

## Summary

The purpose of this Key Hole Markup Language (.kmz) file is to provide locations of wetlands and fens on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG NFs). They were mapped during a multi-year inventory effort focused on fens, that included aerial photo interpretation and random field verification. This layer also contains the results of previous fen inventories on the Forest. It is the best available information regarding wetlands and fens for the GMUG NFs.

## Description

An inventory of fens was initiated in 2008 by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (approximately 3.1 million acres) in order to better understand their abundance and distribution across the Forests, and to provide relevant information to Forest Service and other resource managers. A fen is a unique type of wetland that is predominantly sustained by ground water inflows promoting the accumulation of peat due to saturated soil conditions. Fens commonly occur within a “fen-wetland complex” that includes a number of distinct plant communities, and a range of soil and hydrologic characteristics. The presence and thickness of peat are the defining characteristics of fens which must be determined in the field to distinguish this wetland type.

A total of 3,270 fen-wetland complexes were identified by photointerpretation across the Forests that potentially contain fens, covering roughly 17,500 acres. A random sample of those complexes was selected for field validation and sampling. A total of 336 complexes were visited over a two year period; of those, 271 were confirmed to be wetlands (81%), 121 of these wetlands proved to be fens (36%).

This layer shows the location of field verified fens, as well as areas photointerpreted to very likely be wetlands and potential fens. It includes field verified fen data from the GMUG inventory described above as well as data from other inventory efforts: Gay Austin’s Thesis work conducted on the Grand Mesa, a group studying Fens of the San Juan Mountains, Dave Bathke’s inventory work in Taylor Park, and the ongoing efforts of the Forest Botanist and others to verify fens in field.

Fen Inventory report, including detailed citation of references, can be downloaded at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5363685>

## Description of Legend Content

“GMUG National Forest and District Boundaries”- approximate boundary of the GMUG NFs National Forest System lands and the boundaries between its five Ranger Districts

“Field Verified Fen”- a wetland that has been verified by one of the inventory efforts as having sufficient peat depth to be classified as a fen

“Wetland - Potential Fen” a photointerpreted polygon that is very likely (81% probability) a wetland and possibly a fen (36% probability).

Credits:

Barry C. Johnston, Botanist [bcjohnston@fs.fed.us](mailto:bcjohnston@fs.fed.us)

Ben Stratton, Hydrologist [bstratton@fs.fed.us](mailto:bstratton@fs.fed.us)

Warren Young, Soil Scientist [wyoung@fs.fed.us](mailto:wyoung@fs.fed.us)

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