including the Middle Trail and Rim Trail, non-motorized trail, and approximately 18 miles of user-created off highway vehicle trail. Watershed Improvements include four five-acre reservoirs used to support municipal water supply. Some closed or decommissioned roads are still evident on the landscape in isolated spots. 8,439 acres or about 13 percent of the unit is within coal leases. There is also an abandoned coal mine at the head of Muddy Creek.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

In December 2018, passage of the Emery County Public Lands Act of 2018 designated 7,400 acres of this unit as the Nelson Mountain Wilderness. This area covers much of the far eastern portion of this unit. This portion of the unit has opportunities for solitude but will be removed from the unit due to designation. Outside of the Nelson Mountain Wilderness and above the drainage bottom of the Muddy Creek drainage, human activities are common and little opportunity of feeling alone is possible. Recreation use on OHV trail 042 in Lower Muddy Creek and single-track motorized trails 133 and 901 north of Muddy Creek bisect the unit from east to west. Use occurs May thru October each year. Ferron Canyon and South Side Roads form the northern boundary and receive a high level of use in the northeastern corner, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. The Link Canyon Road makes up the south and west boundary and does not see a high volume of use. The portion of this route that forms the western boundary does see a higher volume of dispersed camping, especially during hunting season. There is also frequent motorized use of user-created trails, August through October, for hunting. Low use occurs on single track motorized trails and cherry stem roads, mostly concentrated during the hunting season. Some motorized shed hunting, motorized hunting, and firewood gathering occur throughout the area. Signs of civilization are fairly dispersed throughout the area.

Rating: Low

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Primitive recreation opportunities throughout the unit include fishing, horseback riding, hiking, dispersed camping, shed hunting, big game hunting, and climbing. There are few facilities or controls in the area. Within Nelson Mountain Wilderness and in the bottom of Muddy Creek, challenging terrain provides opportunities for engaging in high quality primitive and unconfined recreation.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, plant species of conservation concern's in the area include *Salix arizonica*, and *Cryptantha creutzfeldtii*. The eastern half of the unit is big game summer and winter range, the northeastern portion of the area is important golden eagle nesting habitat with 37 nesting sites. Three species of conservation concern animal species, sage grouse, American pika and Colorado River cutthroat trout occur in the unit. Four goshawk territories, a State Conservation Agreement Species, are also present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

Yes, Nelson Mountain Research Natural Area.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses, and management considerations outside of the now designated Nelson Mountain Wilderness occurs across most of the unit, making it difficult to manage to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The unit is surrounded by roads, with Bureau of Land Management and state of Utah managed land adjacent in the east. The shape and configuration of the remaining portion of this unit would make management difficult due to cherry stem roads that occur around most of the perimeter, private inholding lands in the north, and multiple motorized trails bisecting the remaining unit. The area is popular for motorized

recreation, including ongoing motorized use of system and user-created trails. Additional management considerations include, several existing mining leases, approximately 40 percent of area identified as Wildland Urban Interface for protection of the watershed, and motorized and mechanized uses for maintenance and access for range management. 56,522 acres or about 85 percent of the unit is within the Muddy Creek-Nelson Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. Before designation of Nelson Mountain Wilderness, 12,515 acres of the unit, or about 19 percent of it, was proposed for wilderness designation in the Utah Public Lands Initiative drafted by Utah's Congressional delegation in 2016; of those acres, 7,400 acres were designated in 2018.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 907-Muddy Creek is an important municipal water source for the town of Emery. The area is known for its cultural resources and contains motorized trails throughout. A portion of the unit has been designated as Nelson Mountain Wilderness since evaluation of the unit began.

Table 35. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Muddy Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments described the 1949 plowing and seeding of North and South Sage Flat, extensive seedings of crested wheatgrass in the Pines and Wildcat area on the Emery Allotment, and extensive logging of beetle killed timber at the head of the Muddy Creek suggesting the Naturalness of plant and animal communities be reduced to Low.

Comments identified numerous roads, single track trails, and stock ponds in the unit and suggested the manageability of the unit to be Low. Motorized recreation improvements were described to be prevalent except for bottom of Muddy Creek Canyon and Nelson Mountain. Comments identified additional single-track trail not on the map.

Comments identified the current SUFCO Mine leases and approved exploration plan within the unit.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to sage grouse habitat, and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to an overall low rating.

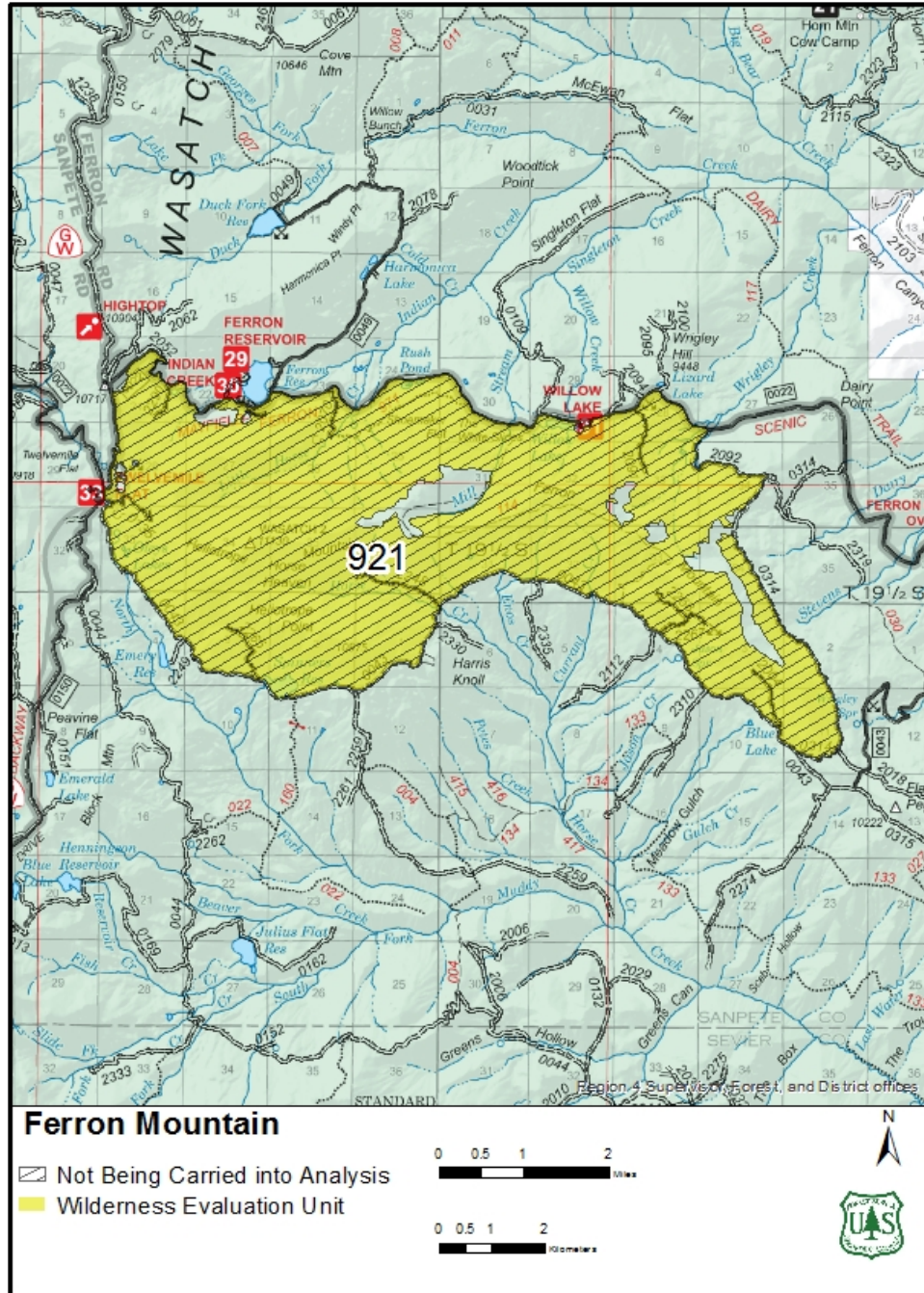
921-Ferron Mountain

Name: Ferron Mountain

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 921

Acres: 13,157



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

Non-native species are evident in isolated spots or low numbers scattered throughout the unit; however, the composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Bench lands consisting of aspen, sagebrush, grass, and Douglas fir, and glaciated basins and wetlands are common before reaching the plateau top. Vegetation in the glacial basin area is dominated by mountain brush, grass-forb communities, aspen, and spruce and fir on north slopes. The plateau top at the skyline is dominated by spruce and fir, and grass and forb communities. Ferron Mountain and Heliotrope Mountain are major references within this unit. species of conservation concern species *Packeria musiniensis* is present. Animal communities include game and non-game species common to higher elevation habitats as well as goshawk, two species of conservation concern species, American pika, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. The latter is not only a species of conservation concern but also a Conservation Agreement Species and core population of this trout. Skyline Drive is a high-quality raptor migration corridor. Non-native invasive plant species include musk thistle along roadsides, in about fifteen percent of the area which has been heavily disturbed or burned areas, and alpine timothy in water treatment areas, though it looks mostly natural.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Spruce beetle has killed over 90 percent of spruce stands in this unit. Even though this is a natural occurrence, removing the dead trees shows a noticeable contrast, in line and form, compared to adjacent unaffected stands. Timber removal consisting primarily of bug killed trees in the vicinity of the Ferron Summer Homes and along South Skyline Drive has left evidence of human intervention on the landscape. These include Six Timber sale, in 1995, both the Ferron Summer Homes timber sale and Ferron Fuels, in 2005, and the Skyline timber sale, in 2013, and the high intensity, stand-replacing Jungle prescribed burn. The total affected area for all timber sales is presently approximately five percent of area. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will further remove dead spruce along with green subalpine fir over approximately 648 acres or about 5 percent of the unit. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include: one stock pond with a small dam, several water troughs or tanks, and between five and ten miles of fences. Other improvements include: a weather station out in the

open with a metal tower and an approximately ten-foot-tall fence, a SNOTEL site, and a quarter acre gravel pit. Watershed improvements include three reservoirs, and the Twelve Mile Campground spring development consisting of a concrete box and piping. There is very minimal presence of old roads on the landscape. The Ferron Mountain non-motorized trail is seven miles long. 5,866 acres or about 30 percent of the unit is within coal leases. Mining improvements include an active gravel pit located approximately a quarter mile east of Skyline Drive. Gravel pit operations have altered the characteristic landscape but are not noticeable until nearly to the pit development site. Structures include thirteen wooden frame cabins administered under special use permits. Cabins are generally wood frame, colored in earthen tones, with metal or shingle roofs.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in this area. Human activities or presence is common. Hunting use in the fall and motorized use on adjacent roads, with high use for about six months a year, as well as snowmobile use in the winter, means a visitor can hear motorized sounds most of the year. In the northern portion of the unit and on the western edge of the unit, the likelihood of seeing people is high due to logging traffic, summer home activities, and dispersed camping activities. It will become more difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place in the southwestern portion of the unit. Following harvest operations, the evidence of logging activities may persist for many years. Terraced areas and improvements remind visitors of past human activities. The Ferron Canyon Road forms the northern boundary and it receives a high level of use from May to November, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. Ferron Mountain and Heliotrope Mountain are rugged and remote with little motorized use. Opportunity to experience solitude is possible in those areas.

Rating: Low

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation. At least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Opportunities include shed hunting, bear and lion hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, bird watching, and fishing.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, goshawk, species of conservation concern American pika, and core population of Colorado River cutthroat trout, which is both a species of conservation concern and Conservation Agreement Species are present. Skyline Drive is a raptor migration corridor. Heliotrope milkvetch, which is an endemic and Federally Threatened Species is also present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No, however water sources in the northwestern portion are part of Muddy Drainage which supports the municipal water source for the town of Emery.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. There are some cherry stem roads into the unit, as well as one motorized trail. noticeable improvements and roads in the unit, vegetation and watershed treatment areas, cherry stem roads, adjacent land use considerations, including summer homes and campgrounds, dispersed camping along the perimeter, ongoing motorized and mechanized access, established snowmobile activity, maintenance of range improvements, and presence of ten to fifteen percent of the area included in the Wildland Urban Interface around the summer home area.

4,618 acres or about 35 percent of the unit is in the Heliotrope Inventoried Roadless Area. The upcoming Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will occur over approximately 648 acres or 5 percent of the unit, 142 of which are within the Heliotrope Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 921-Ferron Mountain is characterized by high elevation meadows with talus limestone outcrops. There are few motorized routes, which makes the area popular for non-motorized recreation, though motorized sounds from adjacent roads can be heard. Evidence of past timber removal is apparent.

Table 36. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Ferron Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments suggested the manageability of the unit to be Low, identifying previous plowing, seeding, and terracing activity in the unit as well as a high density of roads. The presence of invasive plant species was identified as appropriate for rating apparent naturalness of plant and animal communities for the unit as low. Comments also described grazing permits and maintenance responsibilities for troughs, pipelines, and fences within the allotment.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to vegetation management for invasive species, and conflicts with Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to a low overall value.

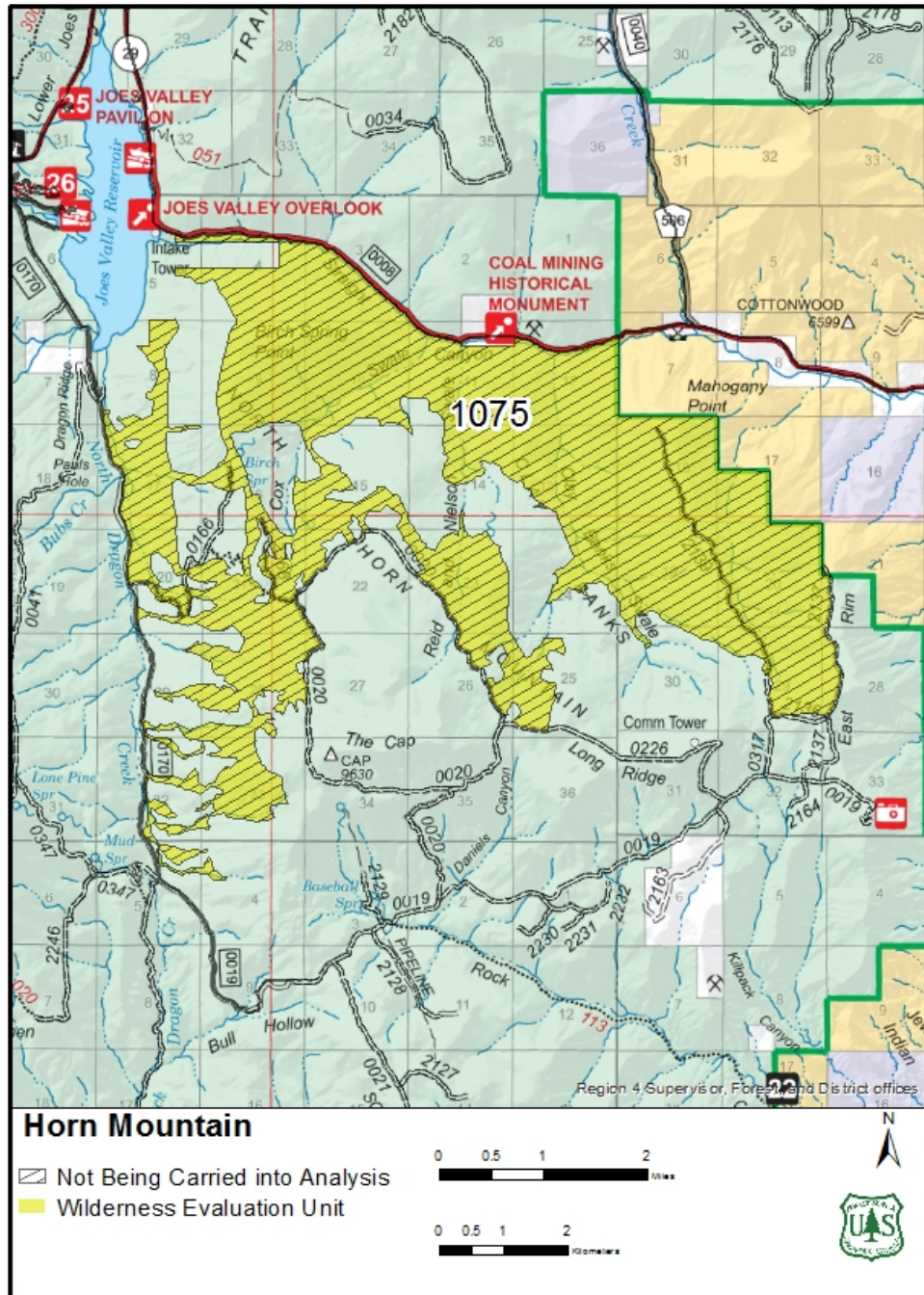
1075-Horn Mountain

Name: Horn Mountain

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 1075

Acres: 9,399



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in some areas, but non-native species are common throughout. Dominant vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush. *Hedysarum occidentale var. canone* and *Aquilegia flavescens var. rubicunda*, two species of conservation concern plants are present in the area. Common game and non-game wildlife are found in the area. There are approximately thirteen golden eagle nests along the escarpment in the north and east, sage grouse priority habitat, an occupied lek, and important big game winter range. There are also adult boreal toads, a species of conservation concern, found within the area. Non-native invasive smooth brome and crested wheat grass is found in about 80 percent of the unit, in areas where previous chaining and watershed treatments have taken place.

Rating: Low

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural throughout the area. The western side of the unit has had extensive pinyon-juniper treatments. Much of the area in this unit has undergone chaining and mastication for the last ten years. Natural vegetative patterns have been altered leaving unnatural lines and edges where equipment operated during chaining operations. Evidence of treatments include old tree skeletons, hard lines, effects of roller chopper, and change in line and form of the vegetation. Watershed treatments include contouring and channeling that are obvious on the landscape

Rating: No

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is very high throughout the area and there are very few or no spots where improvements are absent or unseen. Range improvements include three stock ponds, five water troughs, and over five miles of barbed wire fence. There is also about one mile of motorized trail, the Lords Trail in the unit. Several small old pipes from exploratory oil wells, and some user-created routes that are apparent on the landscape are also present.

Rating: No

Apparent Naturalness Rating: No**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation**

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. The northern boundary is formed by Utah State Highway 29, a high use paved road. The North Dragon Road forms the western boundary. It receives a moderate level of use, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. The Mahogany Point Road cherry stems into the eastern portion. The area is popular for shed hunting in the spring and big game hunting in the fall and winter. Outfitter and guides have commercial permits in the area and the area is in an active range allotment. There is a motorized trail for approximately one mile that would impact solitude when visitors are in proximity. Range improvements are maintained and accessed with motorized and mechanized means. Some opportunities for solitude exist primarily in the north and northeast when away from the road.

Rating: Moderate

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation. At least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Shed and big game hunting are particularly high quality. Other primitive recreation opportunities include, Christmas tree hunting, bouldering along State Highway 29, mountain lion hunting, hiking, dispersed camping, horseback riding, kayaking during high water in Straight Canyon, and fishing throughout the spring, summer, and fall. There are specific restrictions on motorized access that extend into April each year to protect big game on winter range.

Rating: Moderate

**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Moderate****Unique and Outstanding Qualities**

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, two species of conservation concern plants, *Aquilegia flavescens* var. *rubicunda* and *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone*. There is important golden eagle nesting along the

escarpment in the north and east, sage grouse priority habitat, an occupied lek, and important big game winter. There are adult boreal toads, a species of conservation concern.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4b. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations in the area is pervasive, making it impossible to manage most of the area to preserve wilderness characteristics. The shape and configuration of the unit is one that is highly dissected with cherry stem roads. There is Wildland Urban Interface in the area to protect the watershed values. There are ongoing range management activities, including use of motorized equipment, and the state of Utah has ownership of coal resources under Horn Mountain and could access those resources in the future. There is a motorized trail in the unit. 169 acres or about 2 percent of the unit is within the North Horn Inventoried Roadless Area. Adjacent Bureau of Land Management land emphasizes oil and gas development.

Manageability: No

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1075-Horn Mountain is characterized by high escarpments and watershed terracing throughout the area. Extensive vegetation treatments have occurred in this unit, particularly in the western portion. This unit provides important wildlife habitat.

Table 37. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Horn Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
No	Moderate	No	No

Public Comment

Reviewers noted the area contains state managed coal resources that could be developed in the future, that would require exploration such as helicopter supported drilling and seismic surveys. Mine development in this area would also require mine facilities and portals, powerlines, and ventilation facilities along with increased truck traffic.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended this unit be removed from further consideration due to sage grouse habitat, and conflicts with Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to a no overall value.

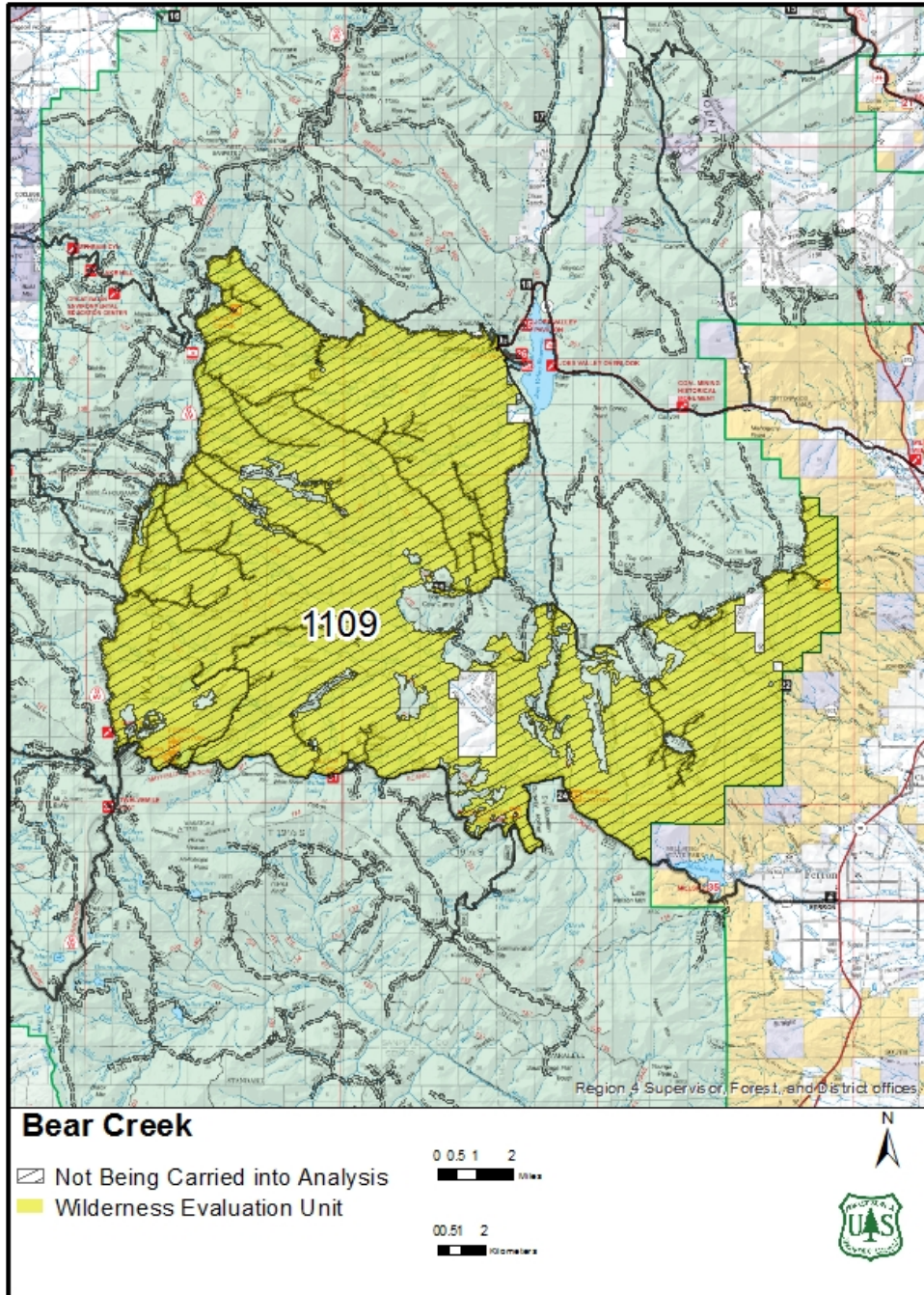
1109-Bear Creek

Name: Bear Creek

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 1109

Acres: 88,193



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Bench lands consist of aspen, sagebrush, and grass. Glaciated basins and wetlands are common before reaching plateau tops. Vegetation in the glacial basin area is dominated by mountain brush, grass-forb communities, aspen, and spruce and fir on north slopes. The plateau top at the skyline is dominated by spruce and fir and grass and forb communities. *Erigeron uttermannii*, *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone*, and *Packeria musiniensis*, a species of conservation concern, are found in the southeast corner of the unit. There are 9 goshawk territories, 1 peregrine falcon eyrie, 31 golden eagle nests, all in the southeast corner, key winter range for big game, and in the southeast corner 2 active sage grouse leks also and two State Conservation Agreement Species, flammulated owl and spotted bat. Three Colorado River cutthroat trout streams, Big Bear Creek, Duck Creek, the later a source of brooding stock for the Colorado River cutthroat trout, and Little Horse Creek, are in the area. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots. The area affected by the Jungle burn contains 1.5 acres of non-native yellow toadflax, and 50 acres of non-native musk thistle. Throughout the unit there is scattered musk thistle that is apparent on the landscape. Some crested wheat grass exists in the South Horn area and was planted in the 1970s for livestock grazing.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation currently appears natural. Mastication of trees has occurred and in some locations is ongoing, but there is very little evidence of those treatments still apparent on the landscape. Branches and limbs are also shredded and spread across the landscape. Under burning has been done in some treated areas. Although the vegetative landscape has been altered, it is not readily noticeable. Pinyon-juniper removal west of Joes Valley Reservoir has occurred. Some trees, including ponderosa pine, remain. Vegetative treatments often overlap with and include contour terracing work. Approximately five to eight percent of the unit is affected by managed and prescribed fire with some stumps scattered throughout the affected fire areas. Fires include: Jungle prescribed burn of 5300 acres in 2007, which was a high intensity stand replacing fire, South Horn fire in 1974, which is mostly naturalized, White Knoll managed fire of 1300 acres in 2005, and the Duck Fork Fire in 1992. These do not detract from apparent naturalness. In total, approximately five percent of the area has some type of vegetation treatment that would be apparent on the landscape. With implementation of the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project this will increase to ten percent. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 4,463 acres or about 5 percent of the unit. Approximately 1,117 of these acres are within the Big Bear Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area and appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas. Range improvements include 24 stock ponds and 2 small dams on drainages. There are 17 water troughs or tanks, 3 study fenced exclosures, and over 30 miles of barbed wire fencing. Other improvements include six or seven wildlife guzzlers on South Horn, two ditches that run seven miles along the length of Skyline Drive in the northwest area of the unit, and the half mile-long John August ditch. There are 28 miles of user-created off highway vehicle-width that take off from all cherry stem roads dispersed throughout the entire unit. There are seventeen miles of off highway vehicle trail, eighteen miles of non-motorized trail, and eight miles of motorized trail. Cap pipe from old mine exploration, may be visible, but gas well and mining developments are generally not noticeable. Roads accessing old mining claims have been reclaimed and although old road prisms are discernable, they are not substantially noticeable. Associated drill pads have also been revegetated and are not substantially noticeable. Several reservoirs are in the unit and have constructed dams including Ferron, Duck Fork, Pete's Hole, Jet Fox, Grass Flat, Academy Mill, Soup Bowl, and Mary's Lake.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit, though opportunities for solitude may be possible between Pete's Hole and Mary's Lake in the north and Big Bear and Little Bear Canyons further south. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return to the levels before the harvesting, even though the evidence of harvest activities may persist for many years. The area is bordered by State Highway 29 on the north, the Ferron-Mayfield Road on the south, and Skyline Drive to the west. These are all high use roads during the summer and fall. In the western area and around the reservoirs, destination sites within this unit experience heavy recreation use during the summer and fall. Prominent recreation use includes hunting, motorized use, fishing, camping, and some mountain biking in the Josephite Point Trail area. There is also quite a bit of snowmobiling use that occurs in the winter, based from the Ferron- Mayfield and Ephraim-Orangeville roads.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife observing, and shed hunting could all occur in the area.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, *Erigeron uttermannii*, *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone*, and *Packera musiniensis*, a species of conservation concern, are found in the southeast corner of the unit. There are 9 goshawk territories, 1 peregrine falcon eyrie, 31 golden eagle nests, and 2 State Conservation Agreement Species, flammulated owl and spotted bat, 2 active sage grouse leks, and key winter range for big game. Colorado River cutthroat trout, a species of conservation concern is also in the unit.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The area is highly dissected with many cherry stem roads extending deep into the core of the unit. There is a lot of motorized dispersed camping along roads both surrounding the unit and those entering the core of the unit. Ongoing motorized and mechanized access as well as maintenance of range improvements occurs in the area. There is one authorized oil and gas lease, a small amount of Wildland Urban Interface, around the cabins right on the southwest boundary, and many recreation improvements adjacent to the unit. Campground and guard stations are located on roads and areas that jut into the unit and there is a private land inholding in the south. 57,366 acres or about 65 percent of the total unit lies within one of four Inventoried Roadless Areas including White Knoll, North Horn, Big Bear Creek, and Biddlecome and Rock Canyon. The adjacent Bureau of Land Management land has active and producing oil and gas wells on the eastern boundary. Additionally, the State of Utah owns the coal resources adjacent to the eastern edge of the unit and could choose to develop them in the future.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1109-Bear Creek is a large and remote unit that is arid in the eastern portion but contains water in the western portion. Roads and motorized trails are present throughout the unit, though there are opportunities for solitude in the Big Bear and Little Bear areas.

Table 38. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Bear Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers described motorized trails and associated activities as extremely prevalent in the area; including a single-track trail between Mary's Lake and Pete's Hole. Reviewers noted the Dairy Trail, Singleton Flat Trail and other motorized routes should exclude the area from further consideration.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to invasive species management, sage grouse habitat, and Wildland Urban Interface management considerations.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

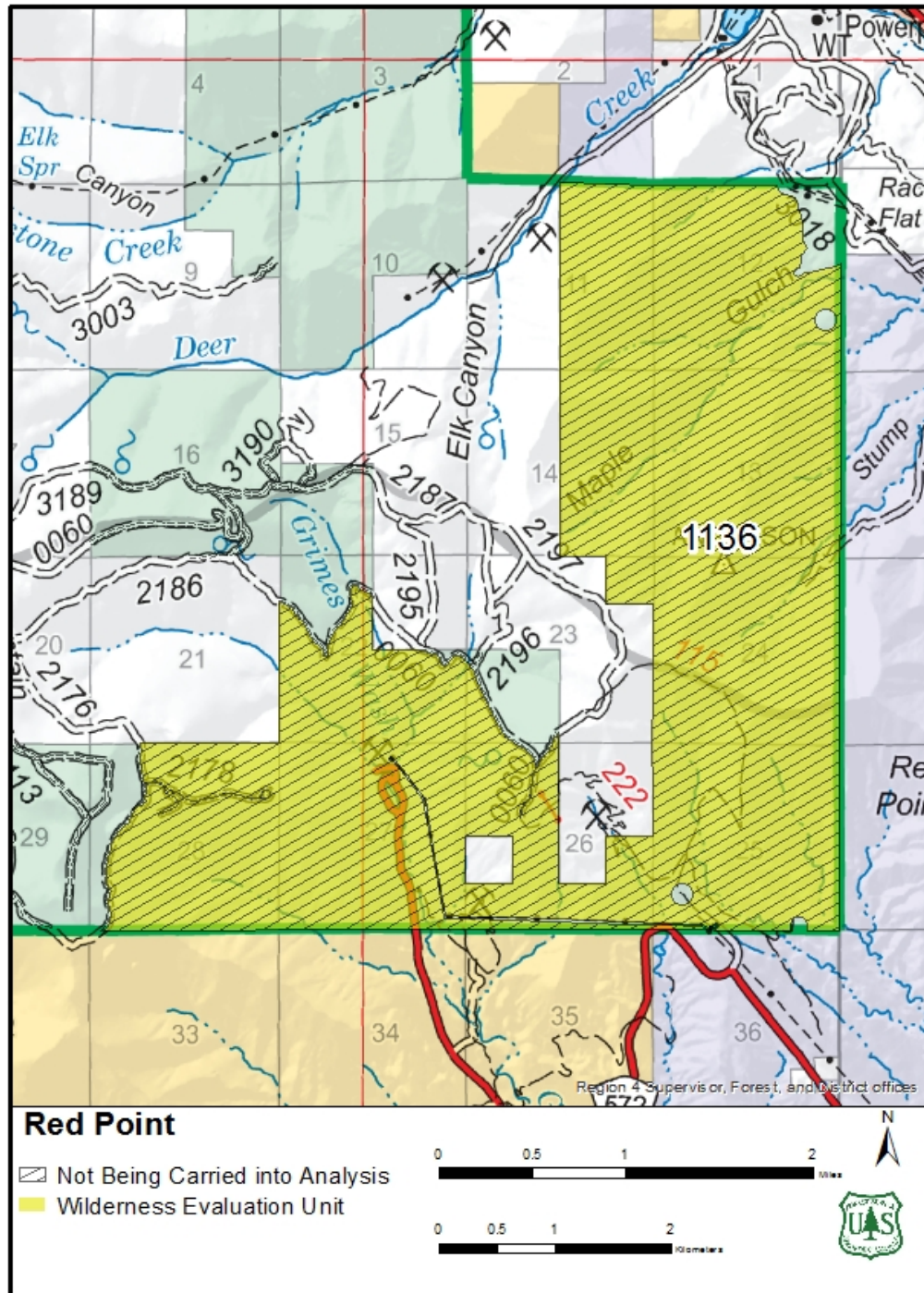
1136-Red Point

Name: Red Point

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 1136

Acres: 5,080



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Dominant vegetation is pinyon and juniper woodland, mountain brush, and sagebrush communities. There are two species of special status in the area: canyon sweet vetch and golden eagle, including sixteen nests. The entire unit is important big game winter range and a small amount of general sage grouse habitat is in the southwest of the unit. Non-native species are not evident on the landscape, but non-native thistle exists in isolated spots in the north.

Rating: High

- 1b. What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Vegetation appears natural in the unit. There was a prescribed burn in a portion of the area, but it looks natural.

Rating: High

- 1c. What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area. Range improvements include: one stock pond, three water troughs or tanks, and a fence line built in the 1930s that defines the forest boundary and the eastern and southern boundary of this unit. There are approximately two and a half miles of user created trail in the unit. Additionally, there are three oil and gas wells, that are not noticeable. 1,399 acres or about 27 percent of the unit is within coal leases. The Wilberg coal mine has signs of old contouring and roadbeds, and the Des-Bee-Dove mine has been reclaimed but has obvious contouring that is still apparent on the landscape.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

- 2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. The powerline and gas developments can be seen from within the unit. The northern portion of the unit has opportunities for solitude, while the southern portion of the unit has fewer opportunities due to the presence of road improvements and trails. State Highway 57 is a

cherry stem road into the southern border of the unit, accessing the old Wilberg Mine. The East Mountain road forms the northern boundary. It receives a moderate level of use, especially from private property that is adjacent to the road. The Des-Bee-Dove motorized trail also bisects the southern portion of the unit. There is also an old road that comes off Bureau of Land Management land near Stump Flat that was used as access for an old mine that dead-ends into the eastern side of the unit.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Biking, bouldering, some shed hunting, and lion and bear hunting can occur in the area. The area provides a high level of challenge and risk due to the extremely rugged terrain.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, two species of special status occur in the area: canyon sweet vetch and golden eagle. The entire unit is important big game winter range and a small amount of general sage grouse habitat is in the southwest portion of the unit.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, Joe's Valley bouldering area is within the unit.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes, Joes Valley bouldering area and the historic Anderson Mine present opportunities.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4b. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Adjacent land in the east and northeast is managed by Bureau of Land Management with very active oil and mining sites including 61 oil and gas wells. Within the unit, the Bureau of Land Management has surface rights and the state of Utah has gas and coal rights. Along the western boundary is private land. There are two active gas wells, one near the southern boundary of the unit and one near the eastern unit boundary that includes an access road to pump jacks, leveled and graveled pad sites, and pump jack structures. The unit has cherry stem roads in the southwest and a powerline that juts into the unit from the south.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1136-Red Point contains the popular Joe's Valley bouldering area and sees high recreation use on the western portion of the unit. There are more opportunities for solitude in the north, where there are fewer road improvements and trails.

Table 39. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Red Point unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to sage grouse habitat.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

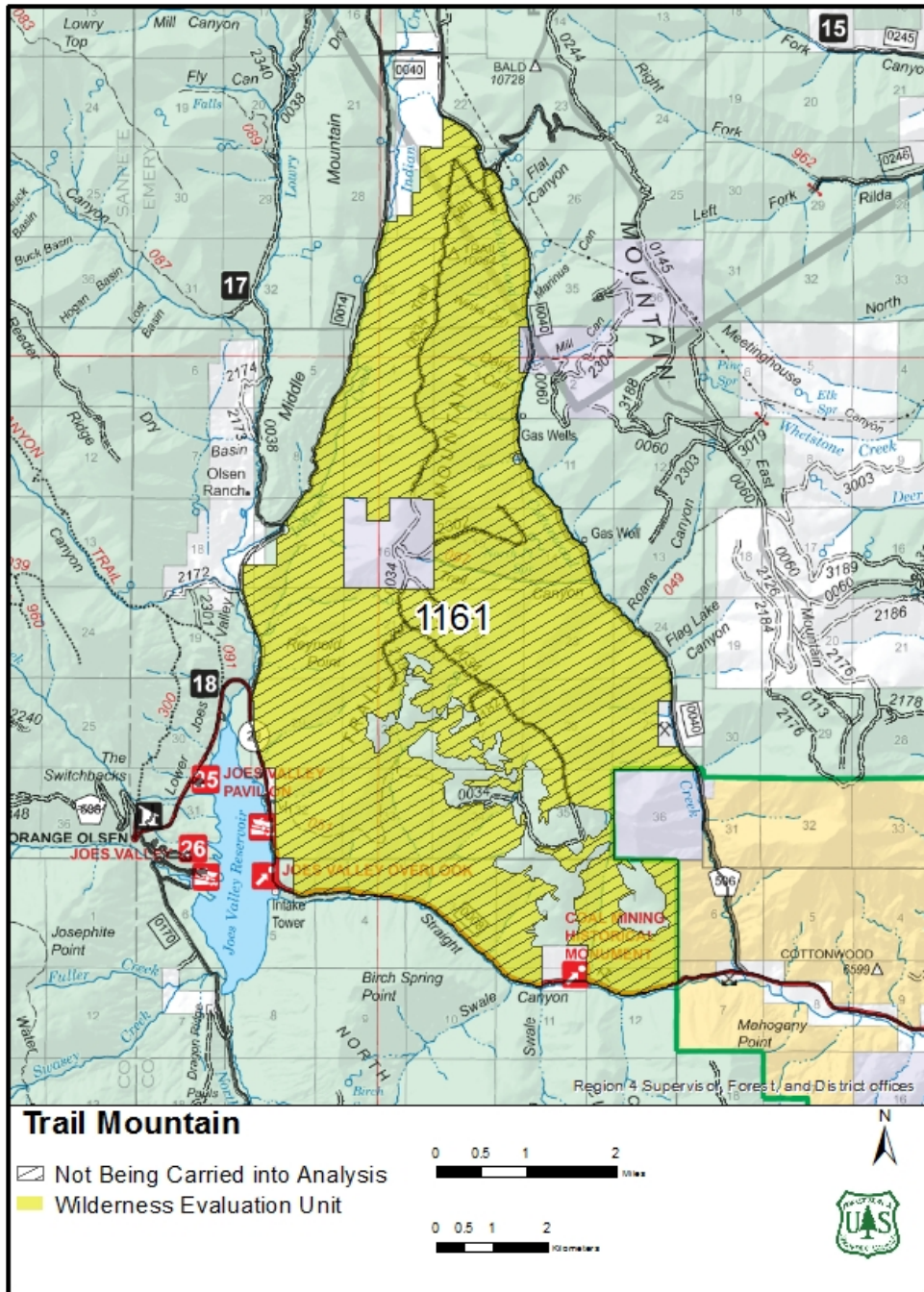
1161-Trail Mountain

Name: Trail Mountain

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 1161

Acres: 14,946



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon-juniper, white fir, and mountain maple. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. 2 species of conservation concern plants, *Aquilegia flavescens* var. *rubicunda* and *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone*, are found in the area, as well as 35 golden eagle nests, the highest breeding density of golden eagles in the country, 1 peregrine falcon eyrie, 3 northern goshawk territories, key winter range for big game, sage grouse general habitat, and suitable seasonal habitat, and Colorado River cutthroat trout in Indian Creek on the west side of the unit. Musk thistle, a non-native species, is scattered throughout the unit, along with white top next to roadsides and edges. There are also small patches of salt cedar in the riparian areas.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Vegetation treatments include about 800 acres of mechanical treatments of pinyon and juniper stands. Herbicide treatment for pinyon and juniper occurred more than twenty years ago, but tree skeletons remain. Additionally, a naturally ignited, managed fire occurred in the area and has left dead trees and cut stumps from fire suppression actions. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 32 acres within this unit. This small acreage of treatment will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include two stock ponds, nine small dams on drainages, fifteen water troughs or tanks, over fifteen miles of fencing, approximately six miles of user-created trails concentrated along the south, two non-motorized trails, Canyon Trail and the CCC Trail, that cover approximately six miles, and several gates for seasonal closures to protect the road. There are active oil and gas leases throughout the unit with aboveground gas lines. There is one producing well with tanks and a well pad. There is a surface pipeline that goes down the road. It is buried but noticeable. A well site is located adjacent to the Cottonwood Canyon road with an access road to pump jacks, leveled and graveled pad sites, and a pump jack structure. Some evidence of the inactive Trail Mountain Mine can be seen but is generally natural appearing. 2,296 acres or about 15 percent of the total unit is within coal leases. A short segment of the Cottonwood

Canyon road occurs in the unit. The upper Joes Valley recreation site includes an access road and wooden fencing adjacent to the Miller Flat Road.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. Dispersed camping along Cottonwood Road occurs June through October. Use on Trial Mountain Road, which nearly bisects the unit, occurs in the spring for shed hunting and hunting in the fall. There is a lot of motorized traffic on the east and west boundary roads. Roads are visible from most places within the unit. Additionally, from inside the unit you see the extensive mining developments that are adjacent to the unit. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the time period that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return to levels like before the harvest, even though the evidence of harvest activities would persist for many years.

Rating: Low

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. These include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bouldering, and ice climbing. The south end of the unit has areas of challenge and risk.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, two species of conservation concern plants, *Aquilegia flavescens* var. *rubicunda* and *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone*, are found in the area. 35 golden eagle nests, 1 peregrine

falcon eyrie, 3 northern goshawk territories, key winter range for big game, sage grouse habitat, and Colorado River cutthroat trout, a species of conservation concern.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, Joe's Valley bouldering area is within the unit.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

Yes, Joe's Valley Alcove has some of the earliest archeological dates from the area. It is a regionally significant site.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. There is a section of land in the middle of the unit that is a State of Utah inholding. In addition, the State of Utah owns coal resources below Trail Mountain that could be developed in the future. Trail Mountain Road creates a cherry stem that almost completely dissects the unit. Land adjacent to the unit is owned by the state of Utah, Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners who have cabin developments. A portion of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface. Range infrastructure would continue to need to be accessed and maintained with motorized equipment and transport. 5,316 acres or about 36 percent of the unit is within Straight Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: Low**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 1161-Trail Mountain offers minimal opportunities for solitude due to its shape and configuration and the presence of Trail Mountain Road, which runs through the middle. The unit contains the popular Joe's Valley bouldering area.

Table 40. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Trail Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers noted an active gravel pit within the Western Boundary, coal reserves with future development potential, and heavy range activity, off highway vehicle trail use, and hunting in the area. Reviewers described recent Forest Service vegetation treatment plans in the area as detracting from apparent naturalness.

Reviewers described the activities of bouldering, animal, and shed hunting as primitive and unconfined forms of recreation and felt the unit's value for such activities should be rated high.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to invasive species management, sage grouse habitat, and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

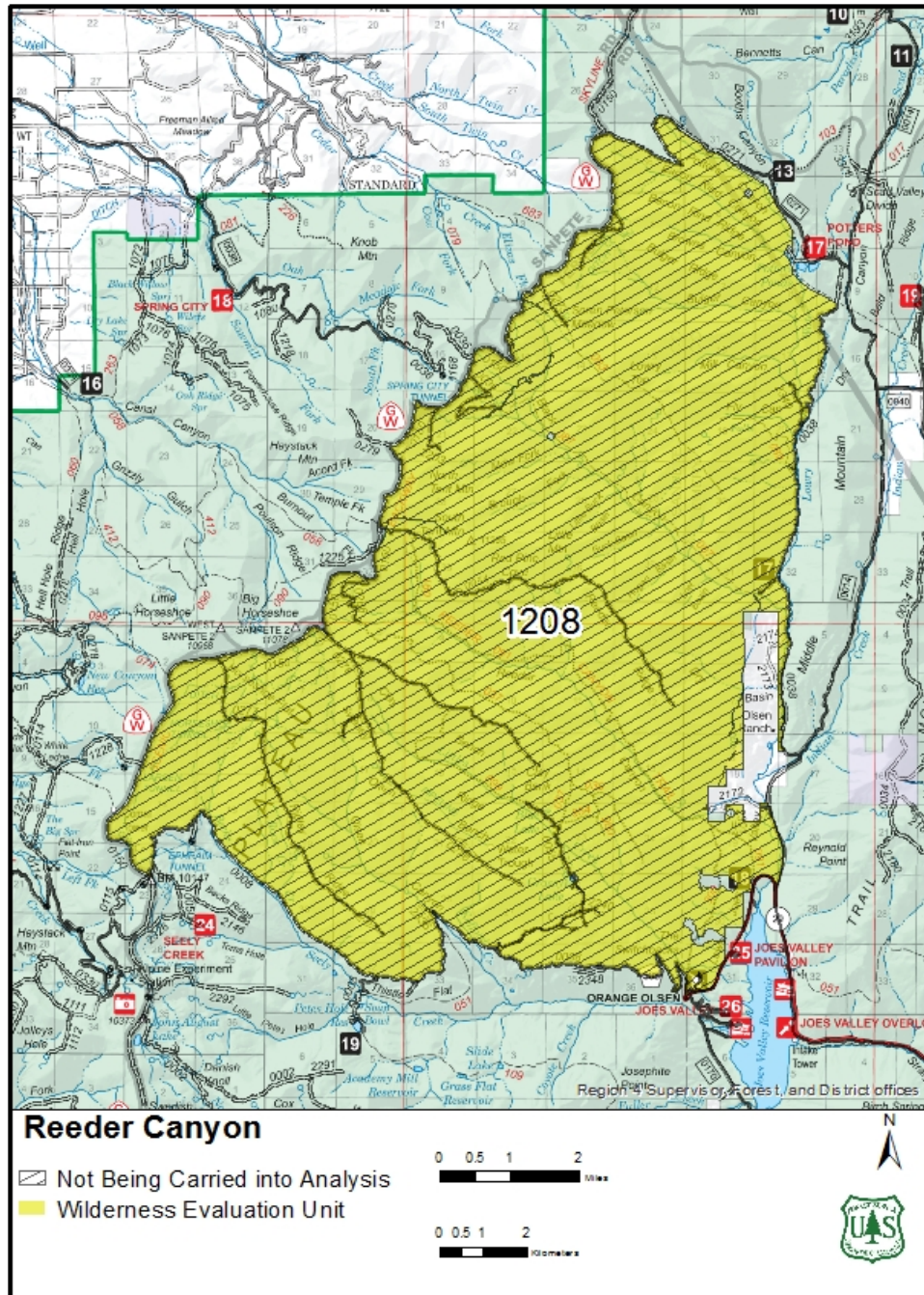
1208-Reeder Canyon

Name: Reeder Canyon

Ranger District: Ferron

Number: 1208

Acres: 43,552



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

- 1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon-juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north facing slopes. Typically, big mountain sagebrush occupies fault valleys, mountain brush occupies western slopes facing the Sanpete Valley, and aspen occupies the eastern back-slopes, which face upward toward the plateau top. Animal communities appear natural and consist of a variety of game and non-game species. In addition, there are three northern goshawk territories, multiple golden eagle nests, and important big game summer range. The area is important for deer fawning and elk calving. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots, including some scattered musk thistle and white top along the Orangeville road and the very eastern boundary road, some oxeye daisy in the east, adjacent to the private property, and a small amount of cheat grass above Lowry road and on some south-facing slopes.

Rating: Moderate

- 1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation currently appears natural. There has been a small amount of pinyon-juniper mastication and under burning in the southeast portion of the unit (2000 acres), but it is not very evident on the landscape. The White Canyon managed burns were high intensity stand replacing fires that generally appear natural. Some under burning beneath ponderosa pine has occurred near the bottom of Reeder Canyon. Mill and Fly Canyons have had mastication done. In addition, some reseeding with winter wheat was completed in 2016 but will not reproduce and will be gone within a couple of years. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 11,400 acres or about 26 percent of this unit. Approximately 8,780 of these mechanically treated acres are within the Boulger and Black Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

- 1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area. Range improvements include two earthen stock ponds, eleven low profile metal water troughs, the Horseshoe Flat range enclosure fence, two stock corals, a constructed and maintained ditch about one mile long, and another ditch about half a mile long. Other improvements include 34 miles of user-created trails in the south and eastern portion of the unit, 3.5 miles of non-motorized trail, Lowry Top Trail, 19 miles of motorized trail, Low Rise Trail, and the 4-mile Black Canyon Trail. In addition, there is

one mine feature, and four oil and gas wells, all of which are not noticeable. Gas well developments and mining features are generally not noticeable when they have been capped and inactive for many years. Improvements are concentrated in the southern half of the unit.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities to feel alone are presently possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible especially north of Reeder Ridge. Fewer opportunities exist in the southern portion of the area. State Highway 29 forms the southern boundary. It receives a relatively high level of use, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. Cherry stem roads are on ridges and the Reeder Motorized Trail Loop have high use July through October. These cherry stem roads receive use from sheep permittees and hunters in the fall. Motorized and mechanized access and maintenance of range improvements occurs July through September. It will be very difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the five to ten years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return to levels like before harvest, even though the evidence of harvest activities would persist for many years.

Rating: Moderate

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. The northern part of the unit has higher quality opportunities than the southern part. Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, bird watching, seed collecting, and fishing. There are some controls on user behavior including a seasonal road closure on Lowry Road for road protection, and a seasonal trail closure to protect the Reeder Trail Loop. The area is popular for mountain biking along some roads and trails.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the

overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, three northern goshawk territories, multiple golden eagle nests, and important big game summer range.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, there is a high concentration of wetlands south of Potters Pond.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

Implementation of the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will affect about 26 percent of this unit through timber harvest and follow up treatments. The remaining portion of the unit includes multiple motorized trails and cherry stem roads that would make managing for wilderness characteristics difficult. There is Wildland Urban Interface in the north, private land adjacent to the unit north of Joes Valley Road, the Spring City Tunnel, and some existing oil and gas leases in the south. The area is popular for mountain biking and there are 19 miles of motorized trails that are regularly used. 23,107 acres or about 53 percent of the unit lies within the Boulger and Black Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: No

Public Comment

Reviewers noted a manageability rating of moderate in the northern half of the unit and suggested that management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics was possible in this portion of the unit. The southern portion of the unit, in contrast, due to a presence of user created routes and popular motorized trails, was suggested to be less manageable.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1208-Reeder Canyon offers opportunities for solitude in the northern portion of the unit. The southern portion is intersected with motorized trails, including segments of the Arapeen off highway vehicle System Trail, and is heavily used for motorized recreation.

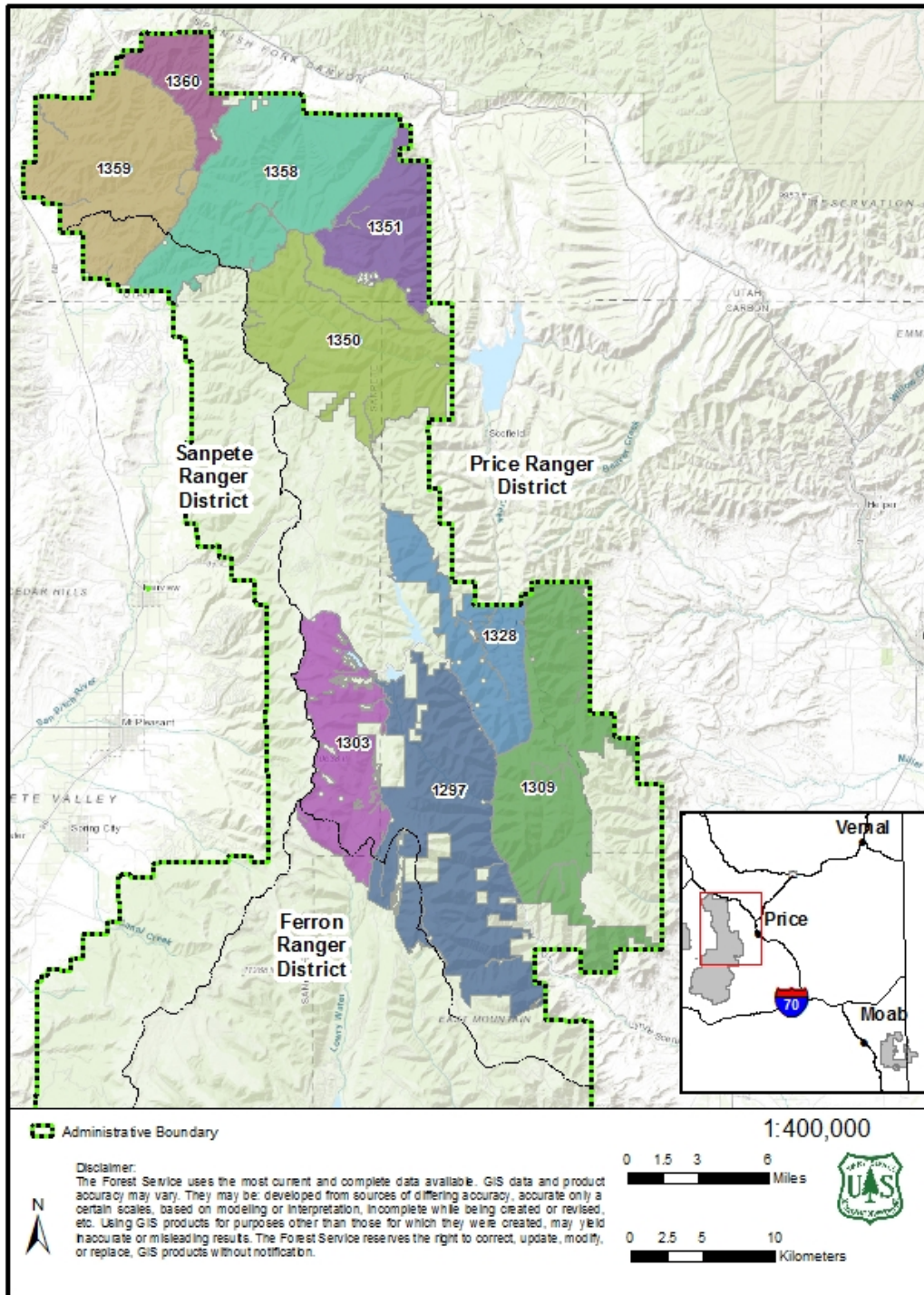
Table 41. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Reeder Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	No	Low

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the Analysis step due to Low overall value. While comments were received about differences in the north and south halves of the unit, the northern half which commenters suggested might be more manageable for wilderness characteristics is dominated by timber harvest units associated with the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project.

Price District



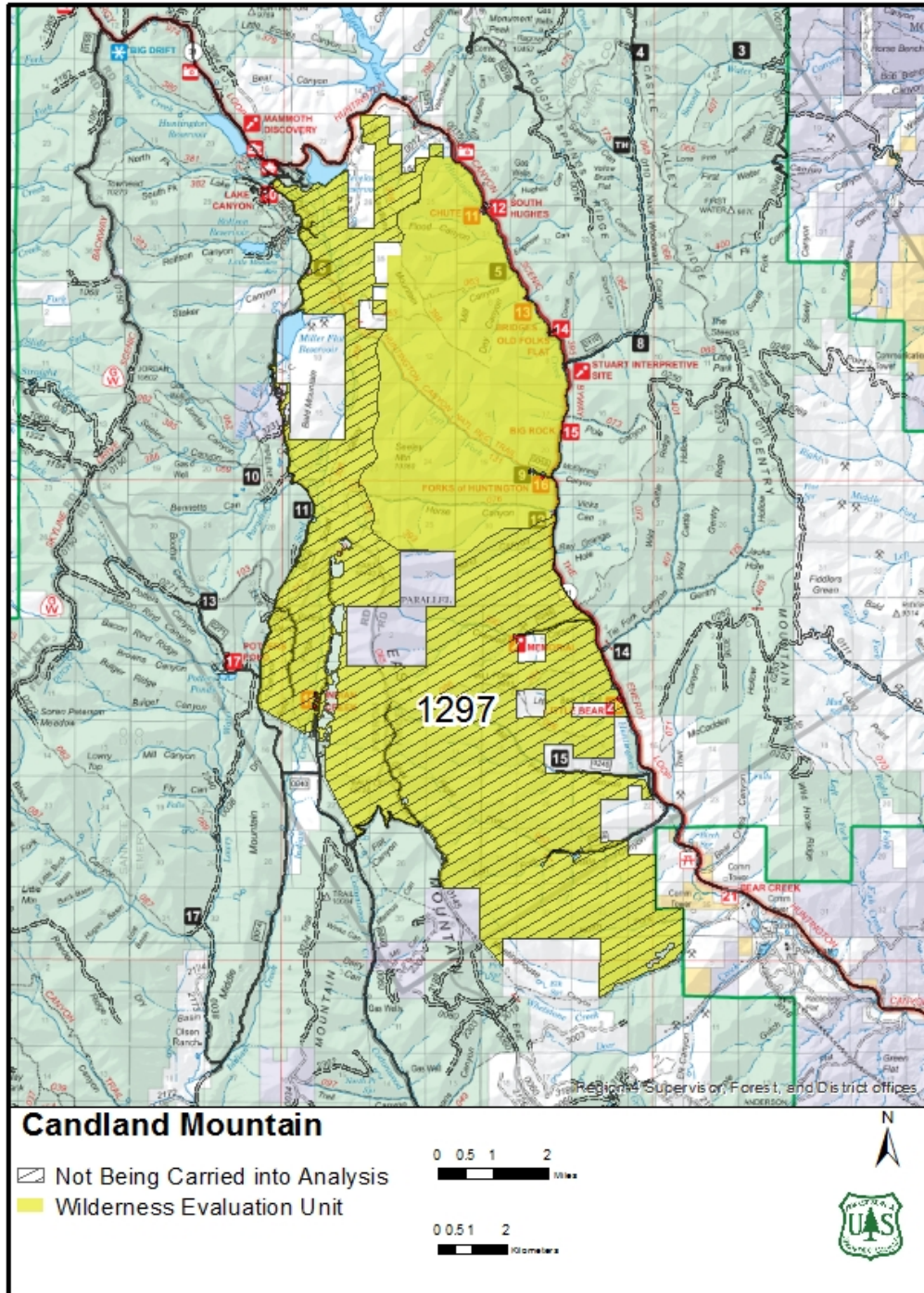
1297-Candland Mountain

Name: Candland Mountain

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1297

Acres: evaluation 37,096, analysis 11,720



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Vegetation is dominated by mountain brush and grass forb communities with aspen and spruce-fir on the north slopes. Two species of conservation concern are present: *Aquilegia flavescens* var. *rubicunda* and *Erigeron uttermannii*. There is also Colorado River cutthroat trout in five different drainages, Lake Canyon Creek, Rolfson Creek, Scad Creek, Indian Creek, and Crandall Creek. The only breeding population on the Forest of boreal toad in this unit. 3 northern goshawk territories, 16 golden eagle nests in the southern portion of the unit, key and general big game winter range mostly in the lower Huntington Canyon south of Crandall, and crucial summer range for deer and elk in the northern part of the unit in the higher elevations. Moose have also been observed in the area. Non-native invasive species include a 300-acre unit of musk thistle in the southern portion of the unit. Musk thistle is also scattered along roads, including those to the west.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation currently appears natural with no noticeable vegetation treatments in the unit. However, the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 2,032 acres or about 5 percent of the unit. Approximately 1,697 of these acres are within the East Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Evidence of fires from the 1970s and 1980s is minimal and generally natural appearing. The 40-acre 1994 Mill fire, 2012 Seeley fire, and 2018 Trail Mountain fire affected 65 percent of the unit and some stumps in the northern and southern part of the unit remain as evidence of these events. Spruce salvage has occurred, resulting in temporary roads, landings, and slash on about 2,000 acres near Cleveland Reservoir in the north, but it is generally not noticeable.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some spots, but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include: 10 earthen stock ponds with 4 small dams on drainages, 36 water troughs or tanks, and minimal barbed wire fence. There are 3 miles of motorized trails, all a part of the Arapeen motorized trails system, 37 miles of non-motorized trail, including the Left Fork of Huntington National Recreation trail, and about 9 miles of user-created trails in the southern portion of the unit off cherry stem roads. 15,502 acres or about 42 percent of the unit is within coal leases.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are presently possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. Visitors are likely to encounter areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place in this unit. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude should return to levels like those before harvest, even though the evidence of harvest activities may persist for many years. State Highway 31 forms the northern and eastern boundary. It is open and receives a high level of traffic year-round. The Millers Flat road forms the western boundary. It receives a high level of use, which decreases opportunities for solitude when near the road. It is in high use from June through October and groomed in the winter for snowmobile access. Trails are moderately used from June through October with increased use in the fall through the hunting season. Cherry stem roads that penetrate most areas of the unit receive light to moderate use. Visitors can see reservoirs and other developments from any of the peaks within the unit. When up on the ridge line, you can get a sense of solitude, but on any roads surrounding the unit or jutting into the unit, signs of civilization are possible. The Huntington Canyon area along Utah Highway 31 hosts some of the densest recreational use on the North Zone of the Forest.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and these opportunities are of high quality. Hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, fishing, and wildlife viewing are all popular in the area.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, two species of conservation concern plant species, *Aquilegia flavescens* var. *rubicunda* and *Erigeron uttermannii* are present. There are also Colorado River cutthroat trout, boreal toad, 3 northern goshawk territories, 16 golden eagle nests in the southern portion of the unit, and key and general big game winter range.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, there is a high concentration of wetlands mostly east of the Miller Flat and Spoon Creek roads.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes, the Mont E. Lewis Botanical Area provides opportunities for the study of the unique plant assemblages in this area.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4b. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

30,103 acres or about 81 percent of the area is in the East Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is currently scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. Implementation of the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will affect about 2,032 acres, making management to preserve wilderness characteristics difficult in this portion of the unit. The southern half of the unit has coal leases and the Bureau of Land Management holds oil and gas leases. The northern half of the unit is in a Wildland Urban Interface. There are state and private land inholdings and some private land adjacent to the unit. The unit is surrounded on three sides by high use roads and cherry stem roads jut into the area. There are existing outfitter and guide use for big game hunting. There is one springtime road closure to protect road resources during the snowmelt period. This is a high quality non-motorized area with steep and rugged terrain that makes it difficult to develop roads and trails.

Manageability: Moderate**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 1297-Candland Mountain is characterized by obvious multiple use in the southern portion and opportunities for solitude in the more remote and non-motorized northern portion. One of the Forest's two National Recreation Trails runs through the northern portion of the unit. Recent fire activity is apparent.

Table 42. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Candland Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Additional comments received recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to invasive species management and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

The northern portion of this unit from Horse Canyon to the north, will be carried forward into the analysis step. This includes the Left Fork National Recreation Trails. The remainder of the unit will not be carried forward. The remainder of the unit contains state sections, private inholdings, and dead-end roads protruding into the unit. In addition, the Canyons project will include approximately 1,700 acres of timber harvest and 5,600 acres of hand treatment in the southern portion of the unit. For these reasons this portion of the unit will not be brought into the analysis step.

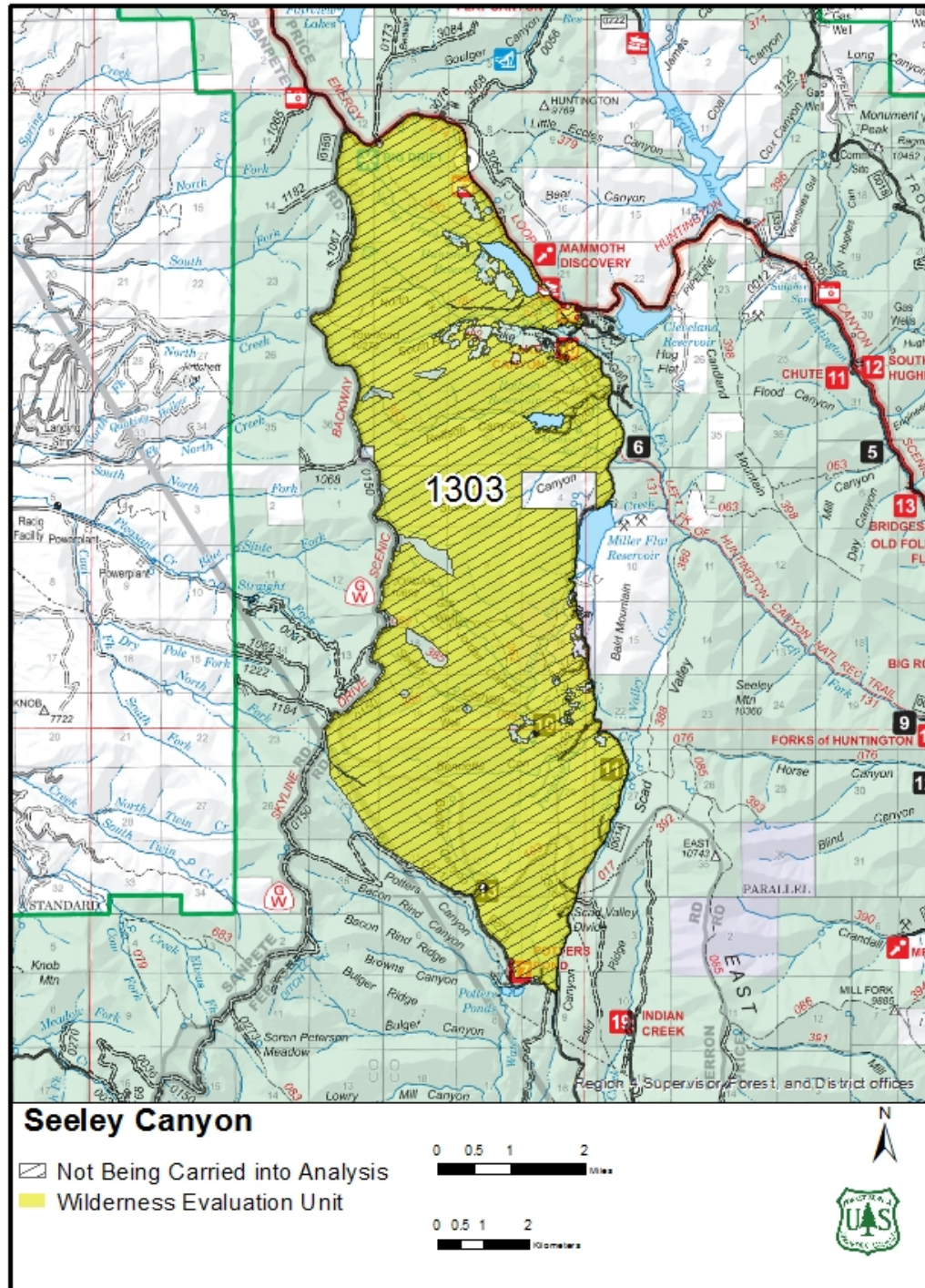
1303-Seeley Canyon

Name: Seeley Canyon

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1303

Acres: 18,421



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Dead spruce and fir occupy north-facing slopes, while aspen and open sagebrush and grass areas vegetate south slopes. The highest concentration of wetlands on the Forest occur in this unit. The Bonneville cutthroat trout is in Spring Creek and Colorado River cutthroat trout is present in Rolfson Creek and Lake Canyon Creek. There are three northern goshawk territories and big game crucial summer range. Non-native invasive species including musk thistle, is prevalent along roads and in disturbed areas. About six to eight percent of the area has non-native invasive species present, primarily in places livestock have grazed.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

There are currently no noticeable vegetation treatments in this unit. However, the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 2,100 acres or about 11 percent of the unit. Approximately 1,143 of these acres are within the Rolfson-Staker Inventoried Roadless Area. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years. The 20-acre Miller Flat fire in 2012 and the 12-acre Rolfson fire in 2007 occurred in the area, but both are natural appearing.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and may be concentrated in some spots but is generally dispersed through the area. Two sheep corrals are the only range improvements. There are 15 miles of motorized trails concentrated in the Lakes Canyon Recreation Area, 25 miles of non-motorized trails, 5 miles of user-created trails, and 8 miles of temporary road that are apparent on the landscape. There are 5 miles of surface and buried Questar pipeline along the eastern boundary. A service station, another three miles of pipeline, an abandoned aboveground pipe that runs perpendicular to the current pipeline location, and ten non noticeable oil and gas developments are also present.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return to a level like that before the harvest, even though the evidence of harvest activities would persist for many years. Opportunities to feel alone are currently possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. The northern boundary is State Highway 31, which is a year-round high traffic paved road. The Millers Flat road forms the eastern boundary. It receives a high level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. It is in high use from June through October and is groomed in the winter for snowmobile use. Skyline Drive forms the western boundary. It sees a high level of use June through October for dispersed camping, seed picking, and firewood gathering. The area is a high use area for winter recreation, including snow kiteboarding. Non-motorized use is light during the summer and picks up during the fall hunting seasons. Motorized use, primarily snowmobiling, is heavy in the winter. View of developments and reservoirs and contour terracing are evident from ridges, but solitude is possible when in canyons and away from roads and trails and when in heavy dense vegetation.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Hiking, horseback riding, kiteboarding, fishing, backpacking, hunting, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and generally enjoying nature can all occur in the area. There is a seasonal road closure on Miller Flat road and the western boundary road also has a road closure for road protection during the spring snowmelt period.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Bonneville cutthroat trout is in Spring Creek and Colorado River cutthroat trout is present in Rolfson Creek and Lake Canyon Creek. There are three northern goshawk territories and big game crucial summer range.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, a high concentration of wetlands is in the east and southeast of the unit.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes, this unit contains proboscidean fossils, as well as mammoth and mastodon sites.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

Currently, other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the unit's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of it. The western boundary follows Skyline Drive and provides expansive views to the east and west and into the Rolfsen-Staker Inventoried Roadless Area. 6,880 acres or about 37 percent of the unit is within this Inventoried Roadless Area. 100 percent of the area is within a Wildland Urban Interface. The entire unit is under Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases. Cherry stem roads and user-created routes enter the core of the unit. The unit is surrounded by high use roads. Cabins on private land inholdings in interior of the unit are present. A lot of motorized use occurs on the adjacent reservoirs. Mountain biking occurs along the western edge of the unit and hunting outfitting and guiding occurs in the area. The location, presence and distribution of the 2,100 acres or about 11 percent of harvest units associated with the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will make management to preserve this unit's wilderness characteristics more difficult. The harvest units are spread throughout the unit, leaving few intact greater than 5,000-acre areas post-harvest.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1303-Seeley Canyon contains a high concentration of trails in the Lake Canyon Recreation Area and is a popular destination for recreation and dispersed camping, particularly along the Miller Flat Road. Approximately 2,100 acres of the unit will be actively logged during the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project.

Table 43. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Seeley Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers described the entire unit as under Bureau of Land Management Oil and Gas leases. Reviewers described the presence of cherry stem roads and user created routes throughout the unit, and that it surrounds a private property inholding. Reviewers suggested the unit rating for manageability should be low.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Additional comments received recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to invasive species management, cherry stem roads, and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

The unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to a low overall value.

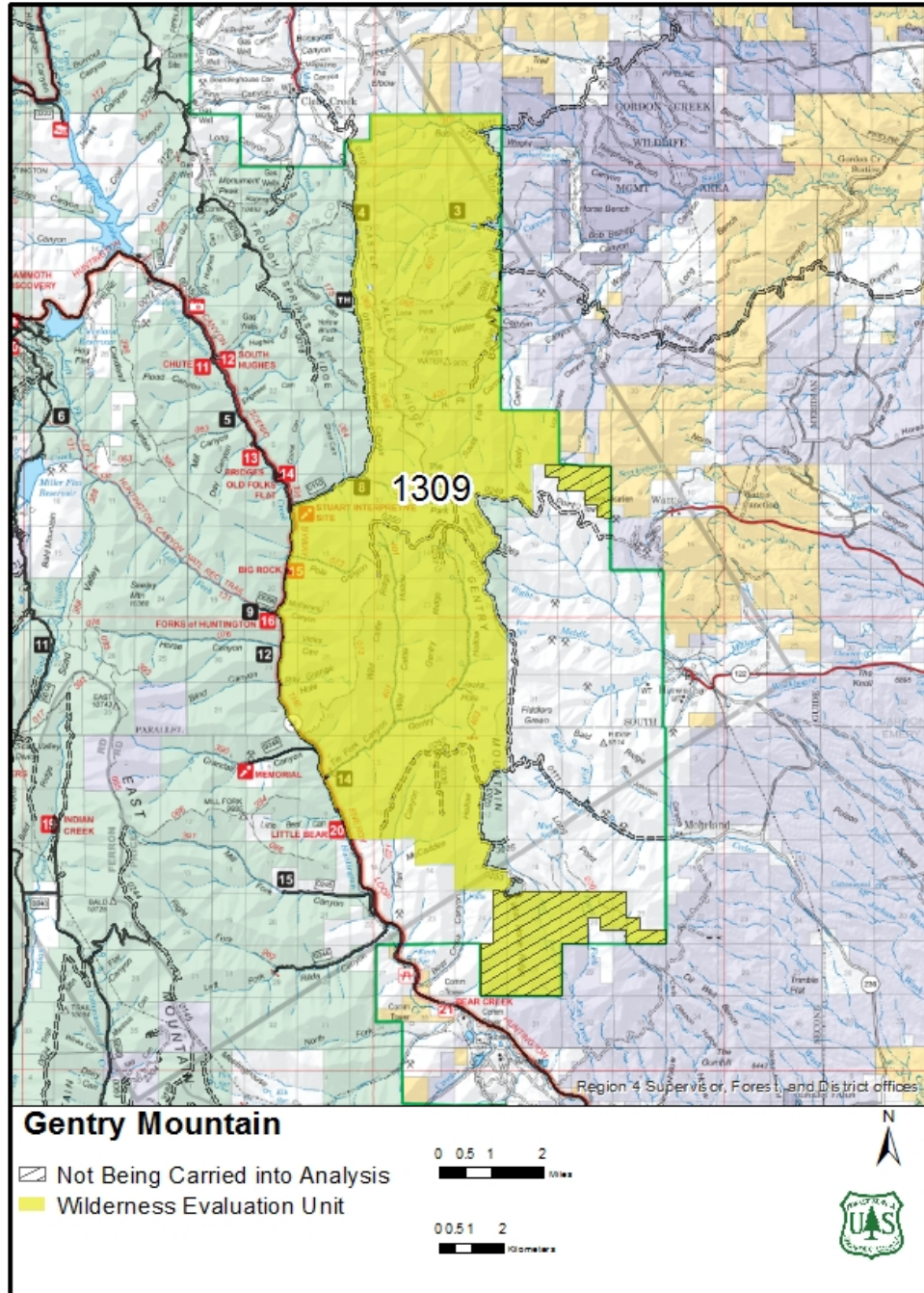
1309-Gentry Mountain

Name: Gentry Mountain

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1309

Acres: evaluation 32,611, analysis 29,568



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Much of this unit was burned in the 48,000 Seeley Wildfire in 2012, a stand replacing event. Spruce and fir stands have been replaced by aspen regeneration over thousands of acres. Standing burned trees will be coming down for many years in the future. Species of conservation concern are present, including *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone* along Castle Valley Ridge, Colorado River cutthroat trout in four drainages: First Water Creek, Second Water Creek, Gentry Hollow, and historically in Nuck Woodward. 4 known goshawk territories, 23 golden eagle nests, mostly in the southern and eastern portions of the area, key winter range for big game in lower Huntington Canyon in the south, and crucial summer range for elk and deer also occur in the unit. The entire west side of the unit is a State Wildlife Management Area. Non-native invasive species include musk thistle scattered along roads, with some large patches about ten to fifteen acres in size, are found in the unit's interior.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. About 70 percent of the unit was burned in the 48,000 Seeley Wildfire in 2012, a stand replacing event, but looks like a natural fire. The Tie Fork Fire burned in a mosaic pattern typical of wildfire. Portions of the burn were stand replacing events, and in the mid-western portion along the road you may see stumps or other signs of suppression.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area. It may be concentrated in some spots but is more generally dispersed through the area. Range improvements include: 11 earthen stock ponds, 25 water troughs, and more than 10 miles of barbed wire let down fence throughout the unit. There is also an aspen enclosure in the south. There are 9 miles of motorized single-track trail, 23 miles of non-motorized trail, and 18 miles of user-created trails, most of which is on Gentry Mountain. Most user-created trails have been closed with fence and tank traps and boulders. 5,277 acres or about 16 percent of the unit is coal leases.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. North of Little Park, very few activities are occurring and opportunities for solitude would be high. With sagebrush on the ridges and aspen in the canyon, it is very steep country that provides little screening. Non-motorized trails in the north provide some access but get little use throughout the summer with a pulse of use in the hunting season. Some mountain biking occurs on Castle Valley Ridge. State Highway 31 forms the western boundary. It is open and receives a high level of traffic year-round. Opportunities for solitude are less in the southern portion of the unit due to a high density of roads and maintenance and use of the cattle allotment. There are also nine miles of motorized trail in the area, and these see light use. Use is even lighter in the winter with sporadic snowmobiling and skiing.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and some of these opportunities are of high quality. Hunting, shed hunting, hiking, and horseback riding opportunities can be experienced in the area.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, species of conservation concern species include *Hedysarum occidentale* var. *canone* and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Additionally, the unit is home to 4 known goshawk territories, 23 golden eagle nests, key winter range for big game in lower Huntington canyon in the south, and crucial summer range for elk and deer.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. 18,460 acres or about 57 percent of the unit is within Gentry Mountain and Nuck Woodward Inventoried Roadless Area. There are oil and gas leases in the north and coal leases in the south and east. The unit's far south is being actively mined. Some Bureau of Land Management land and quite a bit of private land is adjacent to the unit as well as about 23 acres of private inholdings within it. Some of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface and about 40 percent are for municipal watershed protection. Some cherry stem roads occur in the area and there are nine miles of motorized trail in the area, as well as established motorized winter use. The area has an active range allotment with range improvements that would continue to need motorized access and maintenance into the future.

Manageability: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1309-Gentry Mountain provides opportunities for solitude, particularly in the northern portion. Recent fire activity is apparent.

Table 44. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Gentry Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Reviewers described High ratings for Isolation and solitude in the northern part of this unit would be in relatively small areas in between roads and trails, and that oil and gas leases are also present in the north. Reviewers suggested the manageability should be rated low.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Additional comments received recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to invasive species management, and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

Most of the Gentry Mountain Unit, 29,568 acres, is being carried to be carried forward into the analysis step. However, two isolated portions of the unit, one at 463 acres and the other at 2,573 acres are being removed from the overall boundary to improve manageability of the remaining acres. These two areas are protruding from the eastern and southeastern sides of the unit and were attached to the unit by narrow acre bridges. Both are primarily surrounded by private land, making it difficult to manage for wilderness characteristics.

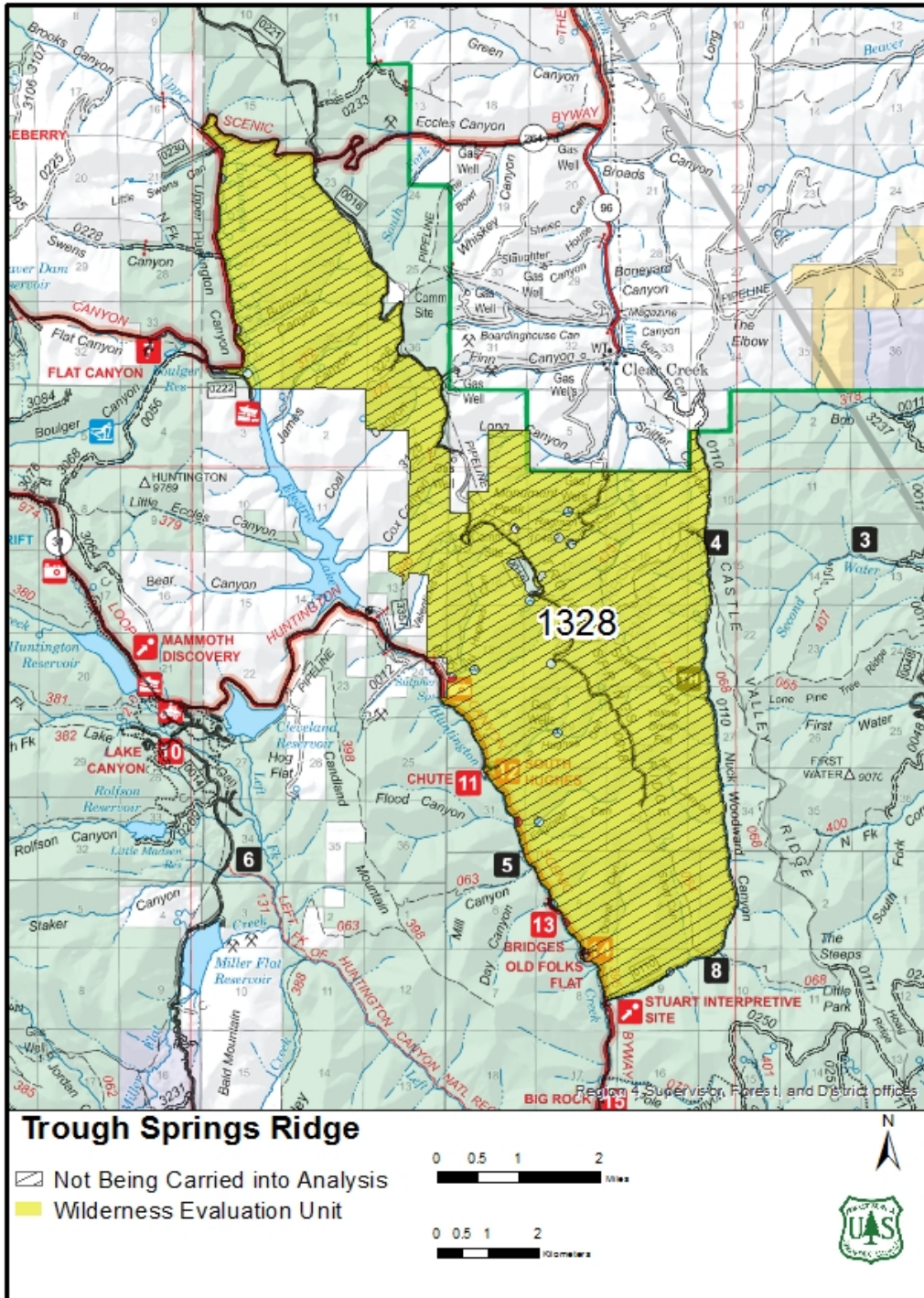
1328-Trough Springs Ridge

Name: Trough Springs Ridge

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1328

Acres: 15,295



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in some areas. Bench lands consist of aspen, sagebrush, grass, and Douglas fir. Glaciated basins and wetlands are common before reaching the plateau top. Vegetation in the glacial basin area is dominated by mountain brush, grass and forb communities, aspen, and spruce-fir on north slopes. Finally, the plateau top at the skyline is dominated by spruce and fir and grass and forb communities. Non-native musk thistle is scattered throughout the entire northern portion of the unit. In the southern portion, musk thistle is scattered along roads. There are two populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout, two known goshawk territories in the north part of the unit, one peregrine falcon eyrie, five golden eagle nests in the southern half of the unit, and big game crucial summer range. The area is very popular for lion and bear hunting.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. The Mine timber sale which includes about 30 percent of the unit is ongoing to salvage beetle kill spruce. The treatments are heavy in the north and scattered in the south and look like clear cuts scattered across the interior of the entire unit. When in the unit, a visitor will see stumps, roads, and landing zones. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 811 acres or about 5 percent of the unit. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years. The southern portion of the unit, along the western boundary, was burned in the Seeley fire of 2012. Evidence of it includes stumps and land stabilizing and construction type work all along the western edge of the unit.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area and the appearance of improvements detracts from apparent naturalness in most areas. Range improvements include approximately 30 ponds and troughs. There are approximately five miles of user-created trails and twelve miles of non-motorized trail. Temporary roads associated with the Mine Timber sale will be closed and rehabilitated once the sale is closed out, returning these linear features to a more natural appearance. 2,934 acres or about 19 percent of the unit is within coal leases. Many old mining exploration roads are still evident on the landscape.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. Skyline Mine is adjacent to the unit to the northeast of the unit and there is significant activity and development throughout. You can hear the activity associated with the Skyline Mine anywhere within the unit. A vent is on the western boundary with a large dug out parking area. State Highway 31 forms the southwestern boundary. It is open and receives a high level of traffic year-round. State Highway 64 forms the northern and northwestern boundary. It is open and receives a high level of traffic year-round. They are both Scenic Byways. Throughout the unit, there is a lot of logging traffic and activity associated with ongoing vegetation treatments. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. In the southern portion of the unit, you can see quite a few cabins. The road that runs down the middle of the unit is a ridge with views on either side of private land developments. The Monument Peak road that runs along the ridge gets some dispersed recreation around the hunting season, firewood gathering, and snowmobiling. Currently, there is a lot of logging traffic. In the very southern portion of unit, it is possible to experience some solitude in Sawmill Canyon and Short Canyon.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Primitive recreation opportunities include hunting, horseback riding, fishing, and hiking. There are seasonal road closures in the spring that affect access and use of the area.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, two populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout, a species of conservation concern, two known goshawk territories in the north part of the unit, one peregrine falcon eyrie, five golden eagle nests in the southern half of the unit, and big game crucial summer range.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations in the area is pervasive, making it impossible to manage most of the area to preserve wilderness characteristics. There is a signed decision to have a powerline put in the northern portion of the unit that will be approximately two miles long. Ongoing Mine timber sale activity is occurring in the area to remove beetle killed trees. There is a cherry stem road down the middle of the unit along almost the entire length of the ridge. Most of the unit is in a Wildland Urban Interface. There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit. The state of Utah has jurisdiction over multiple active coal leases throughout the northern portion of the area. The unit is adjacent to private land to the west and northeastern portions of the area. There is private land and mining development and activity in those areas. The shape of the unit is two distinct lobes in the north and south with a narrow pinch point in the middle of the unit between two privately owned areas.

Manageability: No**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 1328-Trough Springs Ridge experiences high density multiple use and there are few opportunities for solitude. A dead-end road runs through the middle of the unit, along the ridge. There is active logging in this unit.

Table 45. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Trough Springs Ridge unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Moderate	No	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers notes the unit is within the Skyline Mine lease boundary, activities associated with the mine in this area include exploration work such as drilling and seismic surveys, along with monitoring sites. Reviewers described the area as heavily used for camping along the road during hunting season. Reviewers described previous vegetation treatments in this area, making much of the landscape appear altered, and suggested the unit should be given a low rating for wilderness characteristics.

Reviewers noted a stretch of road that connects Trough Springs Road and Castle Valley Ridge Road, a southern portion of Long Canyon Road, and the Monument Peak Spur Road as missing from the previous narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Additional comments received recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to the low overall rating.

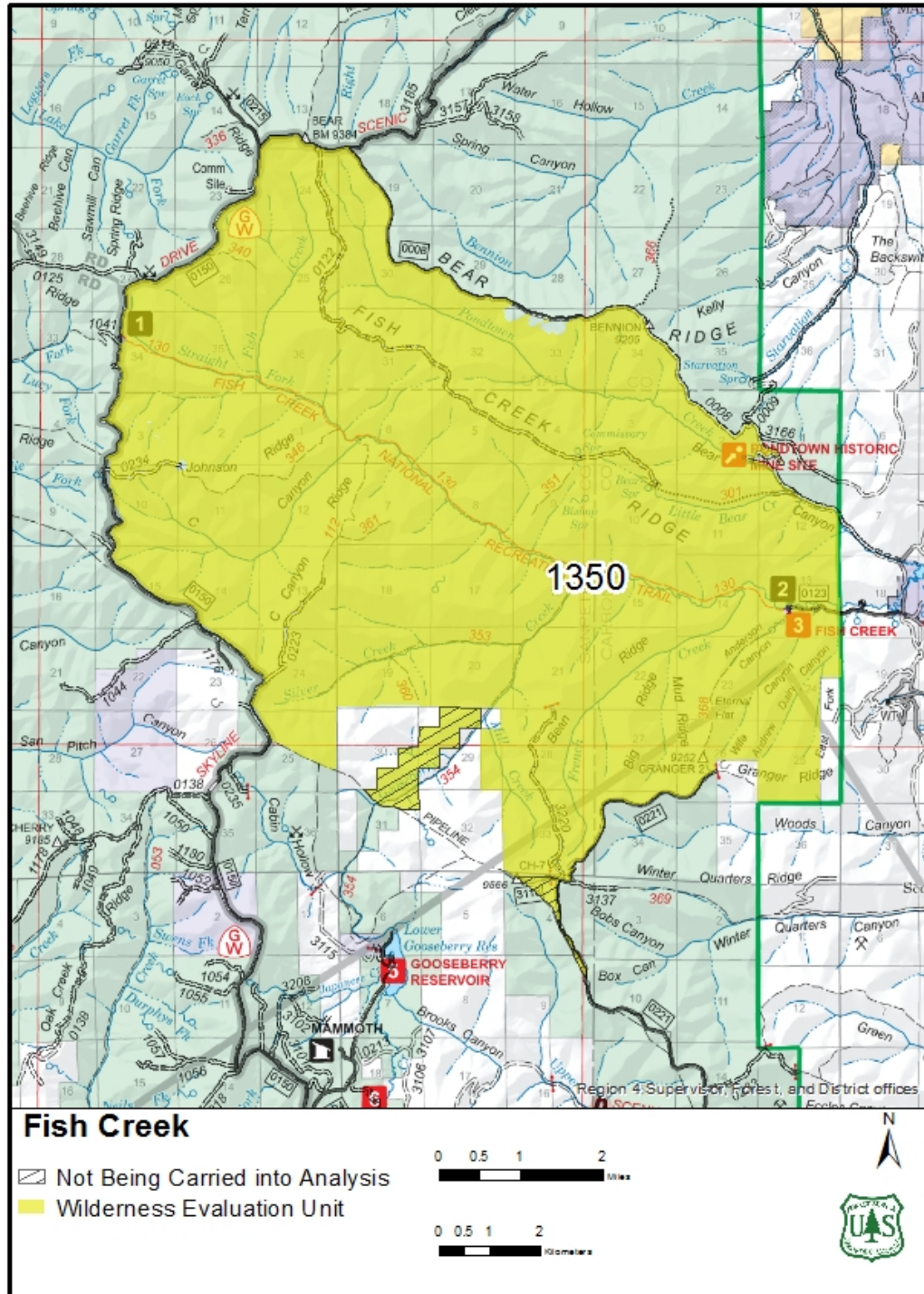
1350-Fish Creek

Name: Fish Creek

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1350

Acres: evaluation 36,158, analysis 30,499



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in some areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon-juniper, white fir, and mountain maple. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. A variety of game and non-game wildlife and habitat are present in the area including three northern goshawk territories, west of Scofield reservoir, moose, crucial big game summer range for both deer and elk, a Priority Sage Grouse Habitat Management Area, willow flycatcher, and five Lewis' woodpecker nests. Non-native invasive species are present in the unit in some isolated or scattered spots. Musk thistle can be found all along the roadsides and in past burn areas. There are also five acres of yellow toadflax. Diffuse and spotted knapweed are present in small numbers along Skyline Drive on the west side of the unit.

Rating: Low

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Several fires, and fuels projects have been conducted in the area, affecting the apparent naturalness in some locations. All the burns look natural with aspen regeneration and some non-native thistle in the burned areas. There are no dozer lines, but there may be a containment line, though the effect is minimal on the landscape. While some fires were high intensity, most burned in a typical mosaic pattern with high and low severity fire mixed throughout the burn area. Additionally, there were spruce and fir harvest areas along Granger Ridge. Removal of bug killed spruce stands show high contrast compared to unaffected adjacent uncut spruce and fir stands. Over 80 percent of the spruce in these project areas have been removed. Aspen harvest areas along Bear Ridge occurred in 1998. About 150 acres of clear-cut aspen stands south of the Bear Ridge road is present and blends well into the surrounding landscape, though some stumps are visible.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area, may be concentrated in some spots, but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include three earthen stock ponds and six water troughs or tanks. There is about one mile of old gas pipeline in the Cabin Hollow area that has been cleared of vegetation. The cleared area of about 50 feet is somewhat parallel with the new pipeline and is very noticeable on the landscape. There are five user-created trails on the north end that are primarily small cherry stems off Fish Creek Ridge and Bear Ridge. There is 1.5 miles of motorized trail, 21 miles of non-motorized trail, including the 10-mile Fish Creek National Recreation Trail. There is 1 unnoticeable oil and gas

development and a cleared area approximately 40 yards wide for the Questar pipeline. 664 acres or about 2 percent of the unit is within coal leases.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. The Fish Creek Drainage has a high level of solitude, however, the top third of the Fish Creek Drainage is heavily snowmobiled. Skyline Drive forms the western boundary. It receives a high level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. The northern boundary is formed by the Bear Ridge road. It gets extensive off highway vehicle use as it is a part of a well-known loop trail. This road also is groomed in the winter and receives a high level of motorized winter use. South of the unit there are the Gooseberry developments which include hundreds of cabins. Opportunities for solitude exist in the canyons and draws. Some cross-country skiing occurs in the bottom of the drainage. Fish Creek National Recreation Trail gets moderate use beginning in July and heavier use for hunting in the fall. Use in the spring and early summer is light. User-created trails are mostly used during the hunting season. Mountain biking occurs on ten miles of the Fish Creek National Recreation Trail.

Rating: Moderate

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

There are abundant opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and these opportunities are of high quality. This area is very popular for hunting and other non-motorized recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and camping. The area provides opportunities for challenge and risk with no controls on visitor behavior.

Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, three known goshawk territories, moose, big game crucial summer range, a Priority Sage Grouse Habitat Management Area, willow flycatcher, and Lewis' woodpecker nests.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No, the Pond Town Coal Mine is locally significant. A few National Register eligible lithic scatters are also present.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

Yes, Fish Creek was found to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation and 80 percent of Scofield Reservoir's water supply comes from this drainage.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. 22,519 acres or about 73 percent of the unit is within the Price River Inventoried Roadless Area. There are several cherry stem roads in the unit, as well as motorized use on user-created trails off the cherry stem roads. There is some Wildland Urban Interface in the south and west, and coal leases in the southeast corner. There is an active range allotment that would require some motorized access and maintenance of range improvements at least annually. There is established motorized use on an existing motorized trail, as well as established mountain bike use on the Fish Creek National Recreation Trail. Dispersed camping occurs along the boundary and many roads and developments are visible from within the unit.

Manageability: Moderate**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 1350-Fish Creek is a mostly non-motorized unit that provides opportunities for semi-primitive recreation and solitude. It contains a National Recreation Trail and is an important source of water for Scofield Reservoir.

Table 46. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Fish Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Reviewers identified several roads as unaddressed in the original draft narrative and as having impacts on wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Additional comments received recommended the unit be removed from further consideration due to invasive species management and sage grouse habitat management.

Unit to be Analyzed

30,498 acres of the Fish Creek unit will be carried forward into the Analysis Step. However, 497 acres along the southern boundary consisting of a protrusion along Gooseberry Creek surrounded by private land, and an extremely narrow strip protruding south of Bean Ridge will be dropped from consideration. These areas would be very difficult to manage to protect wilderness characteristics.

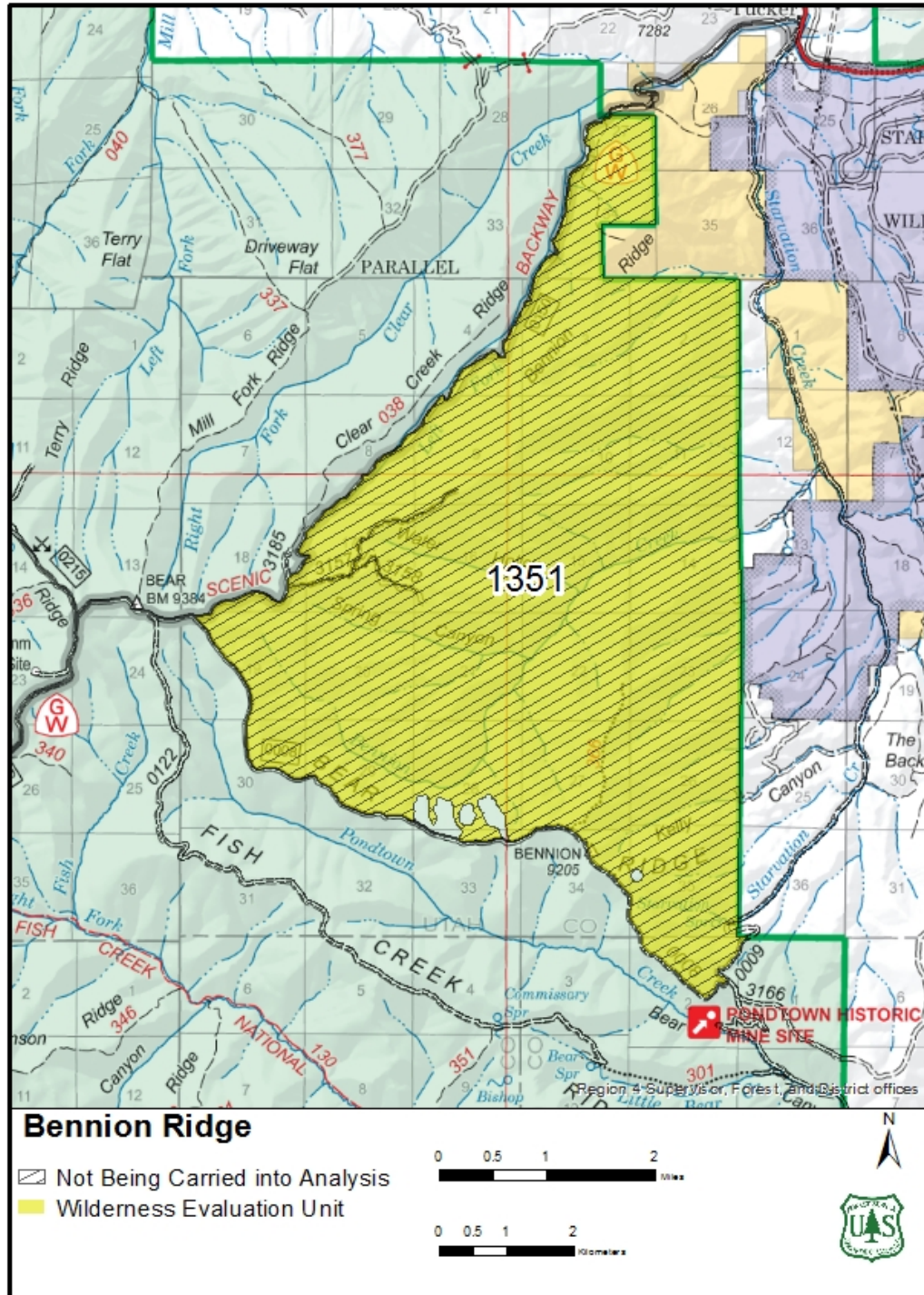
1351-Bennion Ridge

Name: Bennion Ridge

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1351

Acres: 13,285



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. A broad pattern of pinyon and juniper at lower elevations and Douglas fir and oak brush higher up dominates this unit. Aspen occupies most of the area along Bear Ridge. A variety of game and non-game species are found in the area, as well as species of special status like the Bonneville cutthroat trout, a core population of which occupies Bennion Creek, and a non-core population Left Fork of Clear Creek. There is one known goshawk territory at the very north end of the unit near Clear Creek Ridge. The unit also has key and general big game winter range. Non-native species are found scattered along most roadsides and motorized routes.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no noticeable vegetation treatments in the unit.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include three earthen stocks and eight water troughs or tanks. There is buried pipe along the middle of the road that feeds troughs, but only air vents are present. Trails include 1.6 miles of motorized trail in the south and 18 miles of user-created trail. There are two oil and gas developments and one not noticeable mining feature. The unit also contains one SNOTEL site.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. The southern end of the unit is flat and open grass and meadows, so vegetation and terrain provide little screening from other uses. Dispersed camping along the Bennion Ridge and Bear Ridge is prevalent. A visitor can see roads from many places in the unit. There are three different sheep allotments totaling approximately 3000 sheep that graze the area. The area sees very heavy hunting use beginning mid-August

through October. Bear Ridge road gets extensive motorized use as it is a part of a well-known loop trail. That road also is groomed in the winter and receives a high level of motorized winter use. The town of Scofield is to the south of the allotment and can be seen from places within the unit. Just adjacent to the unit is a Girls Camp that brings visitors to the area during the summer months.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. High quality hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and dispersed camping are all possible in the area. There are few established trails in the area and no closures or user restrictions.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Bonneville cutthroat trout is present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. 11,439 acres or about 86 percent of the unit is within the Bennion Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. Cherry stem roads penetrate the unit with long user-created roads that extend further into the unit. No coal or oil or mineral leases are within the unit. Adjacent land to the east is private, state and Bureau of Land Management land with some development occurring. This unit has three active grazing allotments with 3000 head of sheep. Range improvements would need to be accessed and maintained with motorized and mechanized equipment and vehicles. The west end of the area is flat and sparse. Flat open areas also make it difficult to keep motorized uses out of meadows and grassy areas. The development of user-created trails has been a consistent issue over time.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1351-Bennion Ridge provides few opportunities for solitude. Recreation is popular along Bennion Ridge and Bear Ridge, particularly in the fall.

Table 47. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Bennion Ridge unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers identified a portion of road as having been undescribed in the narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to an overall value of low.

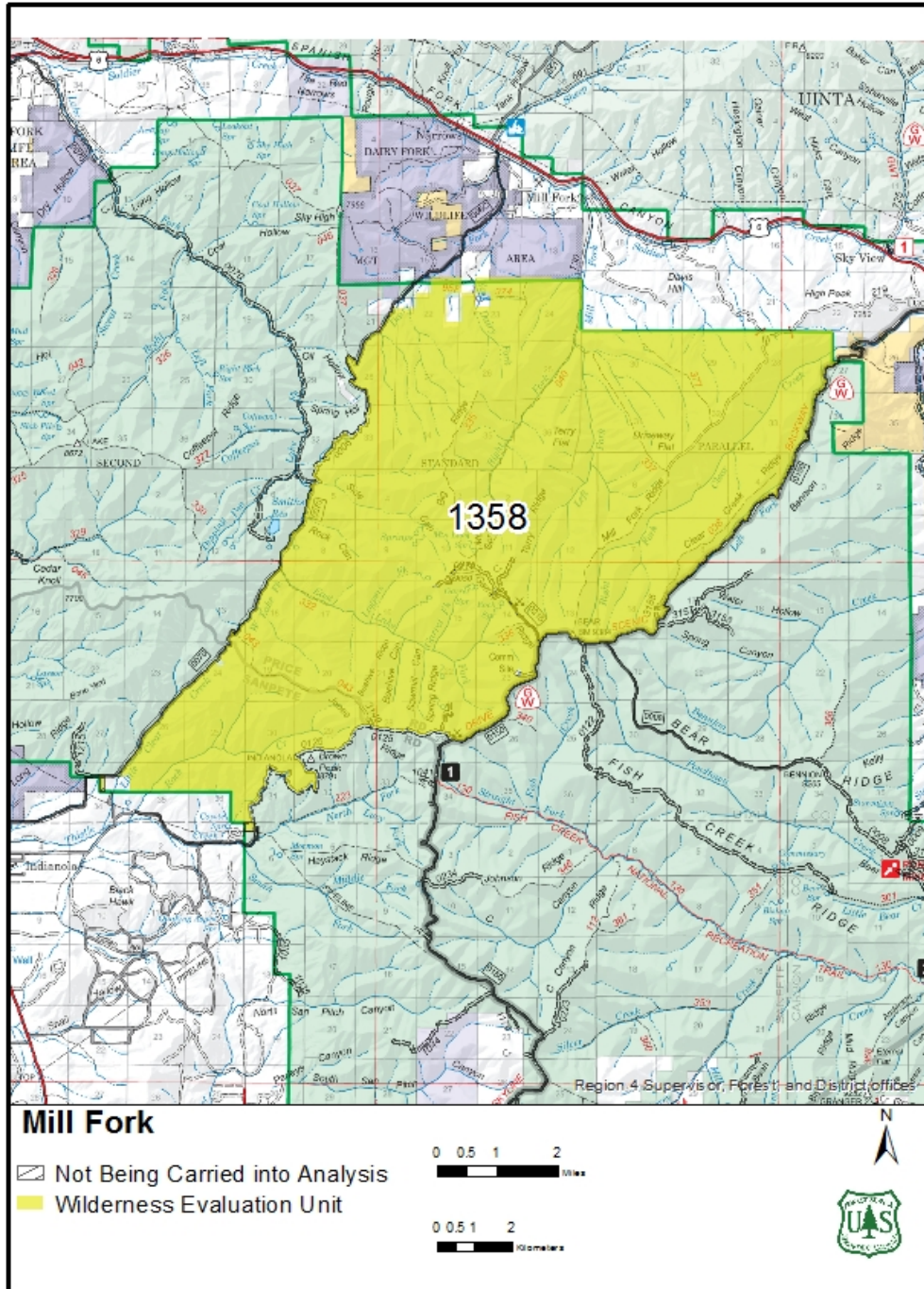
1358-Mill Fork

Name: Mill Fork

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1358

Acres: evaluation 32,650, analysis 32,602



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Dominant vegetation is pinyon and juniper at lower elevations. Oak brush dominates the higher elevations and the south and west sides of the highland above Spanish Fork Canyon. A variety of game and non-game species can be found in the area. Bonneville cutthroat trout is a species of special status that can be found in East Fork of Lake Fork Creek and Right Fork of Clear Creek. The area has general big game winter range on the very north end of the Forest boundary. The state of Utah has identified the area as crucial spring habitat for both deer and elk. Non-native invasive species can be found in some isolated areas including smooth brome, a small amount of cheat grass, 160 acres of white top, and about 250 acres of musk thistle. White top is scattered throughout. Russian and square rose knapweed have been found along a roadside, though new invasions are currently less than one acre in size.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no noticeable vegetation treatments in the unit. The Baldy and Cedar fires as well as some vegetation treatments have occurred in the area, but they are not apparent to the average visitor and. Weeds have been treated with herbicide throughout the unit.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include: 23 water troughs or tanks, 4 miles of letdown barbed wire fence, and 1 cattle corral made of wood. Trails include 16 miles of non-motorized trail and approximately 13 miles of user-created trails coming off the private lands along Highway 6 to the north. There are two oil and gas developments, though they are generally not noticeable.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. There is not a lot of use in the area except during the fall hunting season. Skyline Drive forms the eastern boundary. It receives a high level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. The Indianola and Dairy Fork roads form the western boundary. They receive a high level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the roads. High traffic roads surround the unit. Bear hunting occurs in the spring, summer, and fall and shed hunting occurs in the spring. The non-motorized trail gets very little use. The area gets a fair amount of use by range permittees on one cattle allotment, with less than 500 head, and two sheep allotments with between 2000 and 3000 sheep. Maintenance of the range improvements occurs with motorized equipment. Away from roads and trails and in the deep incised canyons, opportunities to experience a high level of solitude are possible. Roads are present on most ridge tops in the south, but little use in the north.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Opportunities to bear and shed hunt, hike, camp, horseback ride, and dispersed camp are possible in the area. There are no restrictions or controls on user behavior and the steep incised canyons provide opportunity for challenge and risk.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Bonneville cutthroat trout is present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and other management is scattered and makes management to preserve wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. 30,143 acres or about 92 percent of the unit is within Dairy Fork Inventoried Roadless Area. Shape and configuration of the unit present some management challenges, including the presence of private land inholdings in the northern portion of the unit, cherry stem roads that jut into the unit, and high traffic roads surrounding the unit. Range management activities for two sheep allotments and one cattle allotment occur in the area and use motorized and mechanized equipment and transportation for access and maintenance of range improvements. A portion of the area is in a designated Wildland Urban Interface.

Manageability: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1358-Mill Fork is a dry and remote area with little access in the northern portion. A road intersects the unit and is mainly used by off highway vehicles. The area is popular for bear hunting.

Table 48. *Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Mill Fork unit.*

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Reviewers identified Mill Fork Road as unaddressed in the draft narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management, and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will be carried into the analysis step, except for two small protrusions along the southern boundary of the unit totaling about 23 acres. Removing these small protrusions should provide a more cohesive unit configuration which would be easier to manage for wilderness characteristics. The remaining 32,602 acres will be carried into the analysis step.

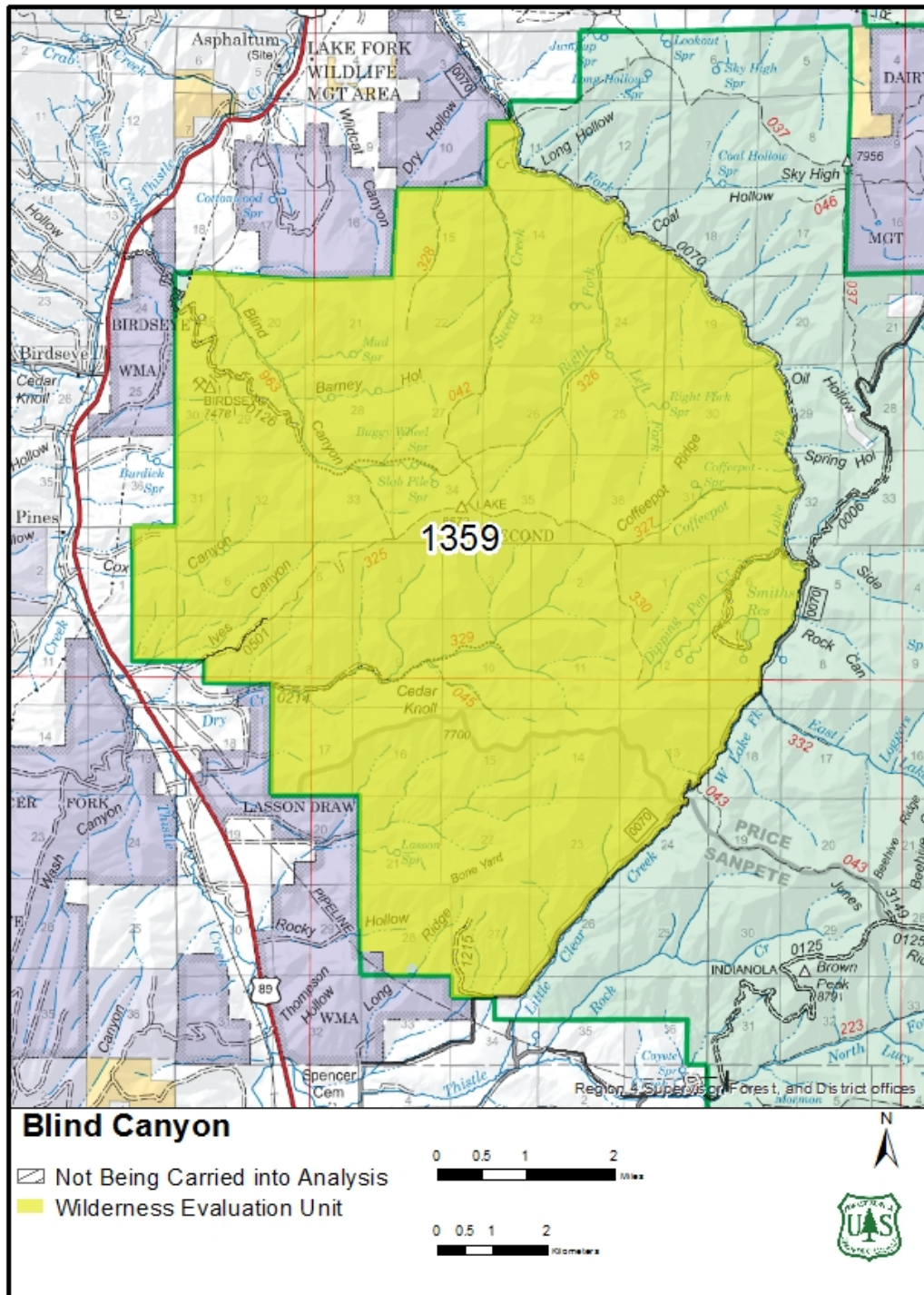
1359-Blind Canyon

Name: Blind Canyon

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1359

Acres: evaluation 29,881, analysis 29,878



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Pinyon and juniper occur at lower elevations. Higher up, oak brush dominates the south and west sides of the highland above Spanish Fork Canyon. A variety of game and non-game species are found in the area, as well as key and general big game winter range along the Forest boundary to the west. Non-native invasive species include 400 acres of musk thistle, white top and scotch thistle. Most of it occurs along the roadside, but there are dense patches of white top around the reservoir. Along Lake Fork road, smooth brome was planted, but looks natural.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Over 1000 acres of sagebrush, oak, and pinyon juniper in Blind Canyon were chained and replanted as smooth brome. Several prescribed natural fires have occurred in the area, in 1997, 2009, 2010 and 2018. All of these left some visible stumps and fire lines. Removal of pinyon and juniper through hand treatment and machinery has occurred and may remain visible for many years into the future. Fuel break projects along Forest Road 50232 to Smith's Reservoir and along a portion of the Lake Fork Canyon Road 50070 extend 150 feet into the unit. 30 to 40 acres of mahogany around a wildlife guzzler were treated in the late 1990s and some evidence of the treatment remains.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include: two wildlife guzzlers painted to look like the landscape and surrounded by fence, eight water troughs or tanks, three miles of barbed wire let down fence, and two half-acre wood cattle corrals. Trails consist of eighteen miles of user-created off highway vehicle trail, two and a half miles of motorized trails that extend into this unit from the end of forest roads, and ten and a half miles of non-motorized trail. There are also two mining features, five not noticeable oil and gas developments, an open pit for an individual mining claim with a road maintained and visible on the landscape, and a reservoir with an earthen dam.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

A common or significant feeling of being alone or remote from civilization is possible throughout the unit. The Lake Fork and Indianola road forms the western boundary. It receives a high level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude near the road. The unit sees light use on the motorized and non-motorized trails. Use increases during hunting season, but otherwise it is rare to see people. The area is in an active range allotment with some range improvements and up to 400 head of cattle on the landscape for 3 to 4 months of the year.

Rating: High

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Bear hunting, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, and shed hunting opportunities are in the area. There are steep and rugged canyons that provide a measure of challenge and risk to visitors.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: High

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Bonneville cutthroat trout is present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and other management is scattered and makes management to preserve wilderness characteristics possible throughout the unit. 22,427 acres or 75 percent of the unit is within Cedar Knoll Inventoried Roadless Area. The Bureau of Land Management has oil and gas leases in the southern part of the unit, but likelihood of development is low. Land adjacent to the unit in the west and north is being treated, by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, to remove pinyon and juniper. This work can be seen and heard from within the unit. There is a powerline adjacent to the unit that would need frequent maintenance. Cherry stem roads and user-created trails jut into the unit. There is heavy dispersed camping along Lake Fork Canyon road. There is a small amount of Wildland Urban Interface in the south. There is an active range allotment with improvements that need ongoing maintenance and access.

Manageability: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1359-Blind Canyon is a very remote and dry unit. Some dispersed camping occurs along the eastern boundary.

Table 49. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Blind Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management, and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will be carried into the analysis step, with a minor adjustment to the unit of two acres. Two acres were eliminated from the unit to buffer the road into Ives Canyon, Forest Road 0501.

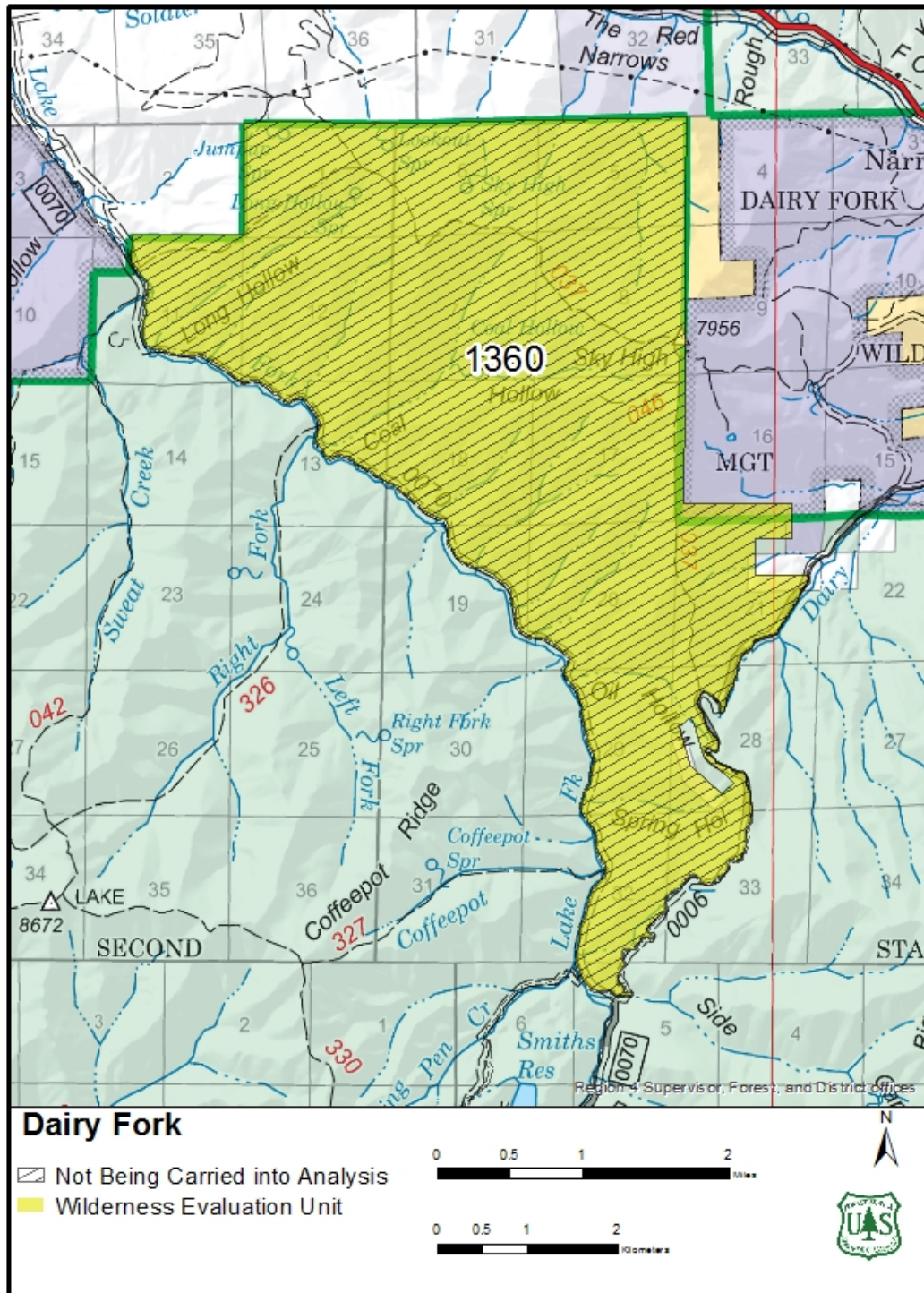
1360-Dairy Fork

Name: Dairy Fork

Ranger District: Price

Number: 1360

Acres: 7,621



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Dominant vegetation is pinyon and juniper at lower elevations and oak brush in the higher elevations. Oak brush dominates the south and west sides of the highland above Spanish Fork Canyon. A variety of game and non-game species can be found in the area. Species and habitats of note include the Bonneville cutthroat trout which is a species of conservation concern and State Conservation Species in the east and right fork of Lake Fork Creek and general big game winter range along the forest boundary to the north and east. Non-native species include 23 acres of inventoried musk thistle, white top, and scotch thistle all along the roadsides.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in some isolated spots. Evidence from vegetation treatments include some piles and mastication evidence resulting from the fire break along several miles of road, creating a very hard edge with stumps. Pinyon and juniper were removed east and west of the Dairy Fork Road, Forest Road 50006. There was a fuel break project with vegetative clearing along the Lake Fork Canyon Road 50070, as well. Vegetation was removed for approximately 150 feet on each side of the road to create a fire break, resulting in a noticeable change from the surrounding environment. This zone coincides with the dispersed camping zone along these roads so the fuel break will be maintained into the future. The southeast portion of the unit has undergone pinyon and juniper removal, resulting in chips along a couple miles of road that would be noticeable for a year or two.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

The presence or appearance of improvements does not detract from apparent naturalness. Range improvements include five water troughs and approximately two miles of barbed wire fence. There is less than one mile of user-created road and just over seven miles of the non-motorized Sky-High Trail.

Rating: High

Apparent Naturalness Rating: High

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. The deep canyons of the unit offer a high degree of screening, especially when closer to the State Wildlife Management Area in the eastern portion of the area. The Lake Fork and Dairy Fork roads form the southwestern and southeastern boundaries. They receive a high level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the roads. South of Sky-High Trail, opportunities to experience solitude are higher and decrease as you go north of the road. Considerable effects on solitude result from the sights and sounds of the train track that runs along U.S. Highway 6, north of the unit. It can be seen and heard multiple times a day.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation and existing opportunities are generally poor quality. Bear hunting, shed hunting, fishing, and hiking could be done in the area.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Bonneville cutthroat trout is present, species of conservation concern and State Conservation Species.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. 6,246 acres or about 82 percent of the unit is within Coal Hollow Inventoried Roadless Area. Effects from surrounding uses to the manageability of the unit is a primary challenge. The area is surrounded on two sides by roads and on the third side by train tracks and has a high edge-to-interior ratio, making sights and sounds from surrounding uses pervasive throughout the unit. In addition, access to the unit is very limited. Since the north and northeast are surrounded by State of Utah, private and Bureau of Land Management land ownerships, there are only two access points in the south. Coal Hollow Canyon is the only area within this unit where the effects from adjacent uses would not be pervasive.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1360-Dairy Fork is a popular bear hunting area, though access to the unit is limited. Sights and sounds from surrounding areas are pervasive in the unit.

Table 50. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Dairy Fork unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
High	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

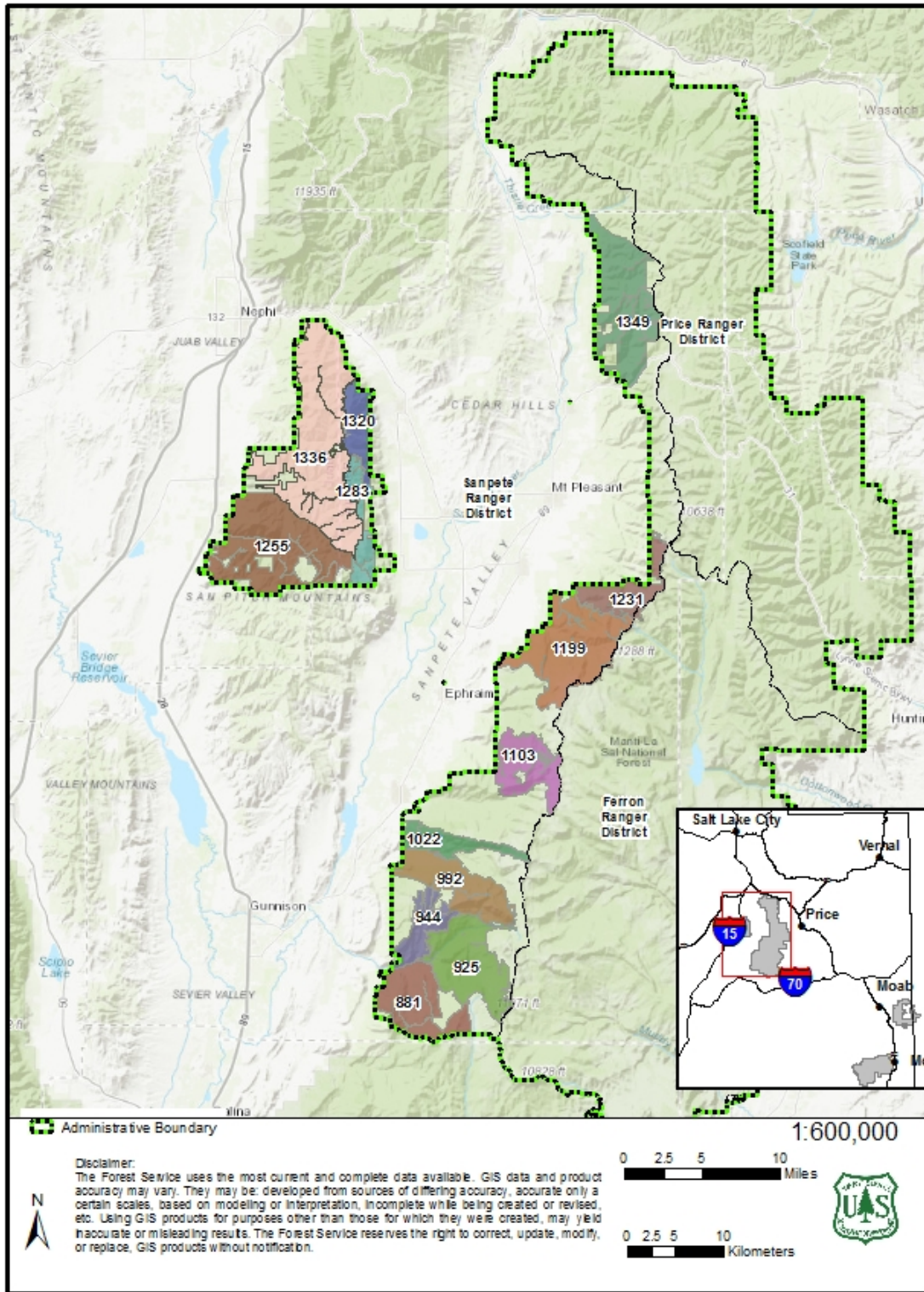
Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the Analysis Step due to an overall Low value.

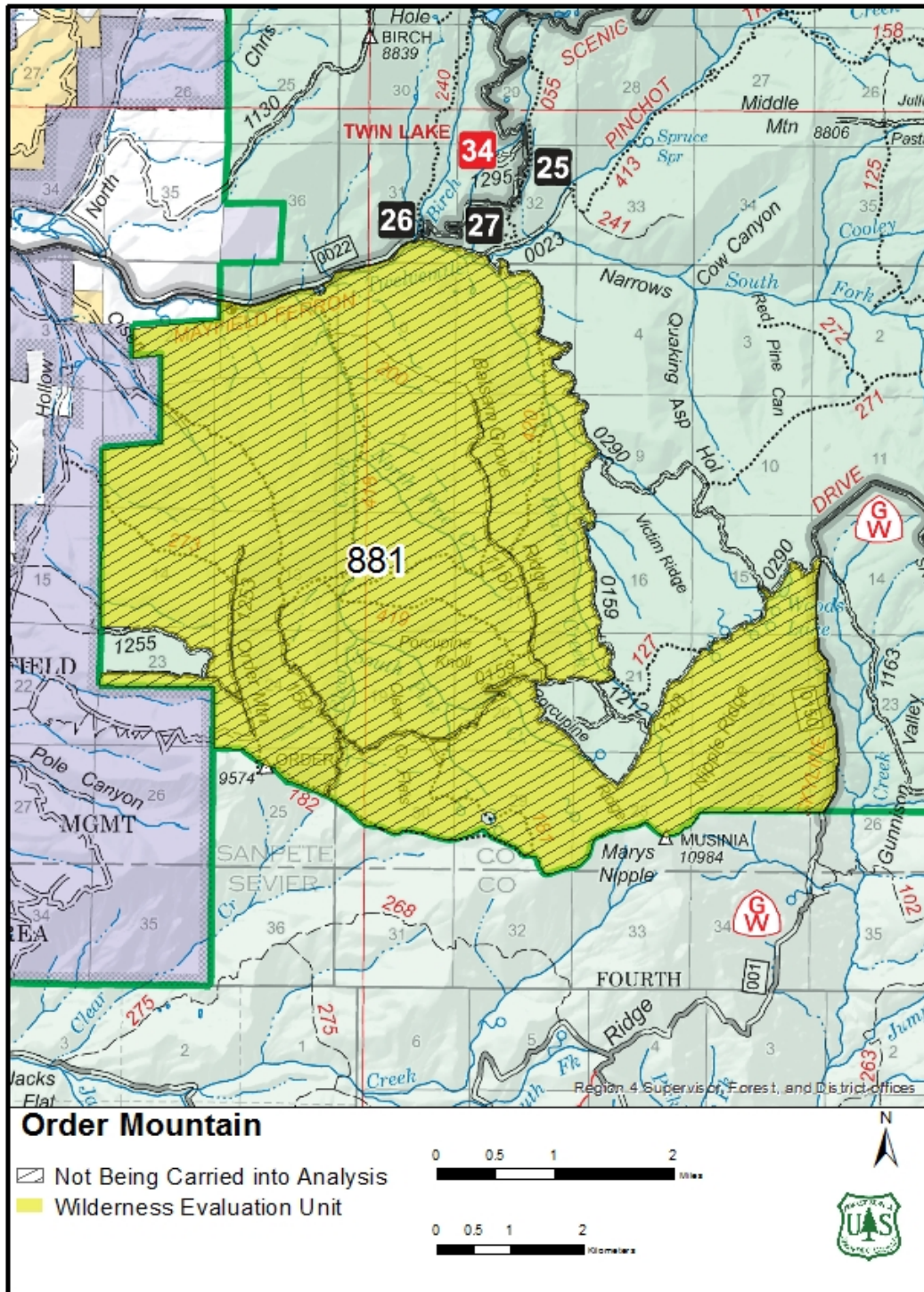
Sanpete District



881-Order Mountain

Name: Order Mountain

Ranger District: Sanpete



Number: 881

Acres: 11,971

Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Vegetation in the lower elevations is dominated by pinyon-juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. Animal communities appear natural in most areas. In addition to common forest species, big game species, and species of conservation concern American pika can be found within the unit. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots or low numbers scattered throughout, including white top, Russian, and diffuse knapweed scattered along roads, and musk thistle scattered along roads.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots, specifically in relation to multiple prescribed fires, as well as a high intensity prescribed natural fire that occurred within the area. The Beaver Creek Burn in 1994 affected five percent of the area and is apparent on the landscape as resulting forms and lines differ from the surrounding landscape.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas. Prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area and is often concentrated. Although spots where improvements are absent or unseen are uncommon, they exist. Range improvements include twelve stock ponds, five water troughs or tanks and four miles of barbed wire fence in the south of the unit. Additionally, there is a wildlife guzzler for big game, twelve miles of motorized trail, and three and a half miles of non-motorized trail. There is also about six miles of user-created motorized trail. Most of the system motorized trails are part of the Arapeen Trail System.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Little opportunity of feeling alone can be found in the area. Human activities or presence is common, and signs of civilization are common or likely. From May through October the unit receives high use on the motorized system, as well as motorized use off the system trails. The Mayfield Canyon road forms the northwestern boundary, it receives a relatively high level of use, decreasing opportunity for solitude when near the road. Additionally, range management activities occur all summer. Some opportunity for solitude may be experienced when on top of Musinia Peak.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Hunting, peak bagging, hiking, horseback riding, and dispersed camping opportunities can be found in the area.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, one species of conservation concern, American pika. There is one rare plant, *Packera musiniensis*.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, Musinia Peak. This prominent landmark is visible from various locations throughout the area and from large distances across the landscape. It is visible from south of Richfield, from the Skyline Trail and from Salina Canyon.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. 3,412 acres or about 28 percent of the unit is within the Musinia Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. Several small and one large cherry stem road dissects the area, though they receive these roads receive low use, primarily by hunters during the hunting seasons. There is a small area identified as Wildland Urban Interface near the Whitlock Cabin. Motorized trails and current off highway vehicle use would make the area challenging to manage for preservation of wilderness characteristics. Additional challenges to preserving wilderness characteristics include ongoing motorized use and access of the area for range management.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 881-Order Mountain contains Musinia Peak, one of the Sanpete Ranger District's best locations for outstanding views. Motorized trails, including segments of the Arapeen off highway vehicle Trail System, are spatially distributed throughout the area and are heavily used in the fall.

Table 51. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Order Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to cherry stem roads, vegetation management concerns for aspen, and invasive species management.

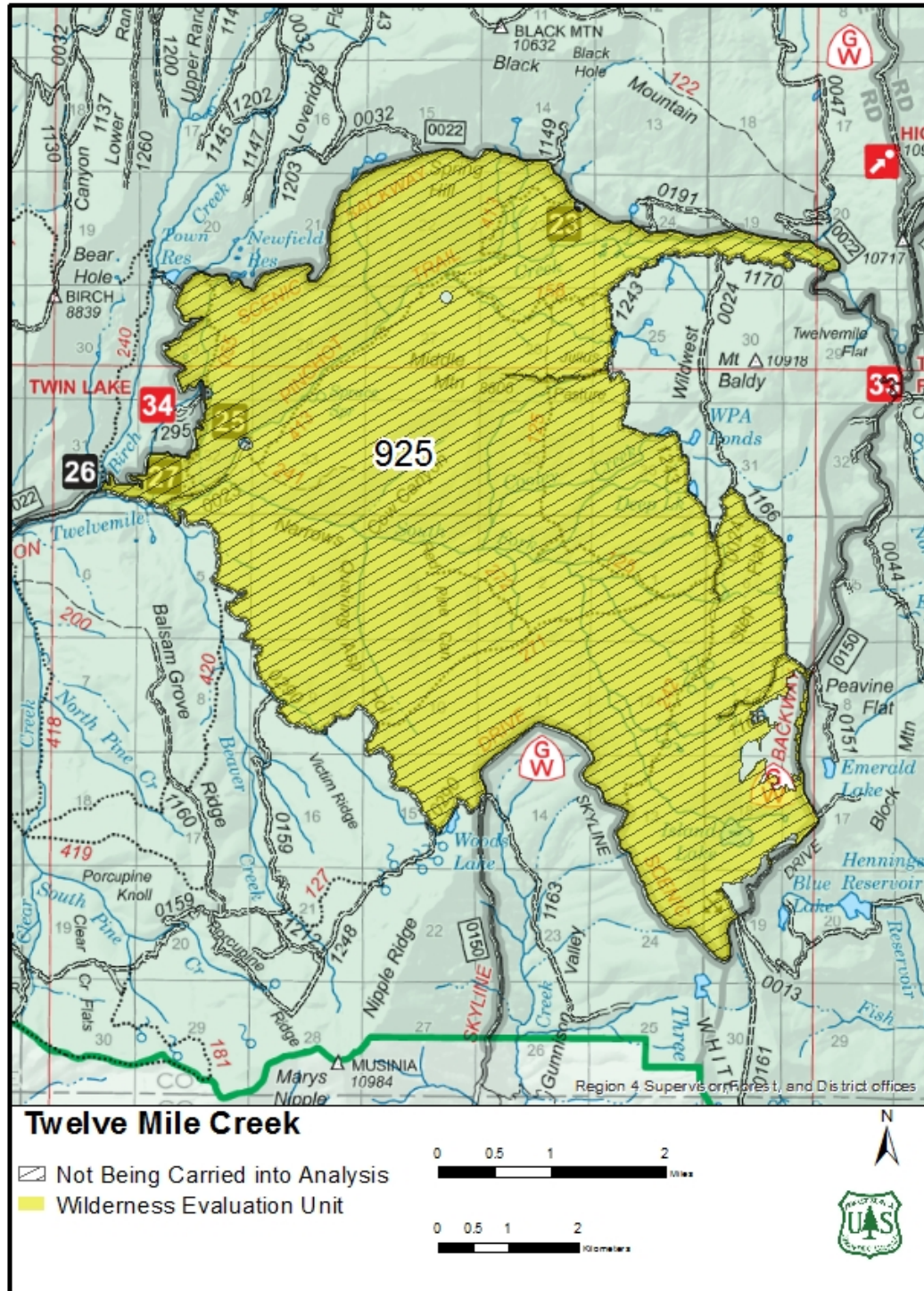
Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to the low overall value.

925-Twelve Mile Creek

Name: Twelve Mile Creek

Ranger District: Sanpete



Number: 925

Acres: 14,741

Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. Species of conservation concern plant, *Penstemon tidentromii* is present. Animals present include elk, mountain lion, raptors, Coopers hawks, and bear. Non-native invasive species include, scattered musk thistle, white top in the bottom of the canyon, and scattering of Russian and diffuse knapweed.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural, though several areas have had vegetation treatments, affecting less than five percent of the area. Spruce beetle have killed over 90 percent of the spruce in stands. Even though this is a natural occurrence, removing the dead trees now show noticeable contrast in line and form to adjacent unaffected stands.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include: 5 stock ponds, 6 water tanks, approximately 25 miles of primarily barbed wire fence, with a bit of log worm fence. Roads include, approximately four and a half miles of user-created off highway vehicle-width route. Trails within this unit include several motorized trails comprising the twelve miles of the Arapeen off highway vehicle Trail System. One mile of non-motorized trail is in the area. Old roads have been reclaimed and are not substantially noticeable. Mining drill pads have been revegetated and are not substantially noticeable. Recreation sites include two isolated native log cabins with metal roofs that are largely screened by surrounding mixed conifer vegetation and mostly decomposed into the ground. These structures may be considered part of the historical landscape of this area.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the area. The motorized trail in this unit gets high use six months of the year. The Mayfield Canyon road forms the northern boundary and receives a high level of use from May to November, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. Roads surround the entire unit, but there is less motorized use on the southern boundary roads. Access and maintenance of range improvements with motorized equipment and transport occurs annually. The fall has a pulse of higher use throughout the unit due to hunting. Opportunities for solitude are possible in the southern part of the unit, away from motorized trails and higher use roads.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation. Any existing opportunities are poor. Primitive recreation opportunities include bear and big game hunting, hiking, backpacking, fishing, and horseback riding.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, plant species of conservation concern *Penstemon tidentromii*.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, the Twelve-Mile Canyon landslide is an active landslide area, which is one of the largest landslide areas in the country.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Several cherry stem roads jut into the area. There are twelve miles of high-use, motorized trails in the unit. Existing grazing infrastructure needs access and maintenance with motorized or mechanized equipment occurs on an annual basis. All the unit is identified as Wildland Urban Interface to protect the watershed. 11,633 acres or about 79 percent of the unit is within Twelve Mile Creek and Birch Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: No

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 925-Twelve Mile Creek is highly prone to landslide activity. It is a popular area for motorized recreation and includes segments of the Arapeen motorized trail system. Dispersed camping is popular in the north.

Table 52. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Twelve Mile Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Low	No	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers identified a section of road that connects Beaver Creek Road to Twelve Mile Road as having impacts on wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the Analysis Step due to the Low overall value.

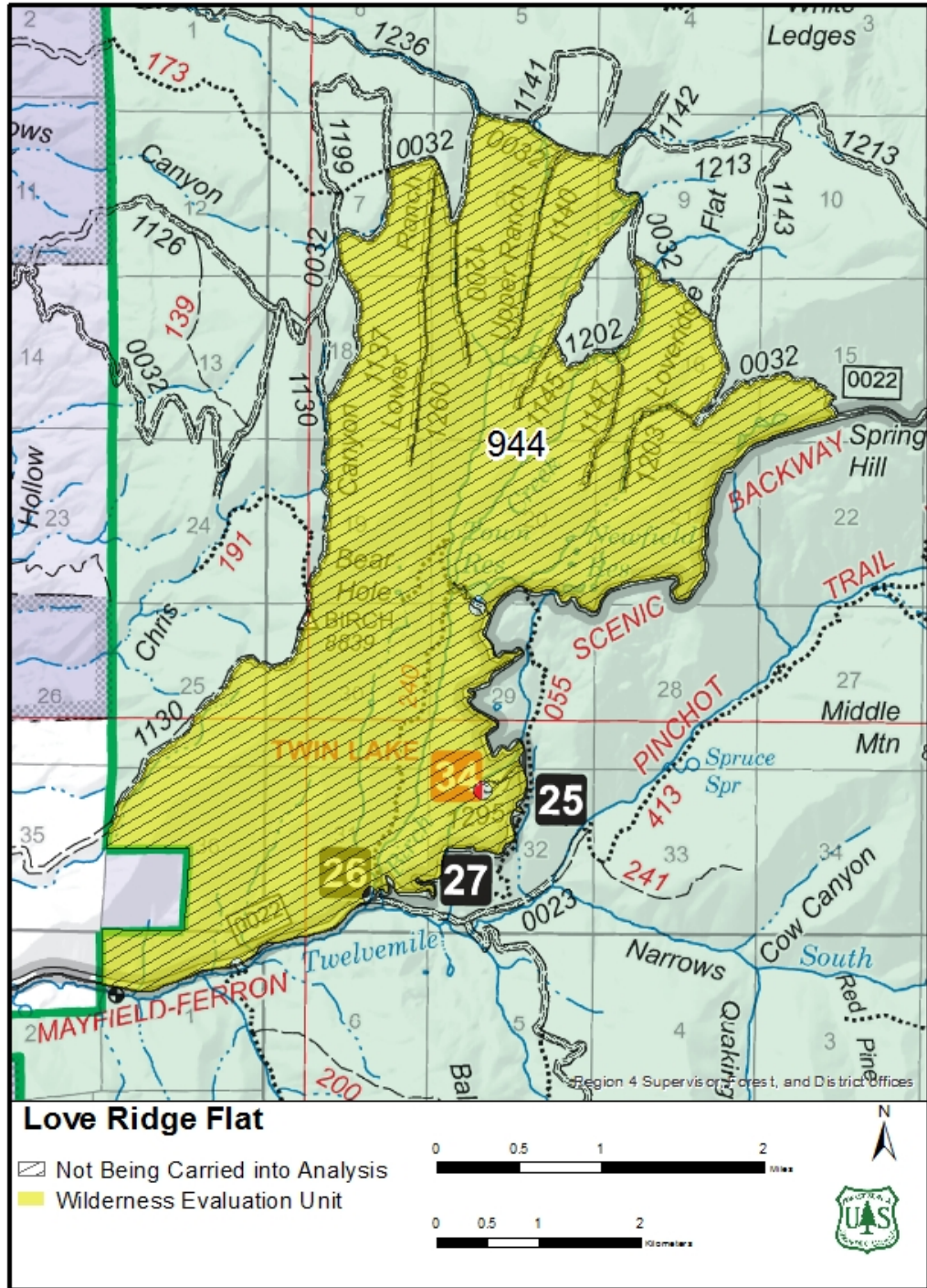
944-Love Ridge Flat

Name: Love Ridge Flat

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 944

Acres: 5,898



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. In lower elevation parts of the unit vegetation is dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. Higher elevation parts of the unit are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. Non-native invasive species along roads and disturbed areas. Common game and non-game species are found in the area. There is big game winter range in the lower elevations.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Vegetation treatments include a prescribed burn in the north end of the unit in 1989 that is no longer evident on the landscape, and tractor and disking treatments to remove sagebrush on about ten percent of the north part of the unit. Rows where the plow and the tractor removed the vegetation can still be seen on the landscape.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area, though appearance of improvements detracts from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include, six earthen stock ponds, one water tank, and approximately two and a half miles of barbed wire fence. Watershed improvements include Town Reservoir, which is natural on three sides with an earthen dam. There is also an earthen dam associated with Twin Lake. Trails include the three-mile-long Birch Creek trail, motorized trail, that is part of the Arapeen motorized trail system.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit due to motorized activities on cherry stem roads and the presence and use of the motorized Birch Creek trail from May to October. The

Mayfield Canyon road forms the southern boundary, it receives a high level of use from May to November, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation and any existing opportunities are poor. Hunting, hiking, fishing, dispersed camping, horseback riding, and firewood gathering could occur in the area.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Low

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations in the area is pervasive, making it impossible to manage most of the area to preserve wilderness characteristics. Cherry stem roads in the north and three miles of a high use motorized trail are primary management considerations. The unit is surrounded by roads, one of which being the Mayfield Canyon road, which is a high-use, well-traveled road. 4,687 acres or about 79 percent of the unit is within the Birch Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: No

Public Comment

Reviewers identified two road sections that are west and south of Town Reservoir not included in the draft narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management.

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 944-Love Ridge Flat is bisected by a motorized trail. Heavy dispersed camping occurs on the eastern portion of the unit.

Table 53. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Love Ridge Flat unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Low	No	Low

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

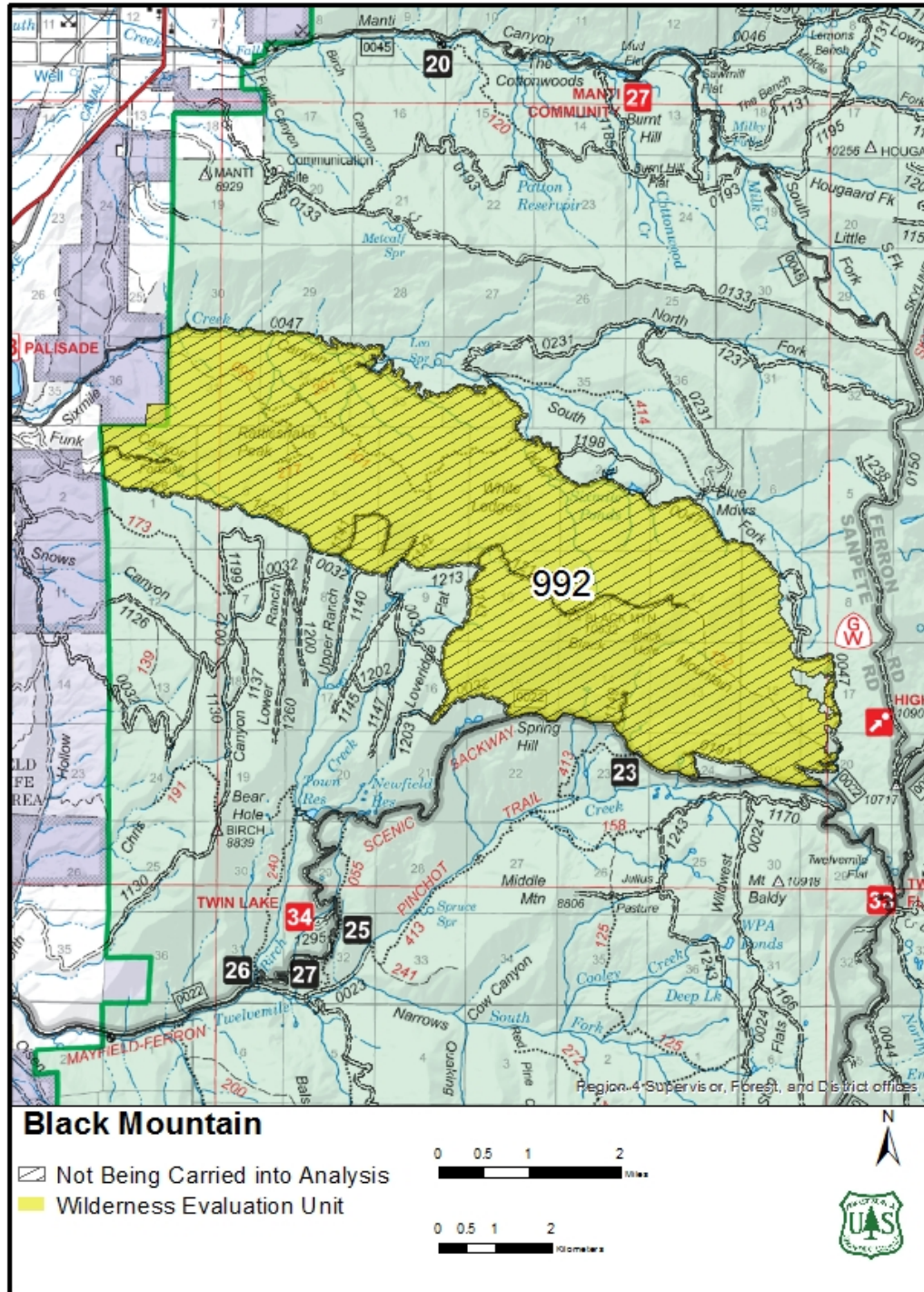
992-Black Mountain

Name: Black Mountain

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 992

Acres: 11,458



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. Vegetation on the flat iron ridges is banded and controlled by the fine scale pattern of north-south trending faults. Typically, big mountain sagebrush occupies fault valleys, mountain brush occupies western slopes facing the Sanpete Valley, and aspen occupies the eastern slopes. The southeastern portion of the unit contains the Grove of the Aspen Giants, which once contained very large aspen and is in the end of successional development. The giant aspens are mostly dead and have given way to younger, smaller aspen. The unit contains key areas for species of conservation concern American pika, as well as two existing goshawk territories near the northern boundary near Six Mile Ponds, a little bit of general winter range on the extreme western boundary, good summer habitat for deer and elk. Non-native species include musk thistle located along roads and trail systems, cheat grass along the northern boundary road in an area affected by fire, and alfalfa scattered throughout 2000 acres of the burn.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in scattered locations. Vegetation treatments include the Six-Mile Prescribed Burn that burned in a largely mosaic pattern typical of wildfire. Although substantially noticeable, change is comparable to that which would have occurred with a wildfire event. Six Mile timber salvage sale included removal of bug killed spruce stands which shows high contrast compared to unaffected adjacent uncut spruce-fir stands. Salvage logging of spruce to reduce negative impacts to vegetation resources have substantially altered the characteristic landscape. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 22 acres, or less than 1 percent, within this unit, 3 acres of which are in the Black Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area. It is common to find spots where improvements are absent or unseen. Range improvements include, two spring well developments with a spring box and buried pipeline that provides water to the town of Sterling, six earthen stock ponds, four water troughs, approximately four miles of barbed wire fencing, half mile of decommissioned roads apparent on the landscape from old timber sale. Trails

include 4.3 miles of motorized trails, as part of the Arapeen trail system, 4.7 miles of non-motorized trails, and 7.5 miles of user-created trails. There is also a cement diversion for a hydroelectric plant, 30 feet of pipeline buried in road with air pressure relief valves, and cement walls, and fish ladder.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. The unit has roads on all sides and an off-highway vehicle trail that runs through the middle of the unit. Palisade State Park at the bottom of the canyon is very popular and gets high use from May to October. The 6-Mile Canyon road was recently improved, is well maintained, and sees a high level of use. The southwest section of boundary road also gets highly used. Some dispersed camping occurs in the area. It is difficult to get away from the sight and sound of motorized use. In the far west of the unit near Rattlesnake Peak, some level of solitude may be experienced. The eastern half of the Black Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area is within this unit. It is currently managed as semi-primitive and motorized use occurs in the area.

Rating: Low

2b. What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Opportunities to hunt, fish, and hike are possible, but these opportunities are not of high quality.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Yes, American pika, Peterson's catchfly, and goshawk are present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No, two springs provide water to the nearby town of Sterling.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Management considerations include a motorized trail running through the middle of the area, cherry stem roads, user-created motorized routes, a hydropower plant development, under permit, range management activities, and spring well developments under special use permit. A small portion of the area will be affected by the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project. This unit is surrounded by roads. Approximately ten percent of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface. A portion of the Black Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area is within this unit.

Manageability: Low

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to wildland urban interface management.

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 992-Black Mountain is bisected by a motorized trail. Heavy dispersed camping occurs on the eastern portion of the unit.

Table 54. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Black Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Low	Low	Low

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to an overall low value.

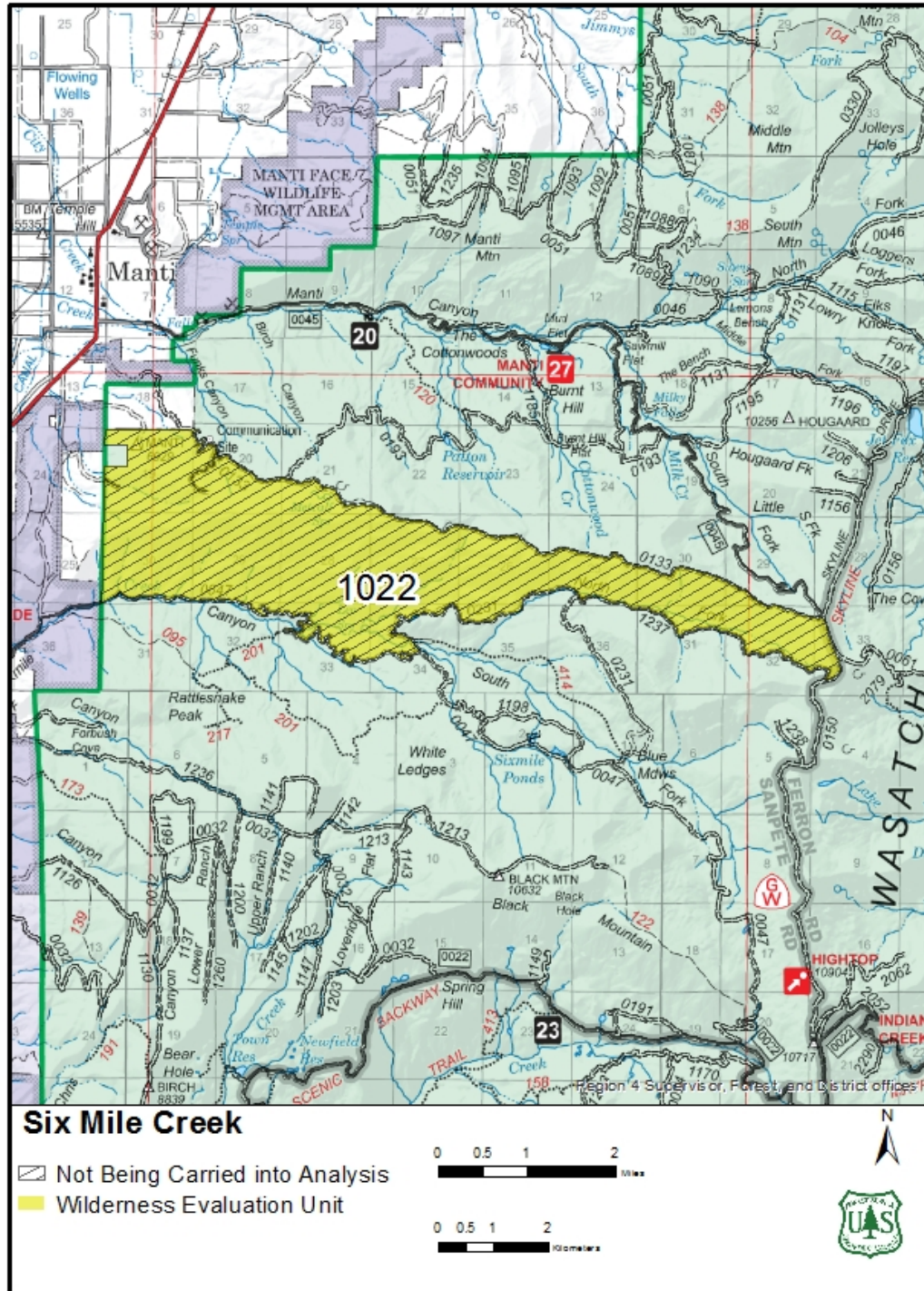
1022-Six Mile Creek

Name: Six Mile Creek

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1022

Acres: 5,614



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Vegetation in lower elevations is dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. *Penstemon tidestromii* is a species of conservation concern and is present in the area. Non-native species are not evident, though some cheat grass is dispersed throughout.

Rating: High

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include, three water troughs and just over two miles of pipeline, most of which is buried, but evident as a straight line in some places, just under two miles of barbed wire fence and approximately four miles of user-created roads.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible, including sights and sounds of motorized use of the road that makes up the boundaries of the unit. The Six-Mile Canyon road forms the southwestern boundary. It was recently improved, is well-maintained and sees a high level of use. Range management activities and use on unauthorized trails are also factors affecting solitude; however, when away from the adjacent road and the unauthorized motorized trail, solitude is possible.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

Opportunities to horseback ride, hike, and camp are possible, but these opportunities are not of high quality.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, *Penstemon tidestromii* is a species of conservation concern and is present in the area.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The shape of the unit is long and narrow with a high edge-to-interior ratio. There are two small cherry stem roads, user created trails, and ongoing illegal off highway vehicle use. The area is in an active range allotment and range improvements require ongoing access and maintenance.

The area to the east of the unit is a state managed Wildlife Management Area. National Forest surrounds the remaining area.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1022-Six Mile Creek is a long and narrow unit with vegetation that appears natural. There is little public use in this unit and contains an active range allotment.

Table 55. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Six Mile Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers identified several small roads just east of Skyline Drive southwest of Basin Canyon not described in the draft narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

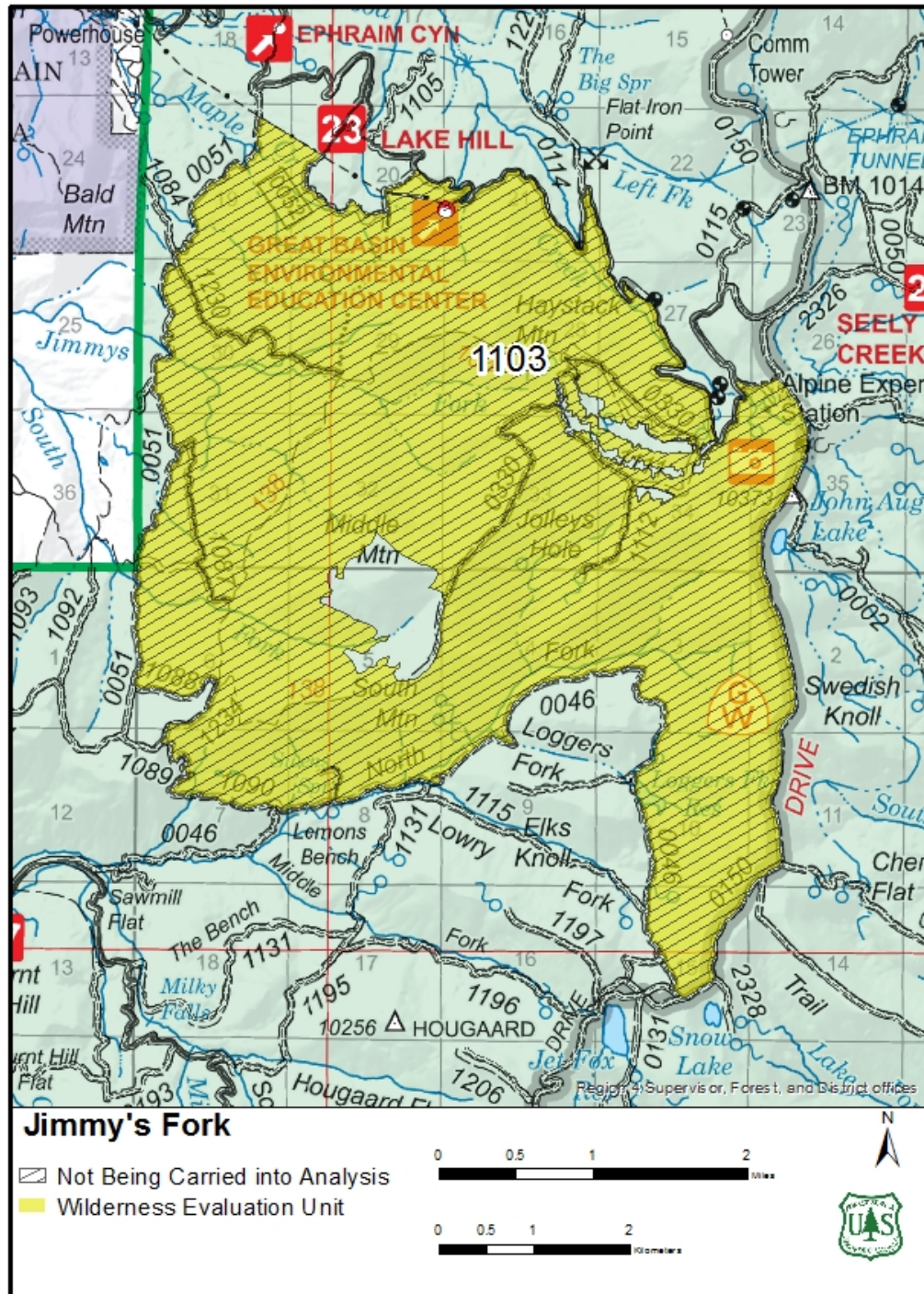
1103-Jimmy's Fork

Name: Jimmy's Fork

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1103

Acres: 8,884



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and mountain maple. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. The tall forb community is recovering and looks natural. The alpine pasture is a control pasture that has not been grazed. Non-native species are evident in isolated spots or low numbers, including musk thistle and Dyer's woad. Smooth brome can be found along roadsides on the east side of the western boundary road covering about 500 acres. Common game and non-game species are found in the area, as well as 1 documented goshawk territory.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation currently appears natural. The Willow Fuels Environmental Assessment, signed 2017, will treat 3,000 acres, or about 34 percent of the unit, mechanically, including 2,000 acres of logging and 1,000 acres of prescribed fire from the middle of the unit to the west. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over 44 acres or less than 1 percent of the unit. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Low

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include three stock ponds, two water troughs or tanks, one mile of buried pipeline, approximately five miles of barbed wire let down fence, three and a half miles of user-created trails, one mile of motorized trail, and four miles of non-motorized trail.

Additionally, there is an alpine station with two associated sheds made of native timber still in the unit. The Great Basin Experimental Station, consisting of several wood frame buildings, is in the area. Pete's and Loggers Fork Reservoirs are in the area. Loggers Fork Reservoir is an earthen dam that pools water about over an area of about three acres and is stocked with fish. Pete's Reservoir is a one-acre earthen dam and is intended for irrigation.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. The drastic elevational relief in the area allows visitors to view signs of civilization from most viewpoints. The eastern boundary is the highly traveled, Skyline Drive, a Scenic Backway, and is an important viewshed. Willow Creek Road along the western boundary has private land with a high density of cabins and a church summer camp that brings hundreds of people to the area each summer. State Highway 29 forms the northern boundary of the unit. This route has experienced a marked increase in use since paving of the road between the Forest boundary and Lake Hill Campground in 2018. This road also sees a lot of off highway vehicle use during the summer, and frequent snowmobile use during the winter. Firewood cutting and seed picking occur in the area. A large snowmobile parking area at the base of the canyon provides for wintertime staging. In some southern and western portions of the unit, opportunities for solitude may be possible. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments in the vicinity of the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project for two to five years.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities include seed collecting, horseback riding, hiking on Jimmy's Fork Trail and wild turkey hunting. Opportunities are of low quality.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Low

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Untermann daisy is present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No, Skyline Drive borders the eastside of the unit offering important viewsheds east and west from the top of the plateau.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

Yes, The Great Basin Station National Register District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is of both regional and national significance.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

Yes. The Great Basin Experimental Station and interpretive stations along the Ephraim Canyon Road date from the 1930s. The first grazing and range management focused Research Station in the United States exists in this unit. Research is ongoing through Snow College under a special use permit.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The entire unit is within the Great Basin Experimental Station, a special interest area. Snow College is currently permitted for use of the Great Basin facilities. Approximately 30 percent of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface. Several shape and configuration considerations affect the unit including, adjacent roads, cherry stem roads that protrude into the unit, and a doughnut hole in the south. Adjacent land to the west is a mix of state and private. Much of the state land has been clear cut and the private land includes the Baptist Church and cabins. The city of Ephraim collects water from a system of streams, some of which are within the unit, under a special use permit, and there is spring development associated with the Experimental Station. The unit contains a popular non-system mountain bike trail that follows the old Ephraim Canyon route. Range management occurs throughout the area and uses motorized and mechanized transport and equipment. The Willow Project plans 6000 acres of vegetation treatments in the area that will result in stumps, clear cut openings, vegetation piles, and about 18 miles of temporary roads in the northwestern portion of unit. Mastication will leave chips that will naturalize over a span of eight to ten years. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will treat an additional 44 acres through timber harvest, displaying evidence of human influence like the Willow Project.

Manageability: Low**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 1103-Jimmy's Fork is bounded by heavily travelled roads. There is concentrated recreation use in the Willow Creek and Jimmy's Fork areas and snowmobiling is popular. The unit is actively logged and will be logged in the future.

Table 56. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Jimmy's Fork unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers identified a section of road connecting Philadelphia Flat Road to the road leading to Jolley's Hole, a road that branches off south of Ephraim Canyon Road leading to the western edge of Haystack Mountain, and the northern end of Philadelphia Flat Road as having impacts on wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to wildland urban interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to overall low value.

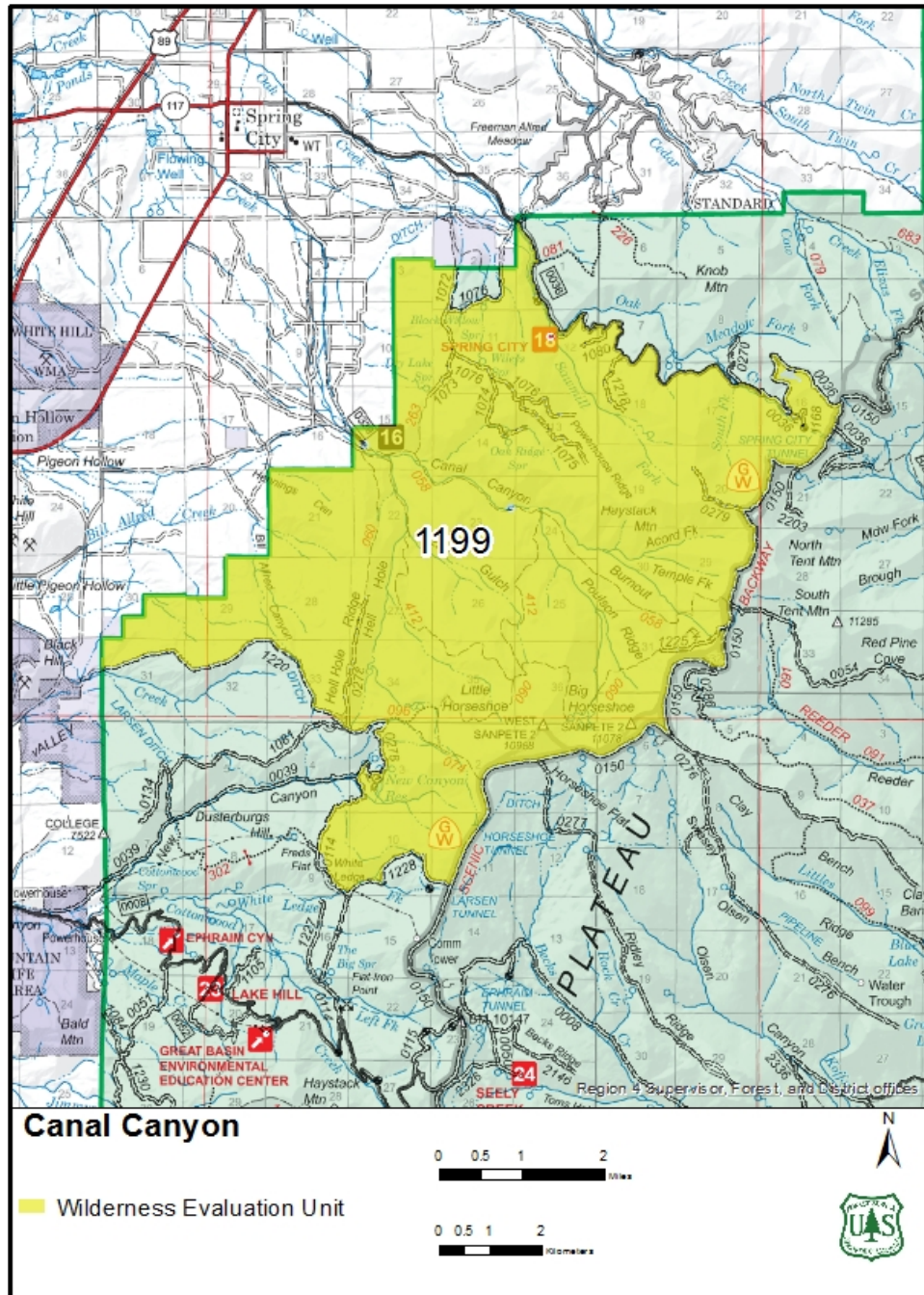
1199-Canal Canyon

Name: Canal Canyon

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1199

Acres: evaluation 19,492, analysis 19,492



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and mountain maple. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. The rare plant skyline *townsendia* is in the area. Animal communities consist of a variety of game and non-game species found in the habitats listed above. There is one goshawk territory and crucial summer range for elk. Non-native invasive species are not evident, though some musk thistle is very dispersed along roadsides in the very southern tip and in the very north side of the unit.

Rating: High

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. Vegetation treatments include ongoing chemical treatment and mastication along the western portion of the area, resulting in some stumps and chips over an approximately 1000 acres in the pinyon and juniper and woodland maple, and skeletons of oak and juniper. Other treatments that are still evident include effects from a 1000 acre burn in 1995, very old hand-cut stumps up the hillside near the old mill site, some roads that are still evident on the landscape, and some old harvest activity with some stumps on the landscape on the northern portion of the area. Spring City timber sale in the late 1980s and early 1990s has stumps evident on the landscape. The Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project signed July 15, 2019 will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 1,955 acres or about 10 percent of the unit. Approximately 1,819 of these acres are within the Big Horseshoe Inventoried Roadless Area. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and detracts from naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include one stock pond and nine water troughs. There is approximately a mile of ditch still maintained and used in the western leg of the unit, some old roads still evident on the landscape, and about a mile of closed roads still apparent on the landscape, and several trails. Trails include three miles of motorized trail including the Dusterburg Ridge Trail, sixteen miles of non-motorized trail, and three and a half miles of user-created trails on the north end coming off the road system. Much of this is in the Horseshoe Inventoried Roadless Area. Other improvements include fenced-off water collection boxes, with a pipeline that feeds culinary water for Spring City, and the five-acre New Canyon Reservoir, which has an earthen dam and is used by the irrigation company under special use permit.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. There is a large non-motorized area in the middle of the unit with steep terrain consisting of valleys and canyons where opportunity for solitude is high. From the valley bottom to the ridge tops is a 4000-foot climb. This extreme relief of the unit allows a visitor to see from the eastern boundary to the western boundary of the unit where improvements and developments detract from a feeling of being remote. When down in the middle of the area, staying away from the north end, you can get a high sense of solitude. 90 percent of unit is in the Big Horseshoe Inventoried Roadless Area. Seasonal recreational use of the area begins in June and goes through October and includes light equestrian and hiking use, some firewood gathering in the north, and some Christmas tree cutting along the west in the winter. Additionally, some minimal winter motorized use occurs in the area. The Spring City road forms the northern boundary and receives a moderate level of use, mostly off highway vehicle traffic, which decreases opportunities for solitude when near the road due to sound. Powerhouse Ridge in the northwest corner of the unit has cherry stem roads on it. It is difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return to levels like those before harvest, though the evidence of harvest activities would persist for many years.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. The area offers ample opportunity for challenge and risk and primitive recreation activities include bear and lion hunting, equestrian use, hiking, and some fishing in New Canyon Reservoir.

Rating: Moderate

**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the

overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, one goshawk territory and the rare plant skyline *townsendia* are present in the area.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No, the top of the mountain is in the shape of a horseshoe that may be significant locally.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

16,330 acres or about 84 percent of the total unit is a part of the Big Horseshoe Inventoried Roadless Area. The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes management to preserve the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. However, the 1,955 acres included in the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project would effectively remove the opportunity to manage this portion of the unit for wilderness character. Some management considerations include presence of the Whispering Pines Wildland Urban Interface in about five percent of the area and state and private adjacent land that has vegetation treatments visible from within the area, as well as cabins along the border. The Ephraim Irrigation District has a special use permit to manage the ditch and uses mechanical and motorized means to maintain the area. Maintenance of the reservoir occurs periodically to maintain the dam. Presence of a well graveled road is along the southern boundary and is used to access the reservoir. There is also a motorized trail within the area, some existing snowmobile use in the winter, and a few cherry stem roads. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management holds oil and gas leases along the eastern portion of the area, but probability of development is low. The Willow proposed treatments in the southern portion of the area may also influence the appearance of the area.

Manageability: Moderate**Overall Inventory Unit Value**

Unit 1199-Canal Canyon provides good opportunities for solitude with very little motorized influence. The unit is popular for horseback riding and hiking and is an important municipal water source.

Table 57. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Canal Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Reviewers identified a large section of Canal Canyon Road, and a road that runs parallel Canal Canyon Road and veers to the South as not being previously described in the draft narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management and wildland urban interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will be carried into analysis. Despite the impact of vegetation management activities associated with the Canyons project, the remaining portion of this unit provides opportunities to feel solitude and to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation. Twenty acres were added into the unit for analysis due to a mapping error related to the oil well pads within the unit. This unit will be carried forward into the analysis step with these additional acres.

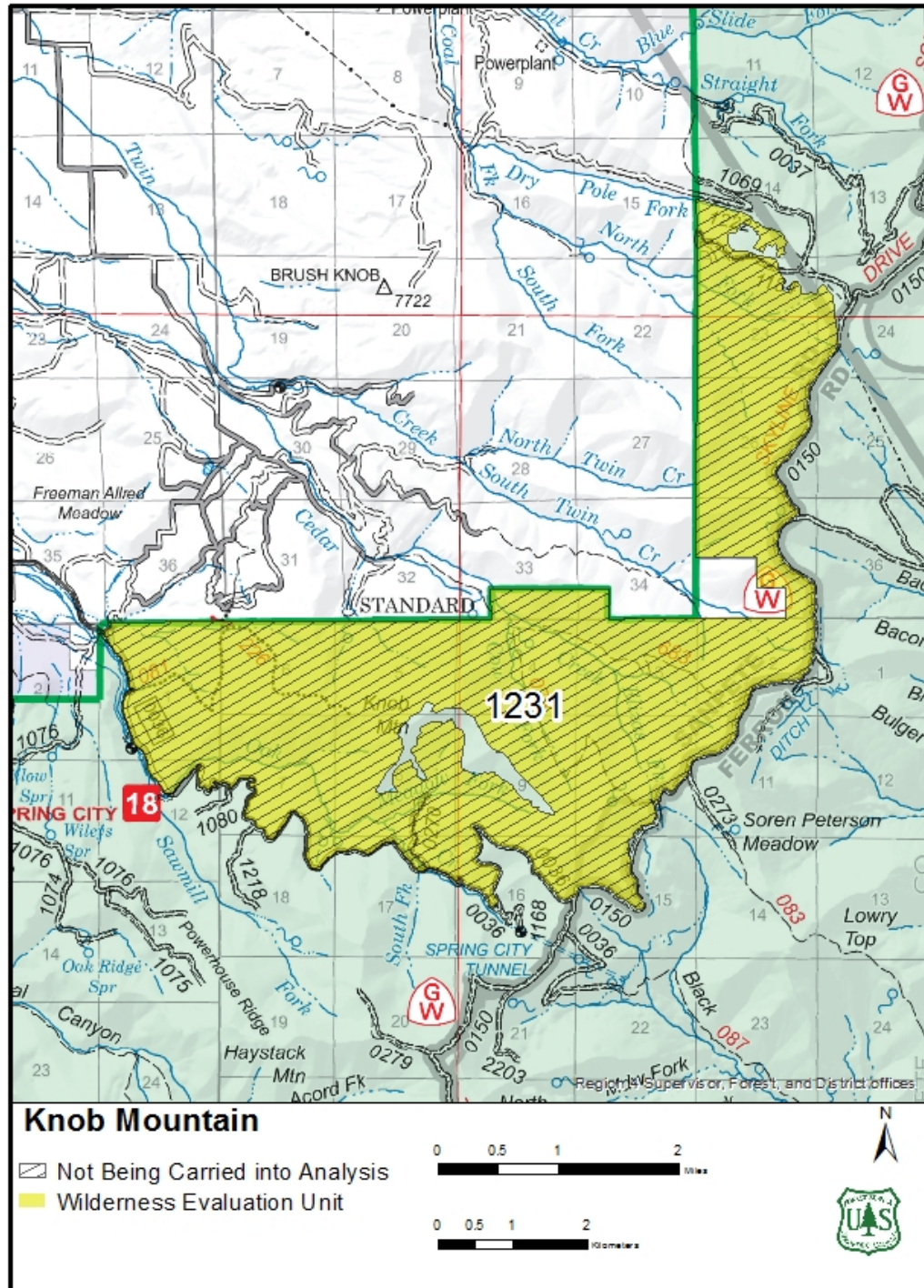
1231-Knob Mountain

Name: Knob Mountain

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1231

Acres: 7,476



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and mountain maple. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. There is a variety of common game and non-game species, as well as one goshawk territory, and about 1000 acres of key winter range on the western edge. Non-native species are not evident, though the south end of the Spring City road has scattered musk thistle along its edges.

Rating: High

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

There are currently no noticeable vegetation treatments in this unit. However, the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, signed July 15, 2019, will remove dead spruce and green subalpine fir over approximately 1,606 acres or 21 percent of this unit. Treated areas will display evidence of human influence for the next 30 to 40 years.

Rating: Low

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area. Range improvements include one earthen stock pond and five low profile metal troughs. There are 1.5 miles of user-created trails, 1.6 miles of motorized trail, on the Knob Mountain Trail, and another 0.8 miles of motorized trail.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Human activities or presence is currently unavoidable. Signs of civilization are pervasive. Adjacent private land activity can be seen from many places within the unit. There are private cabins and developments along the eastern edge and roads along the southern and western edges. From on top of Knob Mountain you may experience some level of solitude, but visitors can see developments, improvements, and civilization all around. Sheep allotment management

activities occur from the first of July to September. There are motorized trails and dispersed camping and wood cutting along Skyline Drive. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid areas of harvest operations and follow up treatments during the two to five years that the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project will be taking place. Following harvest operations, the probability of experiencing solitude would return levels like those before harvest, even though the evidence of harvest activities would persist for many years.

Rating: No

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation and existing opportunities are generally poor. Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, dispersed camping, bear hunting, and lion hunting. The area is steep and rugged, but access is limited due to private land along the entire northern portion of the area.

Rating: Low

**Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation
Rating: Low**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

Implementation of the Canyons Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project along with the presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Access and maintenance of range improvements occurs with motorized or mechanized equipment and transportation from July to September. There are motorized trails with established use, as well as some trespass trail building in the north of the unit. There are several cherry stem roads and a doughnut hole in the middle of the unit. In addition, some adjacent land is private, highly developed, and has a high level of motorized use. The Bureau of Land Management has oil and gas rights, though there is a low probability of development.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1231-Knob Mountain is characterized by steep and rugged terrain with limited access. Adjacent private land activity can be seen from many places within the unit.

Table 58. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Knob Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

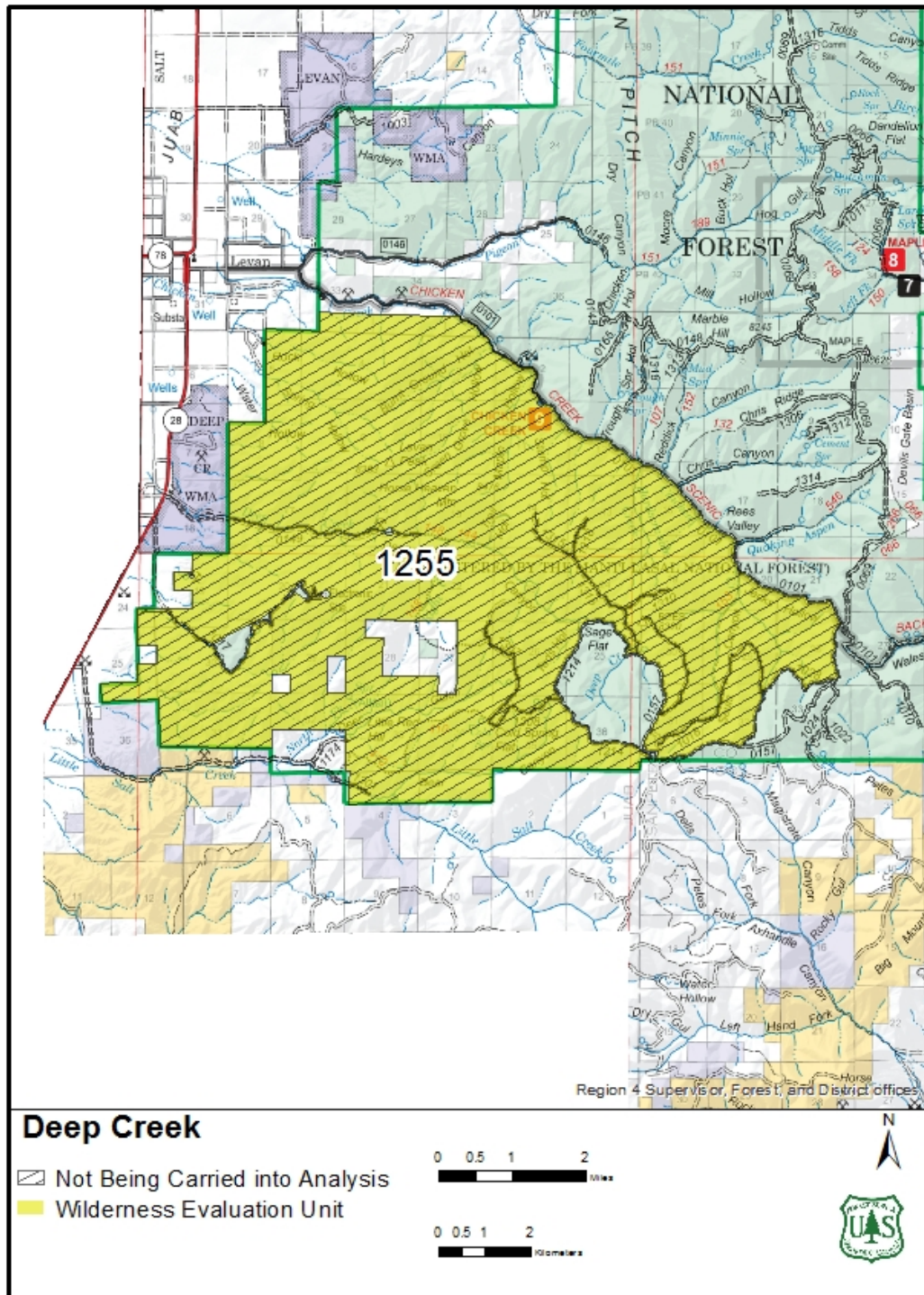
1255-Deep Creek

Name: Deep Creek

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1255

Acres: 23,508



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Vegetation transitions from pinyon and juniper to mountain brush to aspen and mixed conifer with increases in elevation. One species of conservation concern, *Penstemon tidentromii*, can be found in the southwest portion of the unit. The area has key and general winter range for big game along the entire western boundary of the unit in the lower elevations. Non-native species are not evident, though there is some musk thistle, Canada thistle, and white top scattered along roads.

Rating: High

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated spots. There has been approximately 700 acres of sagebrush plowed and planted with smooth brome. The rows where the sagebrush was plowed is evident on the landscape. Several fires have occurred in the area including the 2006, 1100-acre Deep Creek fire and the 4400-acre LeVan fire, but both are natural appearing. There is a 20-foot-wide fuel treatment along Chicken Creek road where oak was removed and chipped. Much of the area in the west has also been sprayed and some straight lines are evident on the landscape.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Appearance of improvements detracts from apparent naturalness in some areas. Range improvements include, three earthen stock ponds, sixteen water troughs, seven miles of post and pole fence that is a riparian enclosure, and eight miles of barbed wire let down fence. There are twenty miles of user-created trails all along the eastern portion of the unit, two motorized trails that are about 5 miles long, one not noticeable oil and gas well, and one SNOTEL site. There are no non-motorized trails. Improvements are concentrated in the western portion of the unit.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. The bulk of activities is in the eastern portion of the unit where roads and trails are concentrated. The Chicken Creek road forms the northern boundary. It receives a moderate level of use, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road. The western part of the unit has less use, but views of the interstate 15 corridor and towns below make it difficult to get away from the signs of civilization. Trail use is moderate from May through October.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Primitive recreation opportunities include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and caving.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3g. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Tidestrom's beardtongue is present.

3h. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3i. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3j. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3k. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3l. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. The shape and configuration of the unit would make managing to preserve wilderness characteristics difficult. There is a private land inholding in the south, cherry stem roads, and a hole in the southeast created by a loop of roads that are eliminated from the unit. Motorized maintenance of range resources occurs annually. 20,946 acres or about 89 percent of the unit is within the Levan Peak Inventoried Roadless Area, and a State Wildlife Management Area is adjacent to the unit in the west.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1255-Deep Creek contains a concentration of roads and trails in the eastern portion. The unit provides water for the town of Levan and contains a communication site.

Table 59. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Deep Creek unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers identified a fork of road from Chicken Creek heading south into Burnt Ground Hollow, the northern portion of Sage Flat Road, the northern portion of Little Salt Creek, and a section of road just south of Chicken Creek east of the county border near Jack's Hollow as not included in the original draft narrative and affecting wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to low overall value.

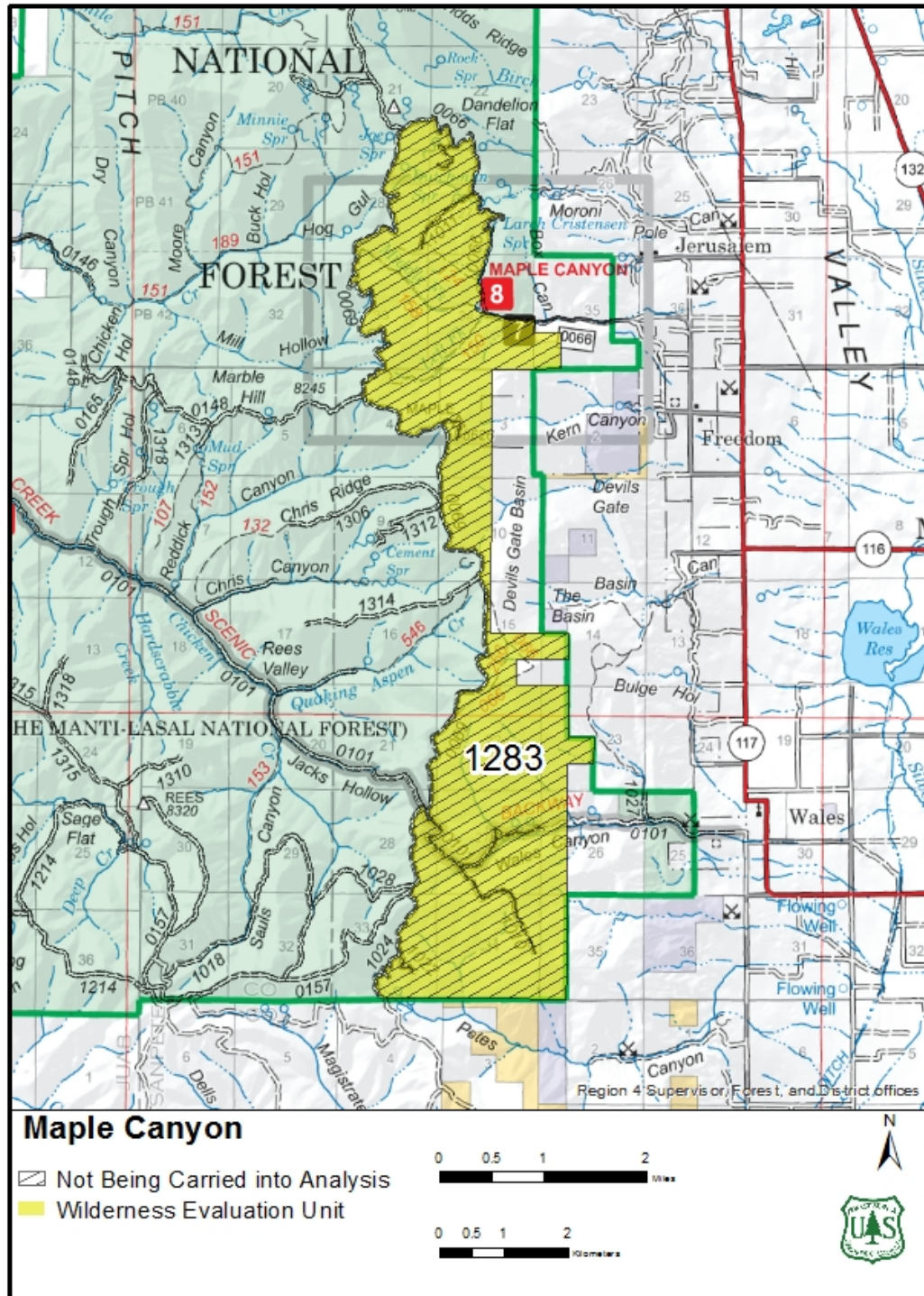
1283-Maple Canyon

Name: Maple Canyon

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1283

Acres: 5,376



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon-juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. A variety of game and non-game species occur in the area. Some species and habitats of note include Tidestrom's beardtongue located near Wales Canyon in the southern portion of the boundary, two golden eagle nests, one in Maple Canyon, just inside the Forest Boundary and one in Wales Canyon, and general winter range along the entire eastern boundary of the unit. Non-native invasive species are present in some isolated and scattered spots including white top at the mouth of Wells Canyon and musk thistle and white top along some roadsides. Maple Canyon and Hamburger Canyon also have scattered musk thistle and less than a quarter acre of Dalmatian toadflax is present in Maple Canyon.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no noticeable vegetation treatments in the unit.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed throughout the area. Range improvements include, two earthen stock ponds, three water troughs, and one mile of barbed wire let down fence in the northern part of the unit. Other improvements include approximately four miles of non-motorized trail and approximately six and a half miles of user-created trails, near Hamburger Lake and Wales Canyon.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. Two cattle allotments are present and range management activities, including maintenance of improvements, occurs mostly in June. The Marble Hill road makes up the entire western boundary of the unit. A visitor can see the entire valley below within much of the unit. There is rock climbing year-round. The unit goes from the valley floor to 8000 feet and faces east, so signs of civilization are evident from most places in the unit. The unit is very skinny, so there is little opportunity to get away from civilization. In the northern part of the unit, you could get into some of the deep slot canyons and experience solitude. Hunting during the spring, summer, and fall occurs in the area. Some Christmas tree cutting or wood cutting occurs, as well.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation. At least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Hunting, climbing, hiking, camping, and horseback riding opportunities can be experienced in the unit. There are no controls or restrictions on user behavior, but the long skinny shape of the area limits a visitor's ability to feel a part of nature. Climbing is world class, especially in Maple Canyon where sheer exposed conglomerate walls attract rock climbers nationally and internationally.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Moderate**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, Tidestrom's beardtongue is present.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

Yes, the Maple Canyon conglomerate rock formation is a world-renowned landscape feature, Maple Canyon Arch is also within this unit.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations in the area is pervasive, making it impossible to manage most of the area to preserve wilderness characteristics. The primary challenge for management of the area is the very narrow shape of the unit with multiple tight pinch points, resulting in a very high edge-to-interior ratio. The entire eastern boundary is private land that is managed for ranching and cattle grazing. There are also some private land inholdings in the south of the unit. Other considerations include oil and gas leases held by the Bureau of Land Management. Some motorized use on user-created trails occurs within the area. 120 acres or about 2 percent of the area is within the Sanpitch Inventoried Roadless Area.

Manageability: No

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1283-Maple Canyon contains a concentration of roads and trails in the eastern portion. The unit provides water for the town of Levan and contains a communication site.

Table 60. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Maple Canyon unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	No	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers noted the unit is very narrow with little opportunity to get away from civilization. Reviewers described the northern part of the unit as providing opportunities for solitude in slot canyons, popular hunting during throughout the unit and some Christmas tree cutting. Reviewers suggested the unit was inappropriately assigned a Low rating for solitude.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to overall low value.

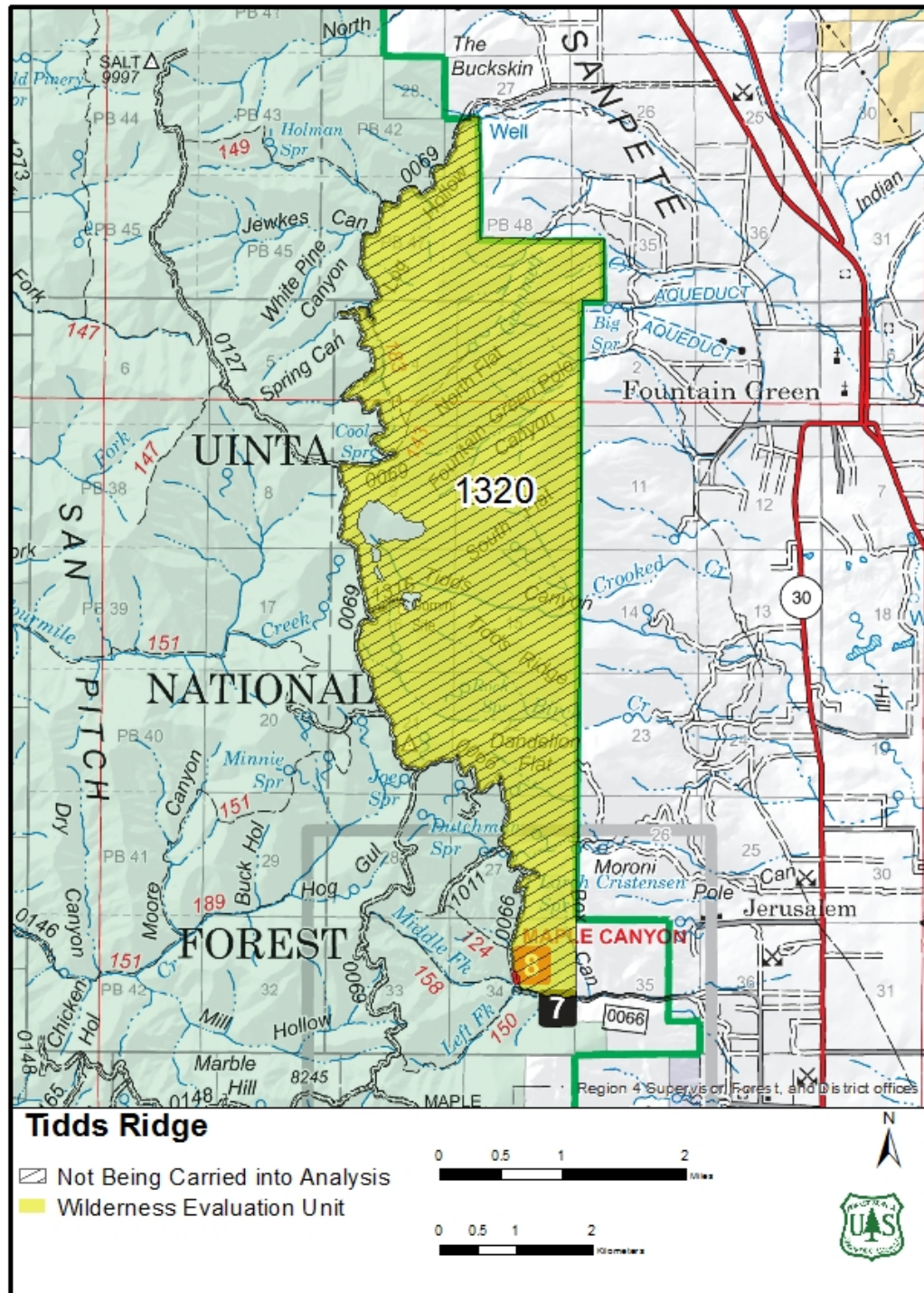
1320-Tidd's Ridge

Name: Tidd's Ridge

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1320

Acres: 5,606



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in most areas. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated sagebrush, mountain brush, grass and forb communities, and spruce and fir in basins and on north-facing slopes. A variety of game and non-game species are found in the area. General winter range is along the entire eastern boundary of the unit. Non-native invasive species include scattered musk thistle along the northern road and an isolated incidence of spotted knapweed.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no noticeable vegetation treatments in the unit.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area and may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include, four earthen stock ponds, five water troughs or tanks, and three miles of barbed wire let down fence. There are about two miles of non-motorized trail and approximately two miles of user-created trail, mainly in the southwest near Hamburger Lake. Additional user-created trails extend from the roads.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. Log Canyon and Marble Hill road to the west, private land to the east, adjacent communities, and the slope orientation of the unit, towards the communities, all detract from opportunities to feel alone. Some narrow and steep areas could provide some opportunities for solitude. Vegetation is scrub and woodland and provides minimal screening from improvements, adjacent developments, and uses. The Log

Canyon and Marble Hill road forms the western boundary. It receives a moderate level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the road.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and some of these opportunities are of high quality. Hiking, climbing, horseback riding, bow hunting, and bear and cougar hunting occur in the area. There are no restrictions or controls on user behavior and few trails and steep and rugged terrain provide ample challenge and risk.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Between ten and twenty percent of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface. The unit is very skinny, resulting in a high edge-to-interior ratio. The unit contains cherry stem roads and a doughnut hole, where substantially noticeable terracing was removed. Private lands are adjacent to the unit in the east. The orientation of the unit makes the dominant viewshed from within the unit the view of the town below. There is also a very visible radio tower to the south. Much of the area is under oil and gas leases. Skyline Drive is the western boundary and gets a lot of use.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1320-Tidds Ridge provides few opportunities for solitude. The unit is surrounded by roads and private lands and the dominant view from the unit is of the adjacent communities.

Table 61. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Tidds Ridge unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Public Comment

Reviewers noted a fork off Maple Canyon Road that leads up Dandelion Flat is missing from the draft narrative.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to overall low value.

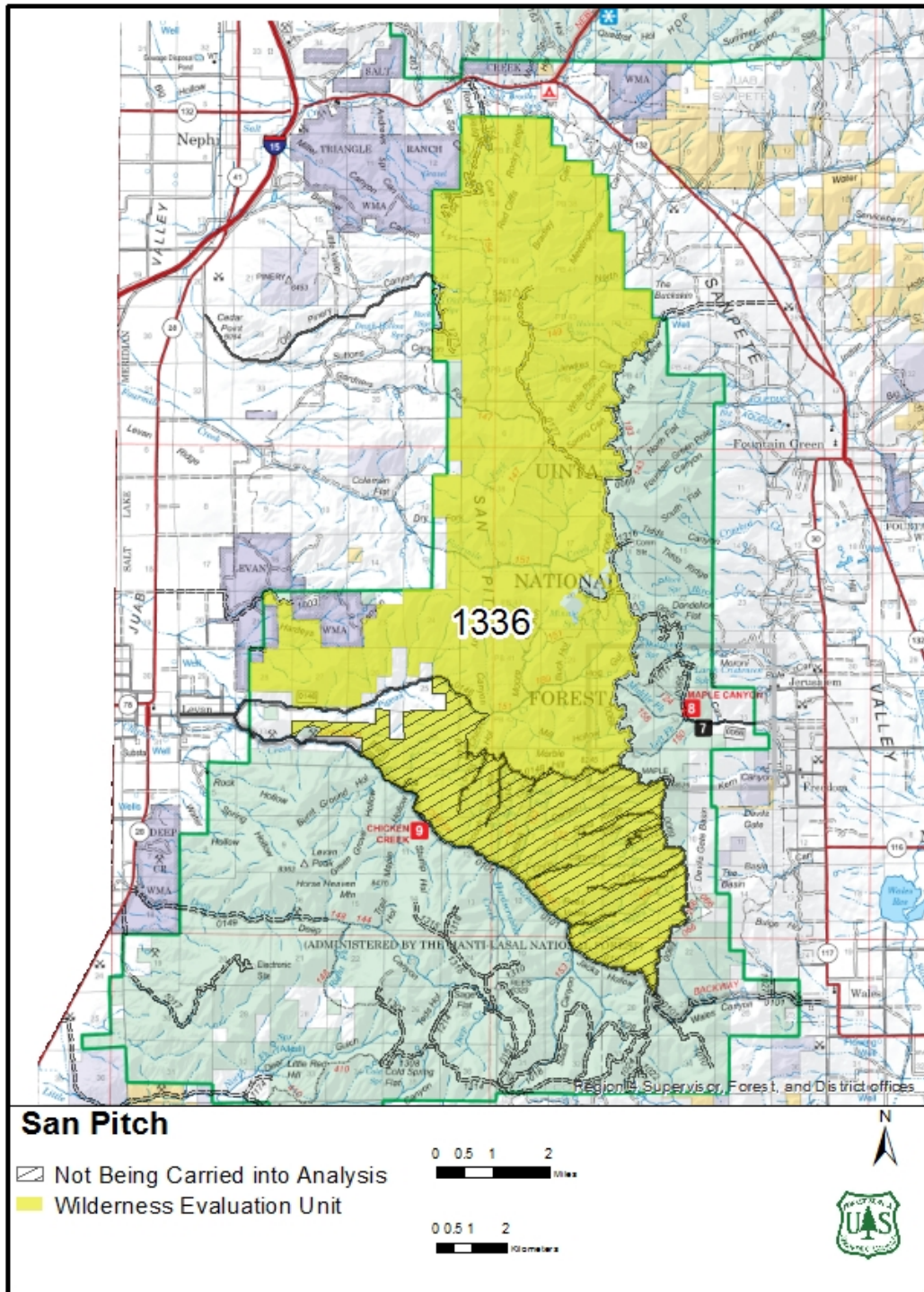
1336-San Pitch Mountain

Name: San Pitch Mountain

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1320

Acres: evaluation 32,786, analysis 24,220



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, and grass and forb and spruce and fir communities in basins and on north-facing slopes. A variety of game and non-game species are found in the area. In addition, there are nine golden eagle nests in the lower portions of Chicken Creek and Pigeon Creek on the western boundary. There is key and general winter range along the entire western boundary of the unit in the lower portions of Chicken Creek and Pigeon Creek. Non-native invasive plants include less than 100 acres of white top and musk thistle that occur along roads leading into the unit.

Rating: High

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation does not appear natural in isolated or scattered spots. The 2007 Salt Creek fire affected about 5 percent of the unit and has some evidence of suppression including stumps and handline. The 2008 Dry Fork fire had very minor impacts consisting of a little hand line with some cut stumps. The southern part of the unit includes less than 50 acres of sagebrush chaining and plowing and planted grasses from the 1970s, though the treatment has hard lines and is apparent on the landscape. About 100 acres of water terracing from the 1950s and 1960s is still evident on the landscape.

Rating: Moderate

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall low throughout the area. It may be concentrated in some spots but is more typically dispersed through the area. Range improvements include, 2 stock ponds, 29 water troughs or tanks, and 6 miles of barbed wire let down fence. There are approximately 18 miles of user-created trails, mainly on the southern boundary coming off of the Chicken Creek road. There are two wildlife guzzlers, 22 miles of non-motorized hiking trail, and 14 miles of pack and saddle trail.

Rating: Moderate

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

Opportunities to feel alone are possible in much of the area, though signs of civilization are possible. Trails are lightly used in the summer and fall. Two cattle allotments and one sheep allotment are active from June through September with grazing activity. Boy Scouts use the trails and some horseback riding occurs in the area. The Log Canyon and Marble Hill road forms the eastern boundary and the Chicken Creek road forms the southern boundary. These roads receive a moderate level of use and dispersed camping, decreasing opportunities for solitude when near the roads. Encountering people along the cherry stem roads is likely during the summer and fall months.

Rating: Moderate

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined recreation and at least some of these opportunities are of high quality. Primitive recreation opportunities include bear and cougar hunting, bow hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and fishing. There are no constraints on user behavior.

Rating: Moderate

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation Rating: Moderate

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

Yes, nine golden eagle nests are present in the lower portions of Chicken Creek and Pigeon Creek on the western boundary. There is key and general winter range along the entire western boundary of the unit in the lower portions of Chicken Creek and Pigeon Creek.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and other management considerations is scattered and makes preserving the area's wilderness characteristics possible throughout much of the area. 28,466 acres or about 87 percent of the unit is within the Sanpitch Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no oil and gas leases and no signed decisions for future management actions. Additionally, the size and shape of the unit do not pose specific management challenges. Approximately twenty percent of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface to protect watershed values. There are several cherry stem roads and user-created trails that penetrate the unit, especially on the south end. manageability would be lower in the south and moderate or high in the north.

Manageability: Moderate

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1336-San Pitch Mountain provides opportunities for solitude when away from roads.

Table 62. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value San Pitch Mountain unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Public Comment

Reviewers identified several roads not considered in the draft narrative and described them as having impacts on wilderness characteristics.

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to invasive species management and Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

As noted in the manageability narrative, intrusion of several roads within the southern portion of this unit would make management to preserve wilderness characteristics very challenging. Removal of approximately 8,454 acres from the southern boundary of this unit results in a more cohesive and manageable unit of approximately 24,220 acres. The reduced unit will be carried forward into the analysis step.

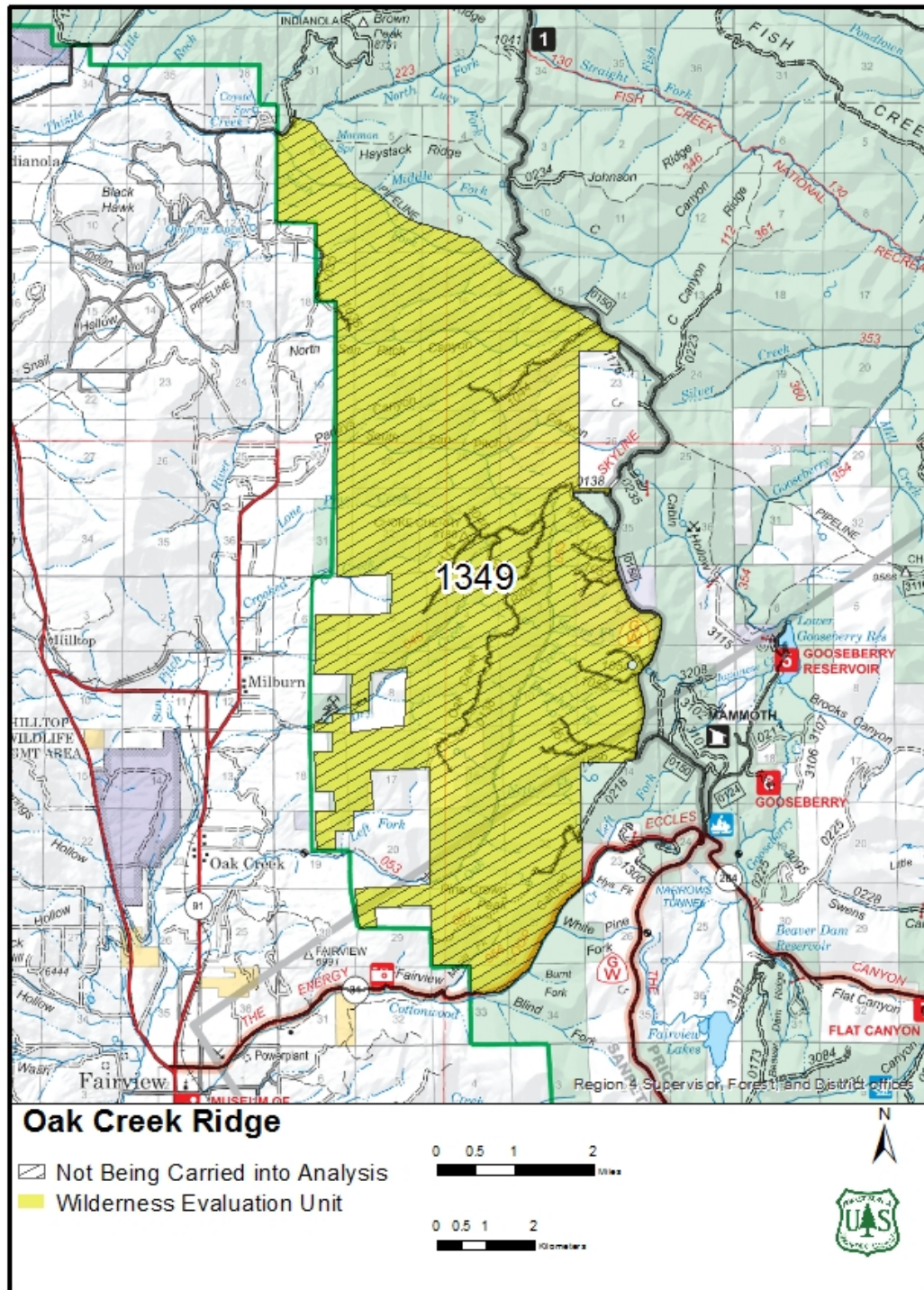
1349-Oak Creek Ridge

Name: Oak Creek Ridge

Ranger District: Sanpete

Number: 1349

Acres: 23,366



Apparent Naturalness

Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

1a. *What is the composition of plant and animal communities?*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural. Lower elevations are dominated by pinyon and juniper, white fir, and oak brush. Middle elevations give way to aspen and mixed conifer communities. High elevations are dominated by sagebrush, mountain brush, and grass and forb and spruce and fir communities in basins and on north-facing slopes. A variety of game and non-game species are found in the area. There is key big game winter range just west of Oak Creek ridge along the western boundary, as well as summer range for elk throughout the unit. Non-native invasive species include two acres of diffuse and spotted knapweed concentrated in isolated spots, and musk thistle and yellow toadflax scattered along Skyline Drive and on the road going down Oak Creek Ridge.

Rating: Moderate

1b. *What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?*

Vegetation appears natural. There are no noticeable vegetation treatments in the unit.

Rating: High

1c. *What is the extent to which improvements included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?*

Prevalence of improvements is overall high throughout the area. Appearance of improvements detract from apparent naturalness in most areas. Range improvements include, 5 earthen stock ponds, approximately 34 water troughs or tanks, and 25 miles of barbed wire let down fence on one cattle allotment in the southern portion of the unit. There is a SNOTEL site, under special use permit, 8.5 miles of non-motorized trail including the Oak Creek and Dry Creek Trails, approximately 20.4 miles of user-created trails, and 1 oil and gas development with 2 pad sites located just west of Skyline Drive, which is not noticeable unless very close.

Rating: Low

Apparent Naturalness Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2a. *What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?*

There is little opportunity of feeling alone in the unit. Vegetation on the north slope is dense, while south slopes are sparse. The first mile north of Fairview Canyon road in the southeast

corner of the unit gets heavy dispersed camping June through October. Skyline Drive forms the eastern boundary of the unit. It is a groomed major snowmobile route in the winter and is highly used in the spring, summer, and fall. The area is popular for off highway vehicle use on the trail system, large groups of campers on Skyline Drive, and a lot of motorcycle use. West of the Forest boundary, private use and development can be seen from within the unit. Development just east of the center of the unit can also be seen and heard. A pipeline is the northern boundary and would be maintained for weed treatment access. In the middle of the unit, due to the difficult access and steep canyons, some solitude could be found.

Rating: Low

2b. *What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?*

There are few opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation, and any existing opportunities are poor. Primitive recreation opportunities include hunting, limited hiking, horseback riding, bear hunting, good shed hunting, good elk hunting, and some cross-country skiing. Steep and rugged terrain on trails would provide challenge and risk.

Rating: Low

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation **Rating: Low**

Unique and Outstanding Qualities

Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. Unique and outstanding qualities are not given a rating. Once the overall rating is determined, if unique and outstanding qualities are present, the overall rating of the unit is elevated.

3a. *Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems? Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.*

No.

3b. *Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?*

No.

3c. *Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area of regional or national significance?*

No.

3d. *Are there any research natural areas?*

No.

3e. *Are there any high-quality water resources or important watershed features?*

No.

3f. *Are there any scientific or educational resource of unique value?*

No.

Manageability

Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

4a. *How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?*

The presence and extent of other uses and management considerations occurs across most of the area, making it difficult to manage the area to preserve its wilderness characteristics. 16,318 acres or about 87 percent of the unit is within Oak Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. This unit is bounded by Skyline Drive on the east. The northern boundary is defined by Brown's Peak Road near Indianola. A portion of the Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway follows Fairview Canyon on the southern boundary of this unit. There are private land inholdings in the southern part of the unit, and private land development along the west and east. Access is limited along the western edge of the unit. There is a SNOTEL site and about 30 percent of the area is in a Wildland Urban Interface. Some cherry stem and user-created roads are in the unit. Range management activities will occur to access and maintain range improvements.

Manageability: Low

Overall Inventory Unit Value

Unit 1349-Oak Creek Ridge contains roads on most ridgetops. There is heavy dispersed camping along Skyline Drive in the southeastern portion of the unit.

Table 63. Weighting method key to determine overall unit value Oak Creek Ridge unit.

Apparent Naturalness	Solitude or Primitive Recreation	Manageability	Overall Value
Low	Low	Low	Low

Public Comment

Comments received suggested that all North Zone units ranked too low in several wilderness characteristics including apparent naturalness and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Comments received recommended the unit be removed from further analysis due to Wildland Urban Interface management.

Unit to be Analyzed

This unit will not be carried into the analysis step due to overall low value.