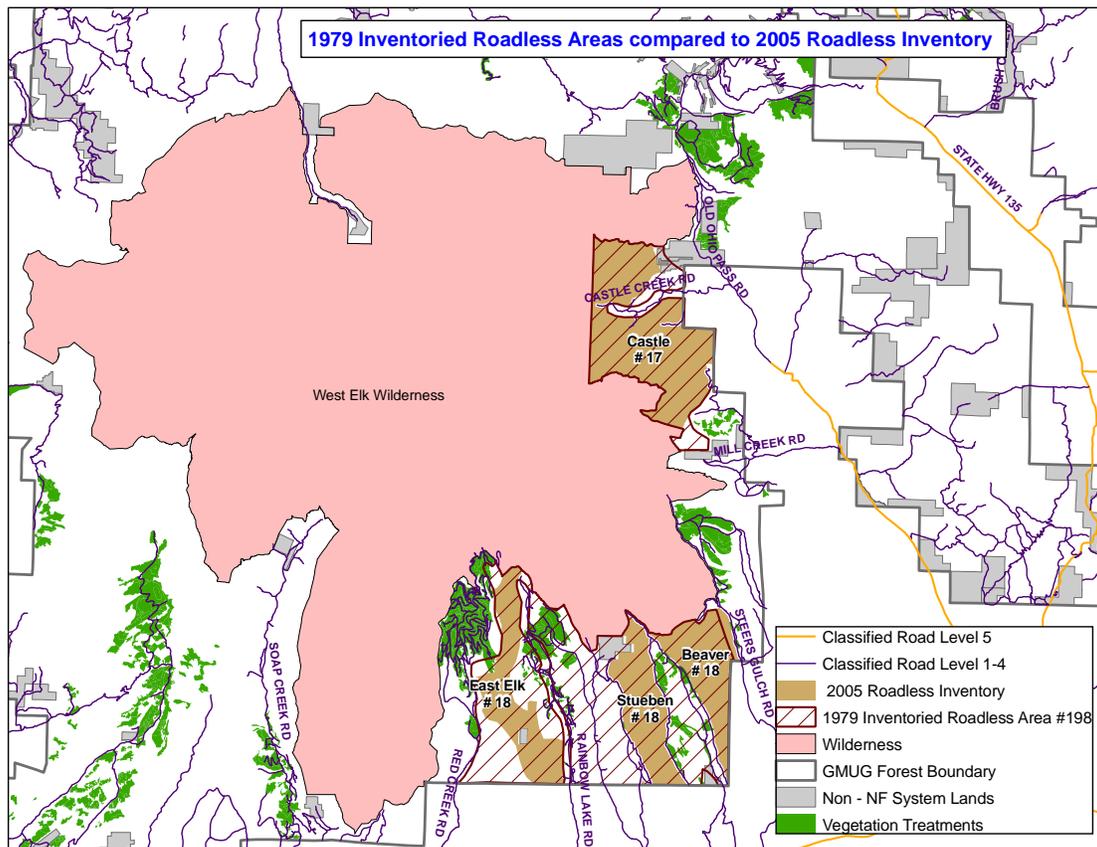


Rare II # 198 Beaver-Castle

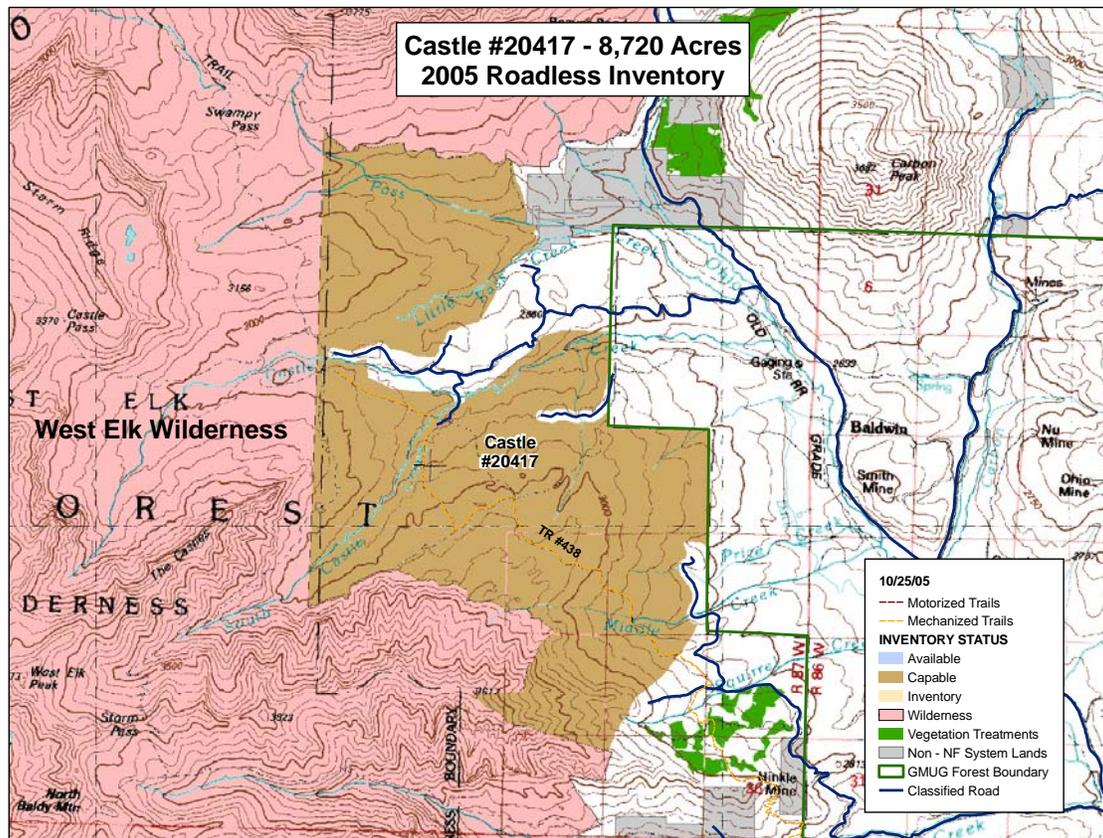
RARE II History – RARE II unit 198 identified 50,660 acres that was recommended for Wilderness, and an additional 12,120 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended in the RARE II Final EIS. The 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-560, designated portions of this unit as part of the West Elk Wilderness. Of the remaining 36,400 acres, approximately 20,300 still retain their roadless character. Road construction and vegetation harvest has affected roadless character of the area. Non-National Forest System lands were also removed from the roadless inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as units #20417 Castle and unit #20418 Beaver/Steuben/East Elk Creek.**



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Castle #20417 – 8,720 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately seven miles southwest of Gunnison. The area adjoins the eastern boundary of the West Elk Wilderness. The unit surrounds the Castle Creek Road #728 and is bordered on the north and east by private land. The unit boundary to the south follows topography above previously harvested land.



Elevation Range – 8,900' – 12,000'

Eco-Section – M331H – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 11% Douglas fir, 10% spruce-fir, 50% spruce-fir-aspen, 7% aspen, 5% sagebrush, and 4% grasses.

Land Type –

95% 60SX – Montane and Subalpine climate zones with mixed sedimentary geologic materials. Spruce-fir and aspen vegetation on mountain and mountain canyon, hills, sideslopes, and ridges.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Beckwiths Cattle allotment is within this unit. Historical use of motorized and mechanized equipment for allotment management would continue with a wilderness designation.
- The Lowline Trail #438 runs through the unit and is occasionally used by mountain bikes.
- Two water transmission ditches and associated access roads are located within the unit.
- The area has a commercial outfitter and guide operation for big game hunting operations.
- The area receives moderate to heavy visitor use during the fall big game hunting season.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Livestock grazing is ongoing and historic use patterns have affected the natural vegetation.
- Solitude – The unit is well screened from the adjacent private lands which are currently agricultural and have little influence on solitude.

Challenge – The area provides high challenge opportunities. The dense vegetation, distance away from roads and developments, and lack of sights and sounds of developments and trails create an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Being adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness makes the size and shape of this area manageable.
- Boundaries – Public access to the area is primarily through private lands, increasing the possibility of trespass by private landowners, although it minimizes potential trespasses by the general public.

Special Features/Activities – None identified.

Evaluation: The area meets criteria for **capable** wilderness.

Availability:

Recreation – The Lowline Trail is a low-use mountain bike route and is within the unit. This trail provides a non-motorized single-track backcountry trail opportunity that is an important and limited recreation resource in the Gunnison Basin.

Water – Water transmission ditches are currently accessed and maintained by motorized and mechanized equipment.

Timber – There are approximately 300 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suited for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas resources.

Management Considerations – Boundaries along the private land are within a wildland-urban interface. However, fire patterns indicate that fire risk is low. Historical use of motorized and mechanized equipment for allotment management would continue with a wilderness designation. Ditch maintenance within the existing wilderness has been challenging and difficult to manage as a non-conforming use. Increasing the amount of ditch in wilderness would only exacerbate the situation.

Evaluation – This area is **not available** for wilderness. Water uses for local agriculture require motorized and mechanized equipment for access and maintenance. Mechanized trail riding opportunities are an important recreation value that this area can provide.

Need:

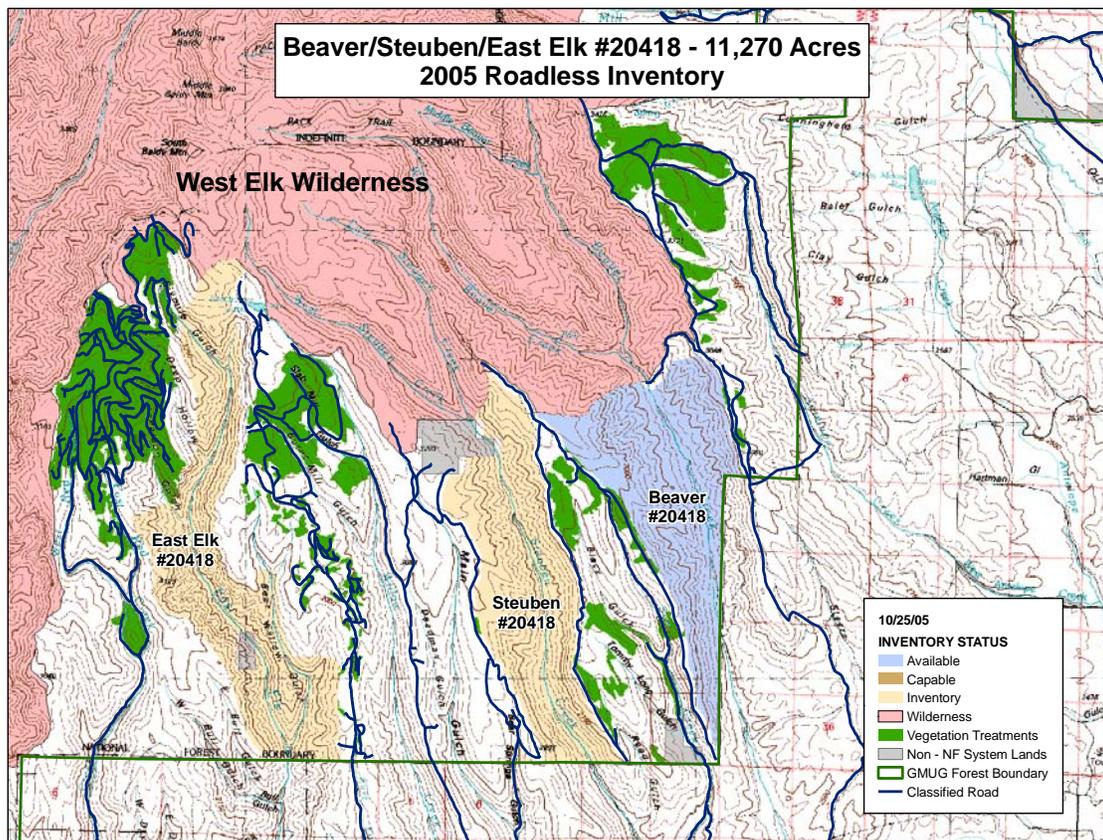
Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 20 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 25 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 35 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 35 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 35 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 40 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 40 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 50 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 60 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 65 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 65 miles

Beaver/Steuben/East Elk Creek #20418 – 11,270 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: These areas are located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately eight miles west of Gunnison. The area adjoins the southeastern boundary of the West Elk Wilderness. The unit is comprised of three distinct canyons -- Beaver Creek, Steuben Creek, and East Elk Creek, and is described as follows:

- Beaver Creek is the canyon that lies between Steers Gulch Road #726 to the east and Sun Creek Road and Branch #859 and 858.1B to the west. April Gulch Road #726.2A, a steep and rugged four wheel drive road, partially separates this unit from the West Elk Wilderness along the northern boundary. To the south, this unit adjoins the National Forest boundary. South of the Forest boundary are BLM lands.
- Steuben Creek is the canyon between Upper SU/Reed Road #859 to the east and Bear Springs Road #609.2A to the west. Private land and the West Elk wilderness bound it to the north and the Forest boundary bound it to the south. South of the Forest boundary along Steuben Creek is private land.
- East Elk Creek is the canyon area located between the Rainbow Lake Road #724 to the east and Red Creek road #723 to the west. The unit is contiguous with the West Elk wilderness, although the connection is less than a mile wide. To the south the area is bounded by the Forest boundary. The Sapinero State Wildlife Area is south of the Forest boundary.



Elevation Range – 8,200' – 11,600'

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 11% Douglas fir, 10% spruce-fir, 50% spruce-fir-aspen, 7% aspen, 5% sagebrush, and 4% grasses.

Eco-Section – M331H – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Land Type –

90% 60VX – Montane and Subalpine climates; mixed extrusive volcanic geologic materials and spruce-fir-aspen vegetation on mesa tops and ridges.

10% 70VX – Subalpine climate zone; mixed extrusive volcanic geologic materials. Spruce-fir vegetation occurs on mountain, canyon sideslopes, and ridges.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- Beaver Creek – The Antelope and Beaver cattle allotments are within this area. Beaver Creek is a reintroduction site for Colorado Cutthroat Trout. Projects including a concrete fish barrier and the application of Rotenone chemical pesticide have occurred in Beaver Creek. However, the barrier does not impede any natural processes upstream. There is an existing trail within the Beaver Creek segment that received some motorized use. However, the once the trail leaves the Forest to the adjacent Colorado State lands, the trail becomes non-motorized. The managing district is considering coordinating management of this trail to a non-motorized route.
- Steuben Creek – The Rainbow cattle allotment is within this area.
- East Elk Creek – The Red Creek and Rainbow cattle allotment is within this area.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Within the canyon areas, natural process have operated uninterrupted. Beaver Creek has a concrete fish barrier structure placed near the National Forest boundary.
- Solitude – High quality opportunities for solitude and sense of remoteness exist below the canyon rims. Areas above the canyon rims and areas adjacent to roads provide a lesser degree of solitude and sense of remoteness.

Challenge – The canyon lands provide a high degree of challenge and opportunities for adventure. The terrain is rugged with dense vegetation. The area is removed from sights and sounds of development with no maintained trails.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- **Size/Shape** – Each of the canyons is long and narrow. East Elk Creek is particularly narrow, less than a mile wide in most of the area. Increasing the size of the East Elk Creek unit beyond the canyon rim would prove difficult to manage and would not provide a sense of remoteness or solitude. East Elk Creek has a private land in-holding within the unit. The Steuben Creek segment is narrowly joined with the wilderness due to private in-holdings at the wilderness boundary.
- **Boundaries** – The addition of these units would significantly increase the length of the West Elk Wilderness boundary. The Steuben and Beaver Creek units are bounded on both sides by roads. Motorized and mechanized trespass would be likely in areas above the canyon rims. The boundary in East Elk Creek would be more defensible.

Special Features/Activities – There is a Conservation Population of Colorado River Cutthroat Trout in Beaver Creek.

Evaluation: The East Elk and Steuben Creek segments are narrow and their shape would be difficult to manage; therefore, they are considered **not capable**. However, the Beaver Creek segment is considered **capable** and will be further evaluated for wilderness.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The Beaver Creek unit has a motorized single-track trail that is used by mountain bikes going through the unit..

Water – There are no water developments or diversions.

Timber – There are approximately 4,300 acres within the three segments that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas resources.

Management Considerations – Reintroduction of Colorado Cutthroat Trout into Beaver Creek.

Evaluation – The Beaver Creek segment is **available** for Wilderness.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

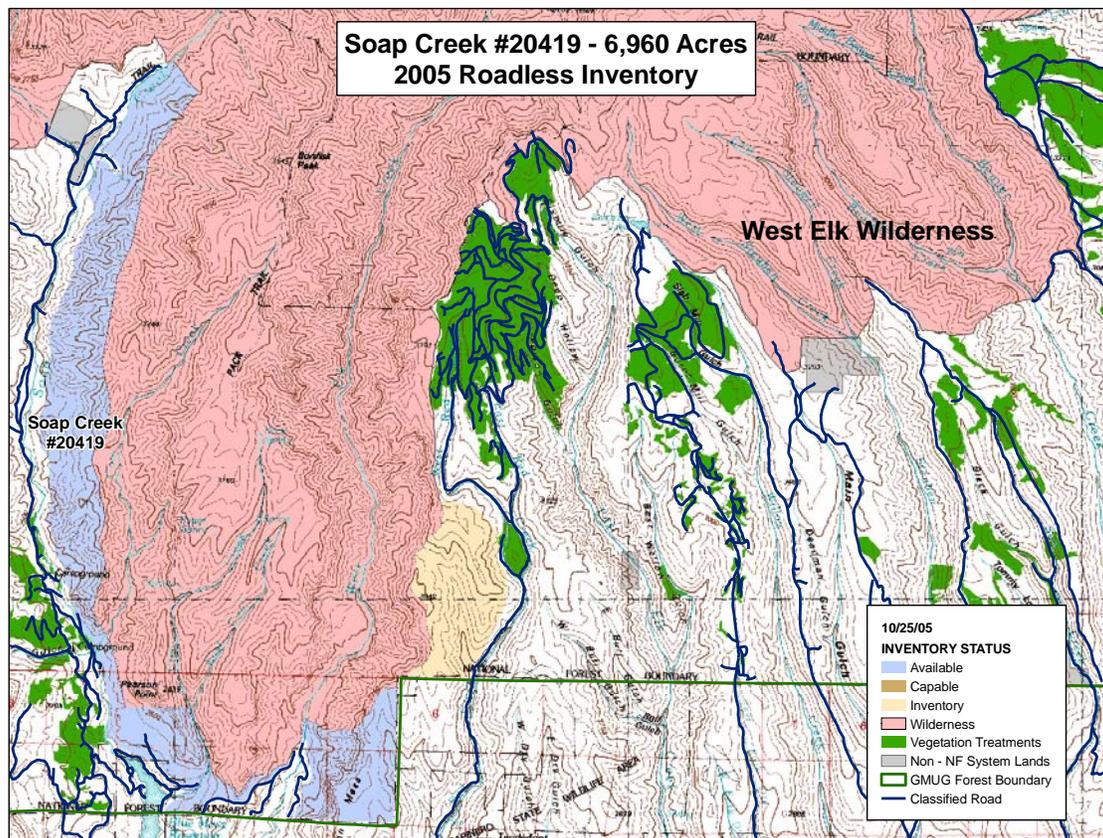
Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 20 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 25 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 25 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 25 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 30 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 35 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 35 miles

- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 40 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 45 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 55 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 55 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 55 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 60 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 60 miles

Soap Creek #20419 – 6,960 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The Soap Creek area is within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately three miles north of Curecanti National Recreation Area and 25 miles west of the City of Gunnison. The area adjoins the West Elk Wilderness to the east and is bordered to the west by Forest Road #721, Soap Creek Road. The area wraps around the southern tip of the wilderness boundary to the east with Forest Road #723, Red Creek, as the eastern most boundary.



Elevation Range – 7,600 – 10,200'

Eco-Section – M331H – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 6% Douglas-fir, 16% spruce-fir, 36% spruce-fir-aspen, 9% aspen, 18% shrub, and 7% bare ground.

Land Type –

55% 60VX – Montane and Subalpine climates; mixed extrusive volcanic geologic materials and spruce-fir-aspen vegetation on mesa tops and ridges.

45% 50VX – Montane grasslands and coniferous forests; mixed extrusive volcanic materials on dissected, tilted plateaus and mesa surfaces.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Red Creek and Soap Creek Cattle allotments are within the area.
- There are no known potential for oil and gas resources in the area.
- The Soap Creek Road #721 is a high clearance four-wheel drive road that receives light traffic. Recreational dispersed camping occurs along the Soap Creek Road.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Some prescribed fire activities have been applied in the southern portion of the unit. The area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The majority of the unit is steep with open and timbered slopes and rock outcrops. Private land activities may affect a sense of solitude in the vicinity of Big Soap Park.

Challenge – This segment provides little challenge because of its proximity to the road; however, the adjoining West Elk Wilderness offers steep and rugged terrain with many challenge opportunities.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is long and narrow, however, it adjoins the West Elk Wilderness.
- Boundaries – The existing boundary is along a topographic feature and is very defensible. However, if this unit was to become an addition, Soap Creek would be a more manageable rather than the road. The area to the east of the existing wilderness boundary would not improve boundary management.

Special Features/Activities – Highly scenic cliff outcrops of eroded West Elk Breccia.

Evaluation: Most of this area meets criteria for **capable** wilderness with the exception of the eastern segment, which does not meet boundary management needs.

Availability:

Recreation – There are no Forest Service System Trails within the area. Dispersed camping occurs along the Soap Creek Road.

Water – There are no water developments or diversions.

Timber – There are approximately 200 acres of land within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas or hardrock resources.

Management Considerations – Current boundary of the West Elk Wilderness is very defensible. Changing the boundary would slightly increase the potential for motorized and mechanized trespass.

Evaluation – Approximately 5,540 Acres is **available** wilderness. The remaining acres do not meet criteria for boundary management.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

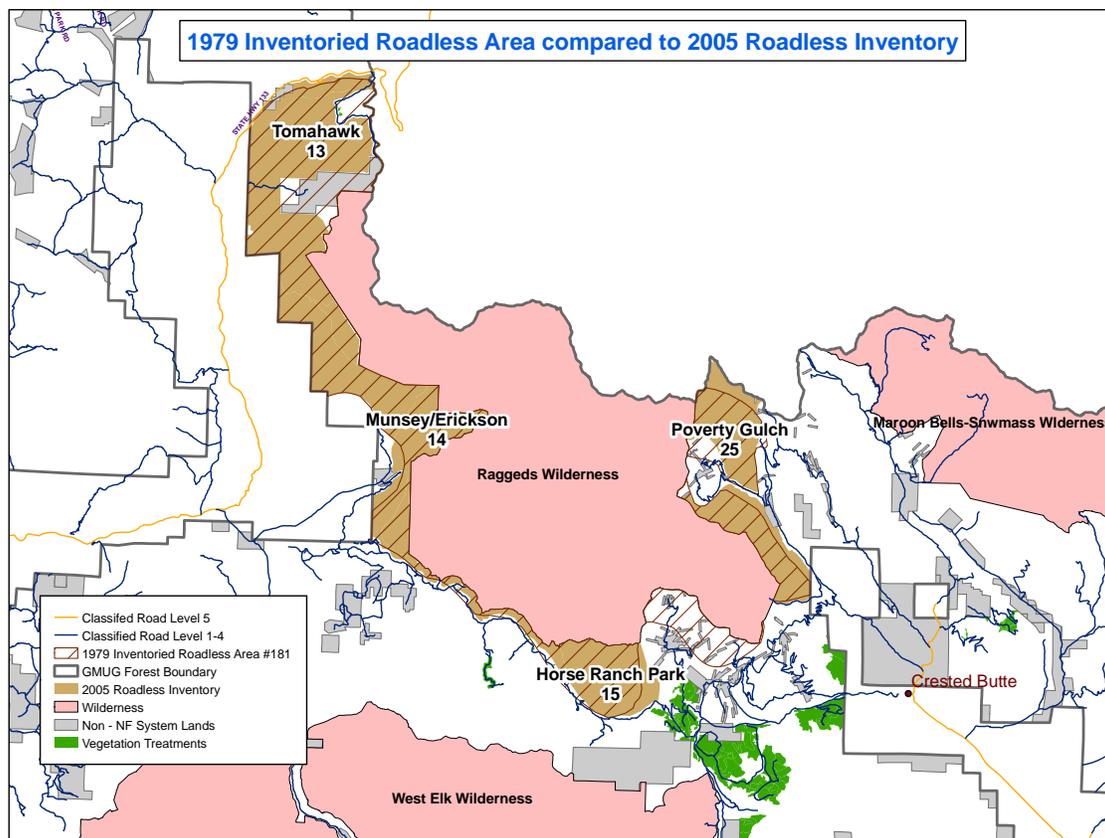
- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 20 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 25 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 25 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 35 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 35 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 45 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 50 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 50 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 55 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 55 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 55 miles
- Tabeguache Special Area – 60 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 181 Raggeds

RARE II History – This area was identified in 1979 as roadless area #181; 93,250 acres were recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS, an additional 27,190 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended for wilderness. In 1980, Public Law 96-560 designated approximately 42,200 as the Raggeds Wilderness. Under Public Law 103-77, an additional 5,500 acres were designated in 1993 as the Oh-Be-Joyful addition to the Raggeds Wilderness. Non-National Forest System lands, lands altered with roads accessing private lands, lands with water transmission ditches and access roads, and lands altered with tree plantations were removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Tomahawk #20413, Munsey #20414, Horse Ranch Park #20415, and Poverty Gulch #20425**

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 181 from 2005 inventory:

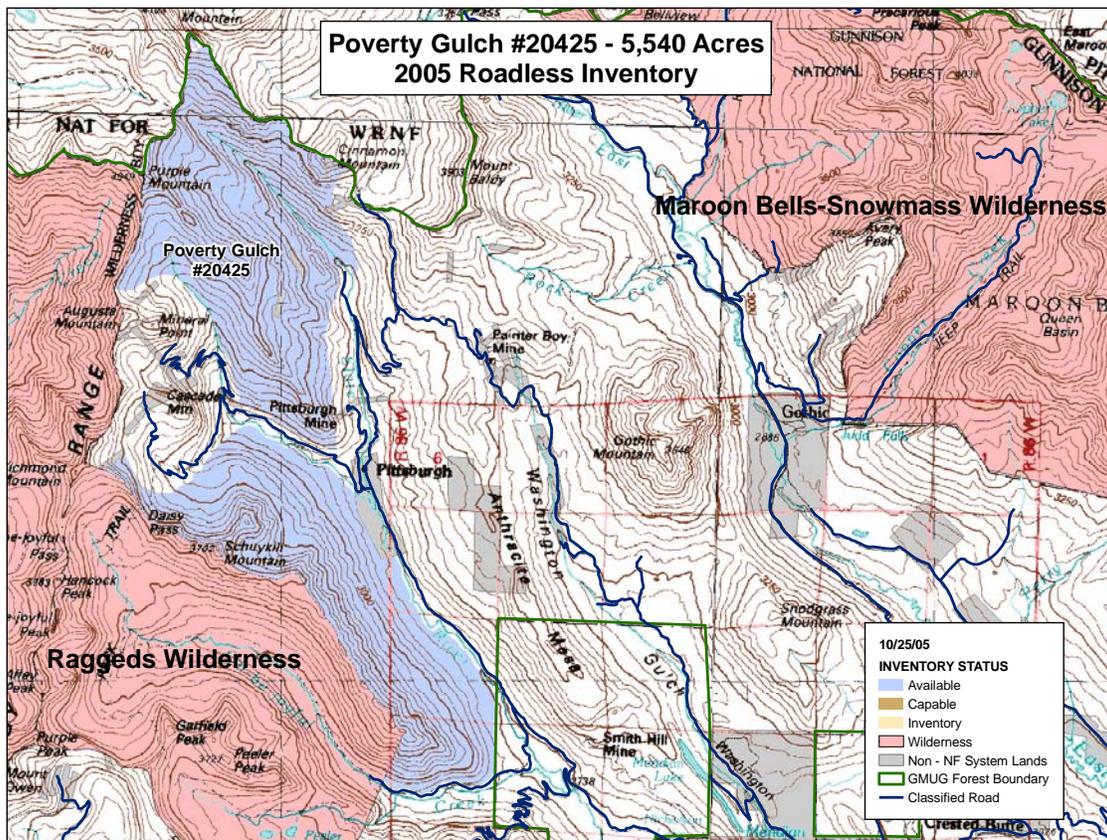
- The area contains 15 miles of road
- Non-National Forest System lands within RARE 181
- Ponderosa pine plantation along Rd 759 near the Erickson Springs Campground
- Water transmission lines in the vicinity of Tomahawk Reservoir



2005 Inventory Description:

Poverty Gulch #20425 – 5,540 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area is within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately seven miles northwest of Crested Butte and adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness along the Ruby Range north of Oh-Be-Joyful Peak. This area has two segments, both are bordered by Road #734, Slate River Road, to the east and the Raggeds Wilderness the west. The two segments are divided by Poverty Gulch Road (#7752) and Baxter Basin Road (#7552.2A).



Elevation Range – 9,000' – 13,300'

Eco-Section – M331H – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 49% spruce-fir, 23% aspen, 11% shrub, 4% riparian-willow/alder, and 7% bare ground.

Land Type –

50% 70SX– Montane Aspen climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology and landslide materials on mountain slopes and benches.

50% 80SX– Alpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geologic materials, alpine tundra vegetation on high elevation mountain peaks.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Slate River cattle allotment is within this unit.
- Patented mining claims are located along both Poverty Gulch Road and Baxter Basin.
- Potential for oil and gas resources is low.
- Trail #576, Yule Pass Trail, is a non-motorized trail located in the northern segment of the unit.
- The road system within Poverty Gulch in the vicinity of Cascade Mountain is utilized by ORVs.
- Snowmobile activities occurs in this unit during the winter and spring months.
- One spring development and approximately 800 feet of waterline is permitted to Rocky Mountain Biological Lab within T13S, R86W, Sec 13.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – This area has evidence of historic mineral activity. Visitors would encounter evidence of historic mining and old roads.
- Solitude – The private lands, once mined for hard rock minerals, are currently undeveloped. The use of the road system by ORVs in the Poverty Gulch/Cascade Mountain vicinity would affect visitor solitude.

Challenge – Opportunities for self-reliance and unconfined recreation opportunities exist.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Designation of both units would create a cherry-stem effect.
- Boundaries – As an addition to the Raggeds Wilderness, management of the boundary against winter motorized use would be difficult. The existing boundary is highly defensible. The cherry-stem effect created by the Poverty Gulch Road causes management difficulties.

Special Features/Activities – North Fork of Slate River/Yule Canyon is currently identified as Eligible in the GMUG Wild and Scenic River inventory.

Evaluation: Although boundary management is a concern, this area meets the criteria as **capable** for wilderness.

Availability:

Recreation – Some loss of winter motorized opportunities in both the north and south parcels would occur if the area was designated as wilderness.

Water – The area contains one permitted spring development and waterline.

Timber – There are no lands within this unit that are suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has a low potential for oil and gas resources. The area is located within the Ruby Mining District. It is highly mineralized and has history of mining precious metals and ores.

Management Considerations – Winter boundary management and snowmobile trespass.

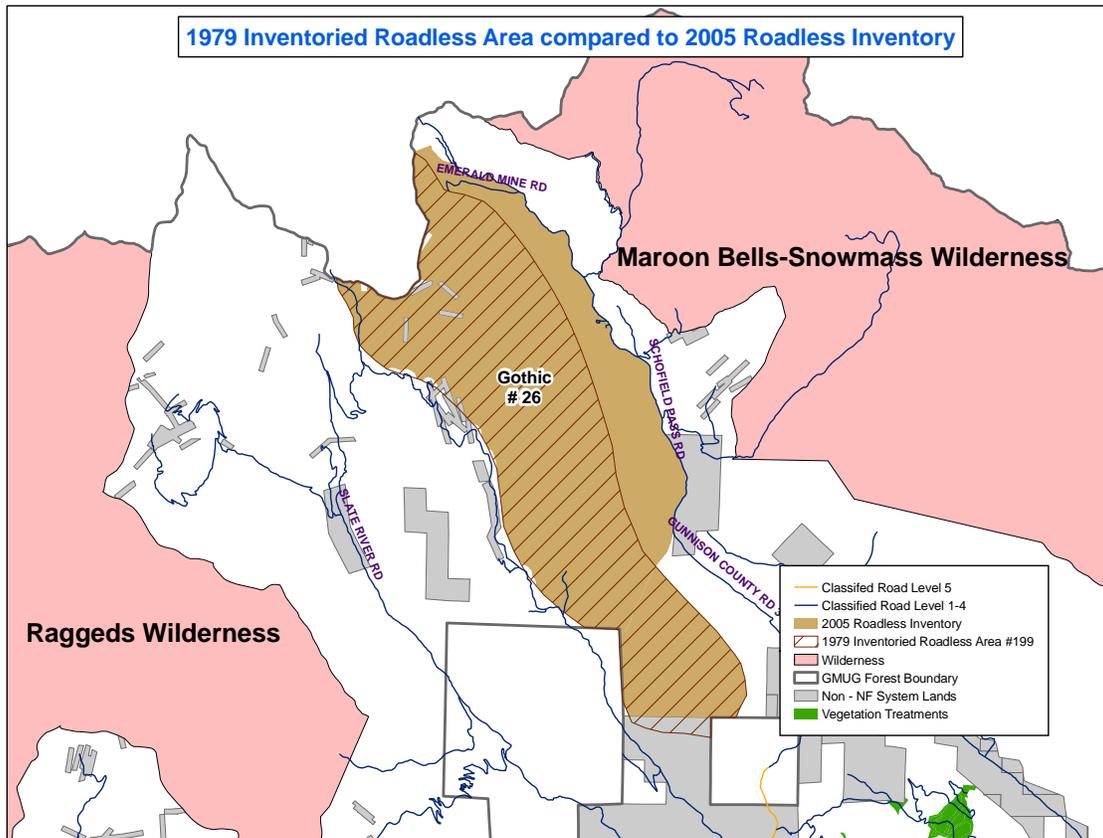
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Raggeds Wilderness – <1 mile
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 5 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 20 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 25 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 25 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 30 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 40 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 55 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 60 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 65 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 65 miles
- Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 199 Gothic Mountain

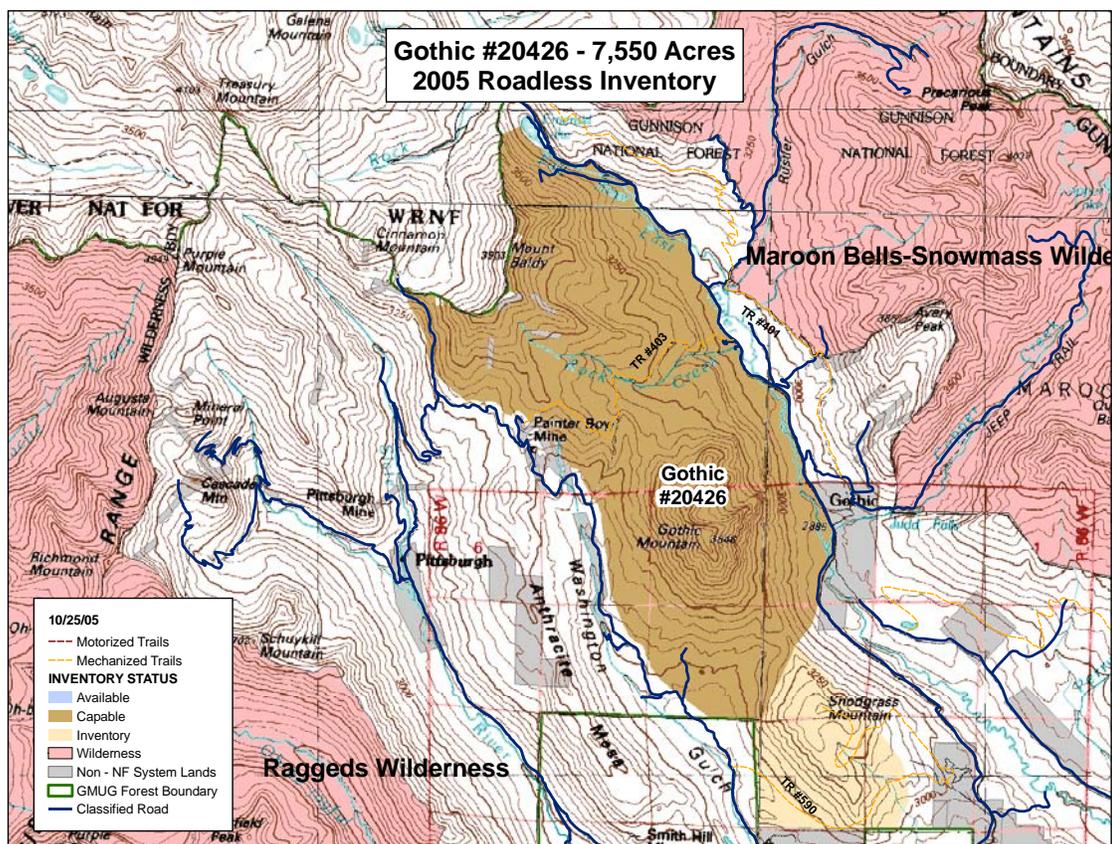
RARE II History – The Gothic RARE II unit was comprised of 6,660 acres that were identified as roadless yet not recommended in the RARE II Final EIS. Most of this area has retained its roadless character and is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20426, Gothic.**



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Gothic #20426 – 7,550 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located four miles north of the town of Crested Butte and east of the Gothic Townsite. The area lies between road #317, Scholfield Pass Road, to the east and road #811, Washington Gulch, to the west. The south is bounded by private land and the north by the Forest boundary with the White River National Forest. The management category for the White River National Forest is 4.3, Dispersed Recreation, which allows motorized uses. The area includes Gothic Mountain (12,625') and Snodgrass Mountain (11,145'). The area is physically separated from existing wilderness lands by roads. Private lands are adjacent to the unit and within the unit, a result of mining claims having gone to patent.



Eco-Section – M331I – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 33% spruce-fir, 11% spruce-fir-aspen, 11% aspen, 5% grasses, 14% willow-alder, 5% alpine, and 18% bare ground.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Gothic and Slate River Cattle allotments are within this area.

- The area has two mountain bike trails, #590 Snodgrass and #403 Washington Gulch.
- The Snodgrass Mountain area is currently identified within the permitted lands for the Mt Crested Butte Ski Area. With the exception of an administrative access road, these lands are currently undeveloped.
- The Gothic Research Natural Area is within this unit.
- The area along the East River is a popular and heavily used recreation corridor.
- Winter snowmobiling occurs on the east (Washington Gulch) side of the unit. Presently, the Gothic corridor is closed to public winter motorized use.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – There is an administrative road within the Snodgrass segment. Away from the road, the area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The sense of remoteness is influenced by the Scholfield Pass road corridor and the corresponding high volume of recreation traffic. Additionally, the private land development adjacent to the Snodgrass area limits a sense of remoteness.

Challenge – The area provides moderate-high level of challenge. The area offers steep terrain and pockets of dense vegetation; however, the unit is near roads and within the sights and sounds of Crested Butte which limits a sense of adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is isolated and approximately 7,600 acres.
- Boundaries – The boundaries generally follow roads and private land.

Special Features/Activities –

- Gothic Research Natural Area
- Snodgrass – Crested Butte Ski Area Permit

Evaluation: The Snodgrass area being a part of the Crested Butte Ski Area Permit does not meet the criteria for capability. The remainder of the unit is **capable**.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The Washington Gulch Trail #403 is an expert ride mountain bike route which runs through the area and connects to a larger system.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 400 acres within the capable portion of this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 200 acres of tentatively suitable timber land are within the inventory portion of this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – The area is adjacent to a Theme 8 area and a proposed ski area expansion site.

Evaluation – The area provides a highly valued mechanized recreation opportunity and is therefore **not available** for wilderness.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

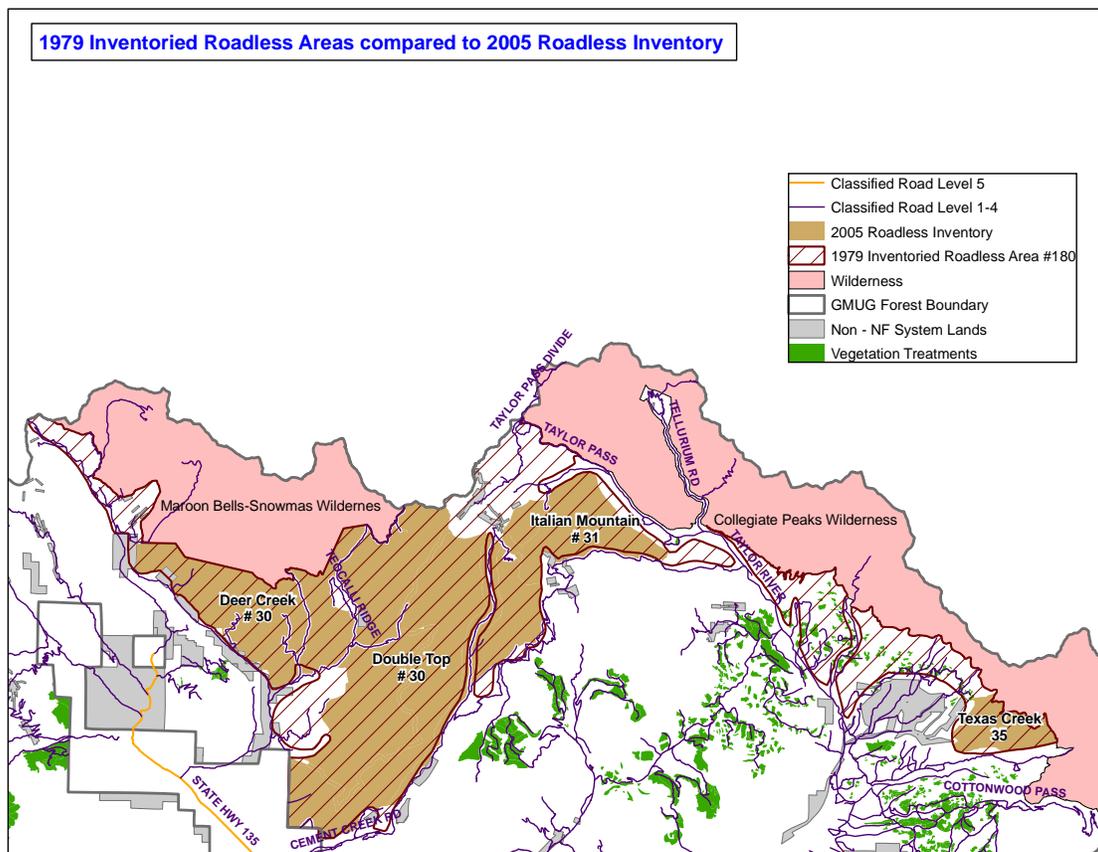
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 5 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 15 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 20 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 20 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 30 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 40 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 45 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 55 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 60 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 60 miles
- Sangre De Cristo – 65 miles

Rare II # 180 Elk Mountain – Collegiate

RARE II History – RARE Unit 180 identified 134,240 acres that were recommended for Wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. The 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-560, designated 48,960 acres as part of the Collegiate Wilderness and 19,000 acres as part of the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20428 Deer Creek, #20430 Double Top, #20431 Italian Mountain, and #20435 Texas Creek**. Some portions of Unit 180 lost their roadless character as a result of road construction and timber harvest and are illustrated on the map below.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 180 from 2005 inventory:

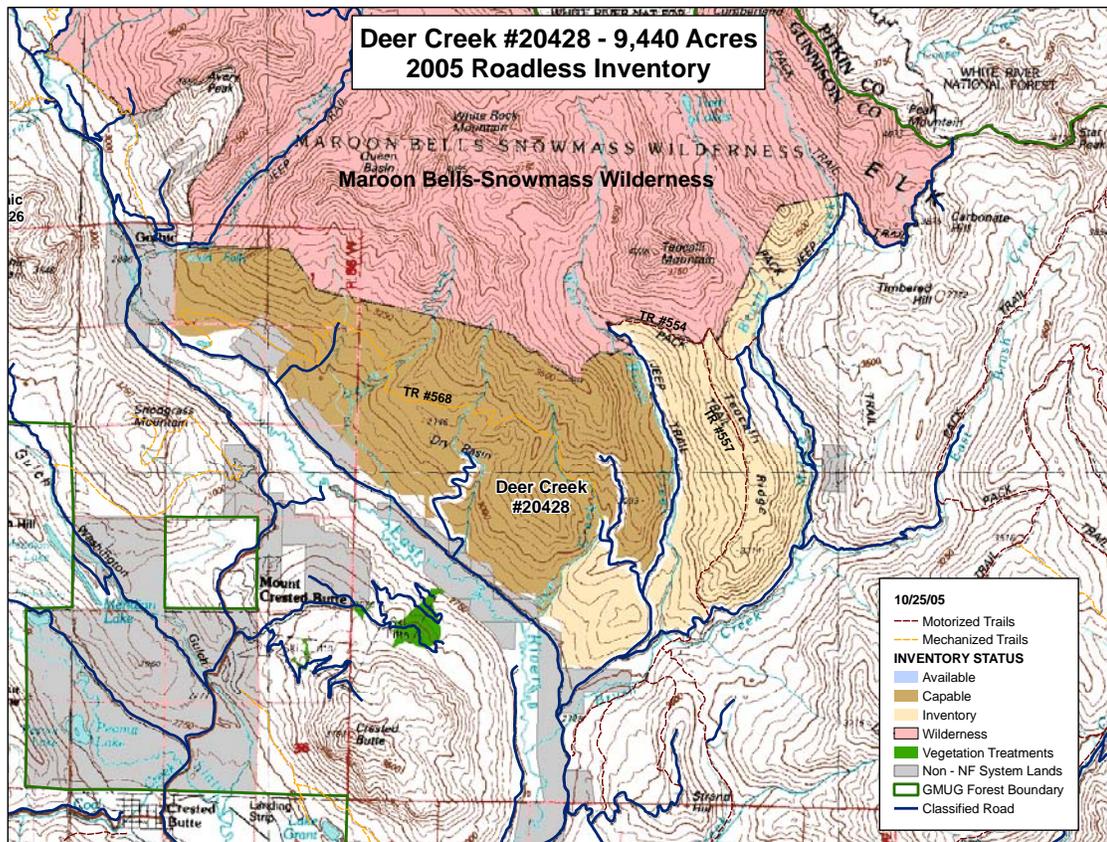
- There are 72 miles of road within IRA 180
- Vegetation harvest of 579 acres
- Non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Deer Creek #20428 – 9,440 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately two miles east of Crested Butte. The area adjoins the Maroon Bells Wilderness to the north and parallels the East River to the Town of Gothic. There are two distinct segments that are divided by the West Brush Creek Road #732.2A. The Deer Creek segment is to the west of the West Brush Creek Road and the Brush Creek segment is located to the east.



Elevation Range – 9,000' – 12,600'

Eco-Section – M3311 – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 47% spruce-fir, 10% lodgepole pine, 17% willow alder, 7% alpine, 7% bare ground, 6% aspen, and 4% grass/forbs.

Land Type –

90% 70SX – Subalpine Climate zone; moderately steep to steep lands occur on mountain sideslopes, drainages, and ridges in areas of mixed sedimentary materials. Vegetation is mostly subalpine coniferous forests with small areas of subalpine grasslands and shrublands.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- Deer Creek, Dry Basin and Gothic cattle allotments are within this area.
- Two motorized trails, #554 Teocalli Mountain and #557 Teocalli Ridge, are within the Brush Creek segment of this area.
- One mountain bike trail, #568 Deer Creek, bisects the remaining portion of this unit.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Most of the area has a high degree of naturalness. The Brush Creek area is confined between heavily used recreation roads.
- Solitude – The major portion of this area overlooks the Crested Butte Ski area, the town of Mount Crested Butte, and associated developments. The visibility of the Gothic Road detracts from a sense of remoteness and solitude. The motorized trails within the Brush Creek portion of this area detract from the sense of solitude. The Deer Creek Trail #568 is heavily used. However, isolated pockets of land exist where one can find solitude within this unit.

Challenge – The area provides a low challenge level because the gentle terrain and minimum screening from the vegetation

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size – The configuration of the Brush Creek area is oblong due to the Brush Creek and West Brush Creek roads that surround the area. The Deer Creek area is adjacent to the Maroon Bells Wilderness and is of sufficient size to be manageable.
- Boundaries – The area along the East River contains private in-holdings that could prove difficult to manage. Minor adjustments to this boundary would improve the manageability.

Special Features/Activities –None Identified.

Evaluation: As a stand-alone unit, this area would not meet capable criteria due to proximity to developments and limited opportunities for challenge. However, as an addition to the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness, the Deer Creek portion of the unit meets the criteria for **capability**. The Brush Creek portion does not meet the criteria for capability due to manageability of shape and boundaries that result from a cherry-stem effect.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The Deer Creek Trail #568 is a high use trail which is closed to motorized travel. It is one of the few non-motorized mountain bike trails in the area.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 600 acres within the capable portion of this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 500 acres of tentatively suitable timber land are within the inventory portion of this unit.

Minerals – Low potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – None identified.

Evaluation – The area provides highly valued mechanized recreation opportunities, a limited resource in the Gunnison Basin. Therefore, the area is **not available** for wilderness.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

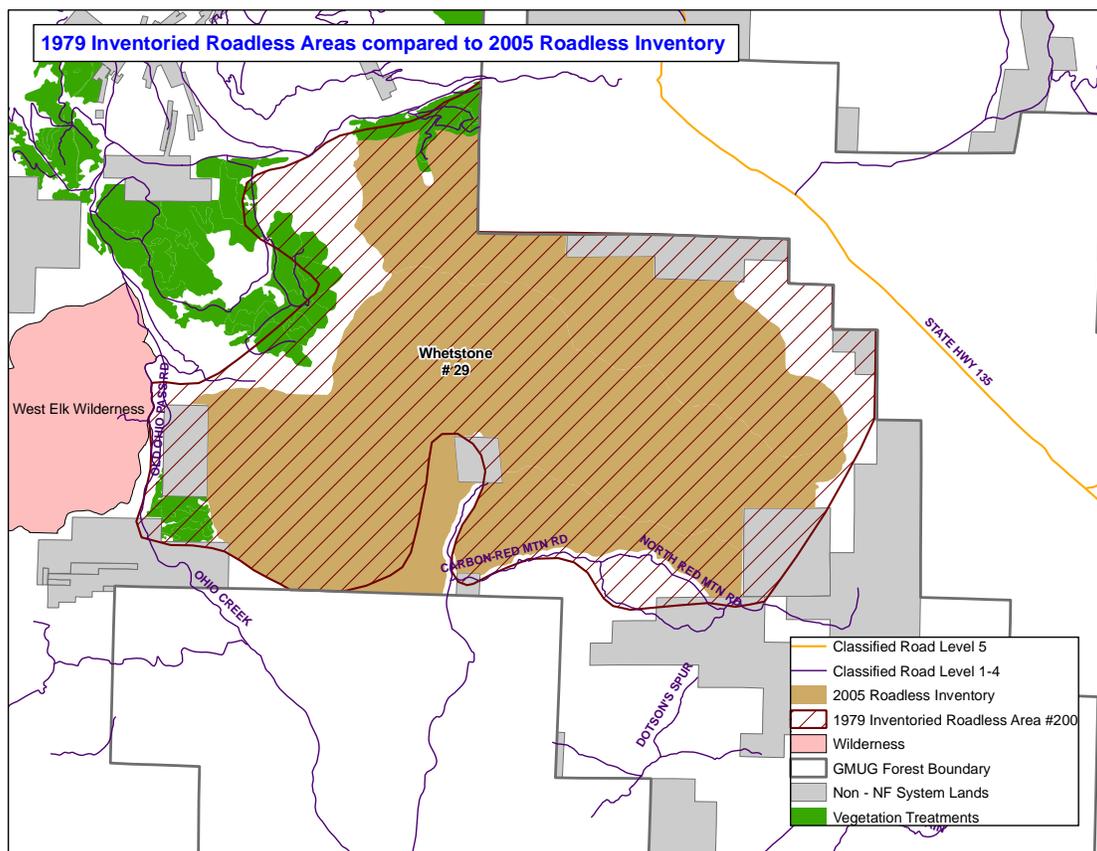
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 5 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 10 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 15 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 20 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 20 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 30 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 30 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 35 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 50 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 50 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 55 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 60 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness - 60 miles

Rare II # 200 Whetstone

RARE II History – RARE Unit #200 identified 15,400 acres of roadless land yet did not recommend the area for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Non-National Forest System lands and lands altered with roads and timber harvest were removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Whetstone #20429**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 200 from 2005 inventory:

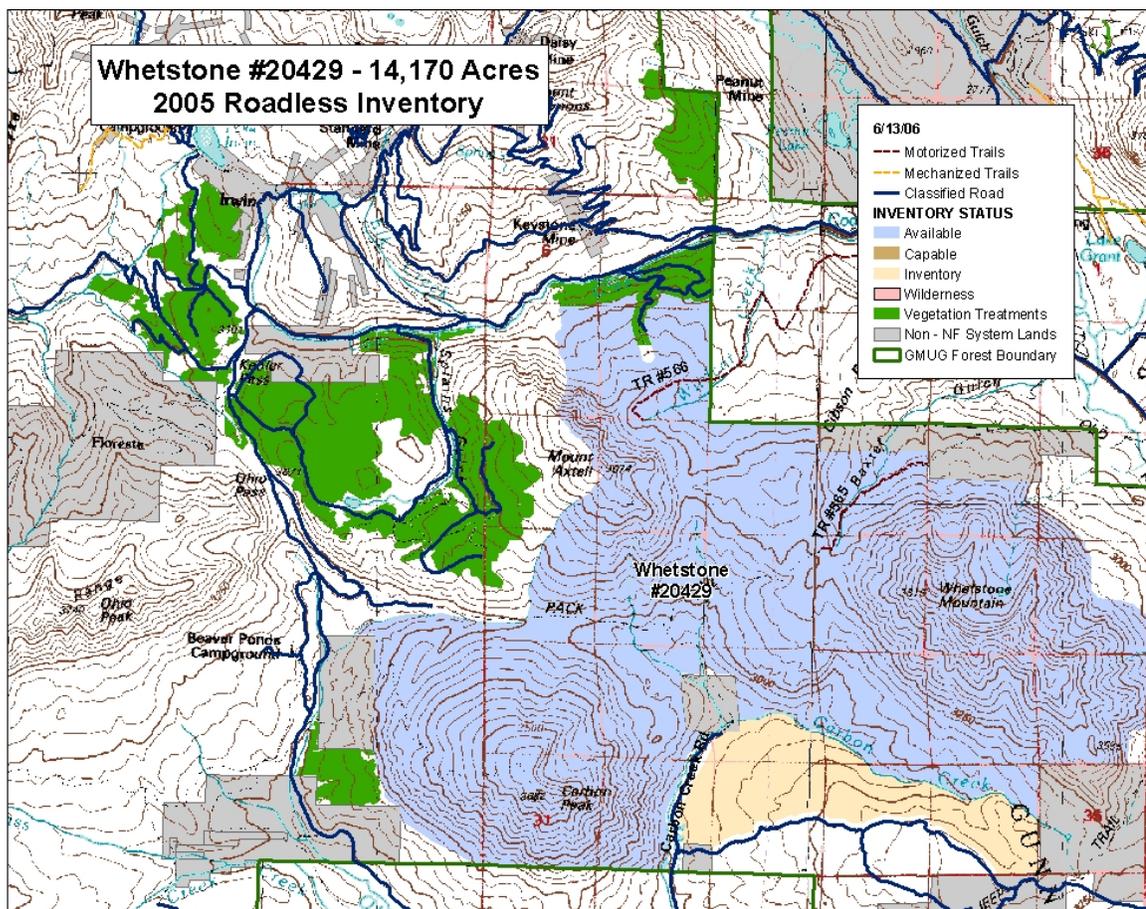
- Vegetation harvest within the Splains Gulch area (approx. 183 acres)
- Twelve miles of roads are within the area, generally along the area perimeter
- Non-National Forest System lands



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Whetstone #20429 – 14,170 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located approximately two miles south and west of the Town of Crested Butte. It is comprised for the most part of three mountain peaks, Whetstone Mountain, Mt. Axtell (12,055'), and Carbon Peak (12,079') located between the Ohio Creek Road #730 and the Kebler Pass Road (State Hwy 133). The eastern boundary follows the toe of the eastern slope of Whetstone Mountain in an effort to avoid private lands. The western boundary follows the topography using the ridge of Mt Axtell to the drainage downslope to avoid lands altered by timber harvest. The boundary to the north is the Forest boundary and private land boundary as is much of the southern boundary. Private land borders the National Forest boundary.



Eco-Section – M331H – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain.

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 28% spruce-fir, 38% spruce-fir-aspen, 8% aspen, 3% grasses, 6% willow-alder, and 11% bare ground.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Baxter Gulch and Carbon cattle allotments are within this unit.
- Trails, #565 the Baxter Gulch Trail and #566 the Green Lake Trail, are within the area and used by both motorized and mountain bikes. Trail 565 currently is located through private lands. Local mountain bike groups are pursuing an easement to allow a loop connection with Trail 566.
- Forest Road #37, the Carbon Creek Road, intrudes into the area and accesses private land within the unit.
- Winter recreational snowmobiling occurs and has been encouraged in the Wildcat drainage and along the flanks of Mt. Axtel.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area is surrounded on three sides by private land. The Trappers crossing area to the north has high valued homes. Once away from the perimeter, the interior of the area appears natural.
- Solitude – The sense of remoteness and solitude is limited along the perimeter of the unit as a result of the private land influences. The City of Gunnison, Hwy 135, the Town of Crested Butte, and private land developments are visible from the highest summits.

Challenge – The area offers high challenge opportunities. Rugged terrain, dense vegetation, distance away from developments, and lack of trails within the area provide an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Eliminating the 40-acre in-holding and access road #737 will create an unmanageable shape to the Carbon-Red Mountain Road #563. Adjusting the boundary to Carbon Creek would improve manageability. The remainder of the area is of sufficient size to protect its roadless character.
- Boundaries – Private land boundaries and topography was used for much of the unit boundary. Defensibility of boundaries from winter snowmobiling will be difficult. Management along some of the private land may also be difficult. Adjusting the boundary to Carbon Creek to eliminate the private land parcel within the unit is needed.

Special Features/Activities – Mount Axtell, Carbon Peak, and Whetstone Mountain.

Evaluation: At least 1,300 acres do not meet criteria for capability due to non-National Forest System lands and its shape and juxtaposition to roads. The remaining lands meet the criteria as **capable**.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – Trail #565 is a light to moderately used trail by mechanical and motorized users. Trail #566 has moderate to high use and is favored by hikers and mountain bike riders. Winter motorized use occurs near Mt. Axtel.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 1,300 acres within the capable portion of this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 1,200 acres of tentatively suitable timber land are within the inventory portion of this unit.

Minerals – The area has low potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Boundary management concerns during winter.

Evaluation – The area is **available** for wilderness.

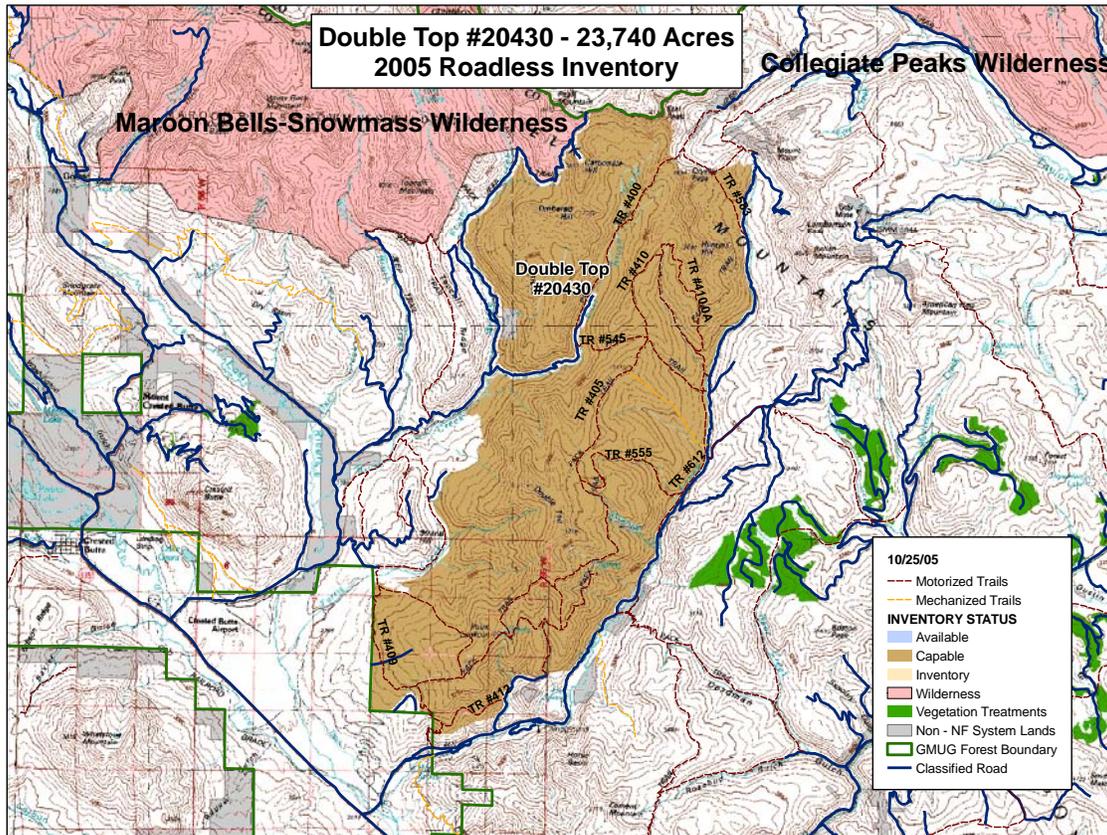
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 5 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 15 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 20 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 30 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 30 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 35 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 45 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 45 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 55 miles
- Sangre De Cristo – 60 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 65 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 65 miles

Double Top #20430 – 23,740 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately five miles east of Crested Butte. The area adjoins the Maroon Bells Wilderness, bordered by Road #740 Cement Creek to the east; Road #738 Brush Creek Road to the west, and private land to the south.



Elevation Range – 9,200' – 12,800'

Eco-Section – M331I – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 47% spruce-fir, 10% lodgepole pine, 17% willow alder, 7% alpine, 7% bare ground, 6% aspen, and 4% grass/forbs.

Land Type –

90% 70SX – Subalpine Climate; moderately steep to steep lands occurs on mountain sideslopes, drainages, and ridges in areas of mixed sedimentary materials. Vegetation is mostly subalpine coniferous forests with small areas of subalpine grasslands and shrublands. Geologic materials consist of sandstones/shales and some limestones and conglomerate.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Brush Creek cattle allotment is within the western portion of the unit. The Cement Creek cattle allotment is within the eastern portion of the area.
- Morgan Ditch (T14S, R84W, Sections 5 & 6) has Ditch Bill Easement
- One non-motorized trail, Beaver Slide Trail, is within the unit.
- A heavily used, interconnected system of motorized trails used by both motorized and mechanized users are throughout the area. The motorized trails included within this area are:

Brush Creek #400

Double Top #405

Cement Creek #612

Hunter Creek #410

Hunters Hill #410.0A

Block & Tackle #545

Waterfall Ck #555

Crystal Peak #583

Farris Creek #409

Farris Creek Bypass #409.5A

Walrod Gulch Cut-off #418

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high density trail network that is utilized by both single track motorized users and mountain bike users.
- Solitude – State Hwy 135 and private land development of Crested Butte South influence and detract from the opportunities for solitude and sense of serenity. The area is bounded by Cement Creek and Brush Creek Roads.

Challenge – The area offers moderate level of challenge. It is difficult to get away from the sights and sounds of motorized travel with the high density of motorized trails. The area offers pockets of dense timber that helps provide some sense of remoteness and challenge.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size – The area is of sufficient size and shape to manage as a distinct unit.
- Boundaries – The area is bounded by roads east and west and private land to the south. Due to historic motorized and mechanized recreation, boundary management would be a challenge.

Special Features/Activities – Interconnected system of single track trails.

Evaluation: This unit minimally meets the criteria for Capability. The area is **capable** of becoming wilderness.

Availability:

Recreation – The trail network within this unit is very popular with both motorized and mechanized users.

Water – Ditch Bill Easement – Morgan Ditch

Timber – There are approximately 7,300 acres within the capable portion of this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has a low potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Boundary management and private land interface at Crested Butte South. Historic motorized use would create trespass problems.

Evaluation – The recreation values for motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities make this area **not available** for wilderness.

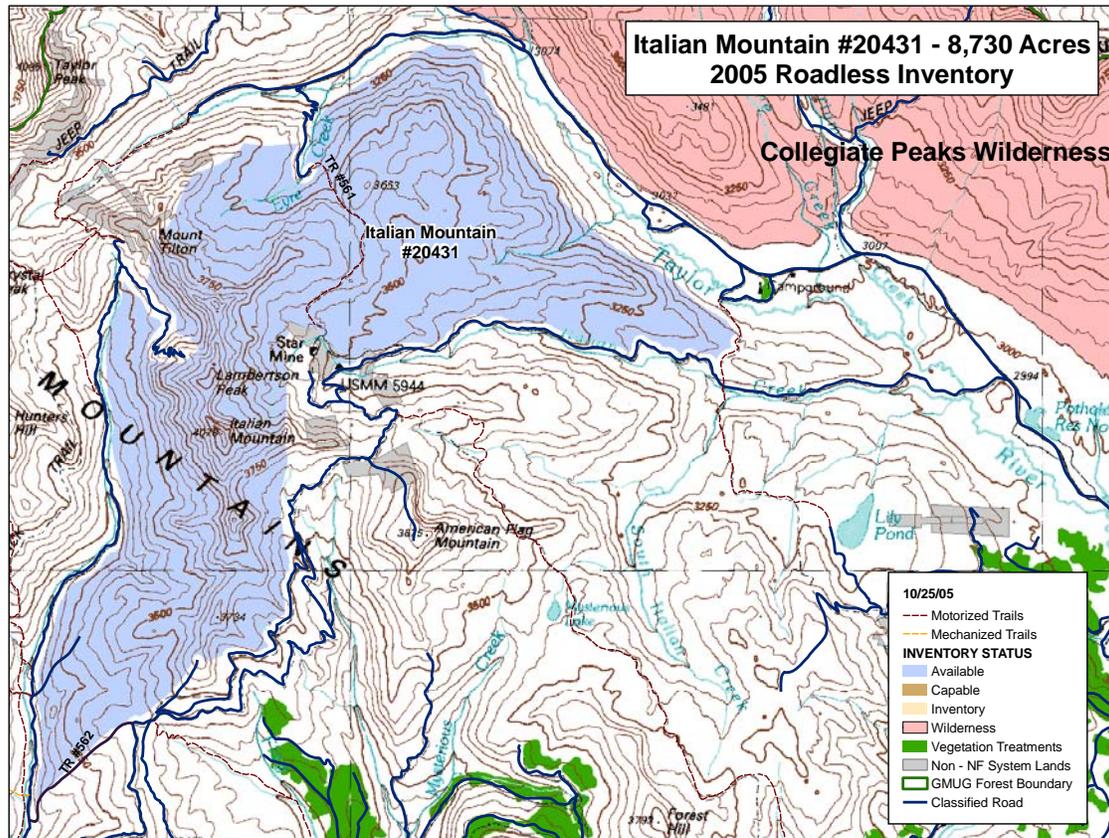
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 1 mile
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 10 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 10 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 15 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 15 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 15 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 20 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 30 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 55 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 55 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 55 miles

Italian Mountain #20431 – 8,730 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately seven miles northeast of Crested Butte. The unit lies between Forest Road 740, the Cement Creek Road; and Road 759, the Italian Creek Road.



Elevation Range – 10,000' – 13,200'

Eco-Section – M3311 – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 47% spruce-fir, 10% lodgepole pine, 17% willow alder, 7% alpine, 7% bare ground, 6% aspen, and 4% grass/forbs.

Land Type –

85% 80IX – Alpine Climate zone; mixed intrusive volcanic geologic materials, usually granite. This alpine landtype consists of grass, shrubs, forbs, and krummholtz vegetation on usually steep to very steep mountain peaks ridges and cirques. These areas have typically been glaciated. This landtype includes high elevation jagged peaks, glacial cirques, alpine ridges, glacial basins, rock glaciers, and rock outcrops.

15% 70IX – Subalpine Climate zone; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype

occurs on mountain sideslopes. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks sideslopes, ridges, and peaks.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Taylor Park and Cement Creek cattle allotments are within this area.
- Motorized Trail #561 receives low visitor use and is within this unit.
- Winter motorized over-snow activities are prevalent in the Cement Creek and Italian Creek Roads.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – There is evidence of historic mining, generally along the peripheral of the unit.
- Solitude – Sounds generated from the Taylor Park Road, Cement Creek Road, and Italian Creek jeep road limit the opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude.

Challenge – The area offers a moderate level of challenge. The terrain is steep, yet the unit is surrounded by roads and trails that affect a sense of adventure and self reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size – The area is of a configuration that would make it difficult to manage.
- Boundaries – The boundaries of this unit follow roads which are identifiable and manageable during summer uses. Defensibility of the boundaries during winter would be difficult

Special Features/Activities – This area is a dominate high ridge vista as viewed from the Cottonwood Pass road, containing the prominent peaks of Lambertson, Italian, and Tilton Peaks.

Evaluation: This area minimally meets the criteria as **capable** wilderness land. The unusual shape and heavy influence of motorized use that surrounds the unit, along with difficulty in managing winter trespass, are of concern.

Availability:

Recreation – The Eyre Basin Trail #561, a motorized trail, bisects the unit.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 3,300 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no potential for oil and gas resources.

Management Considerations – Boundary management would be difficult.

Evaluation – This area is **available** for wilderness.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

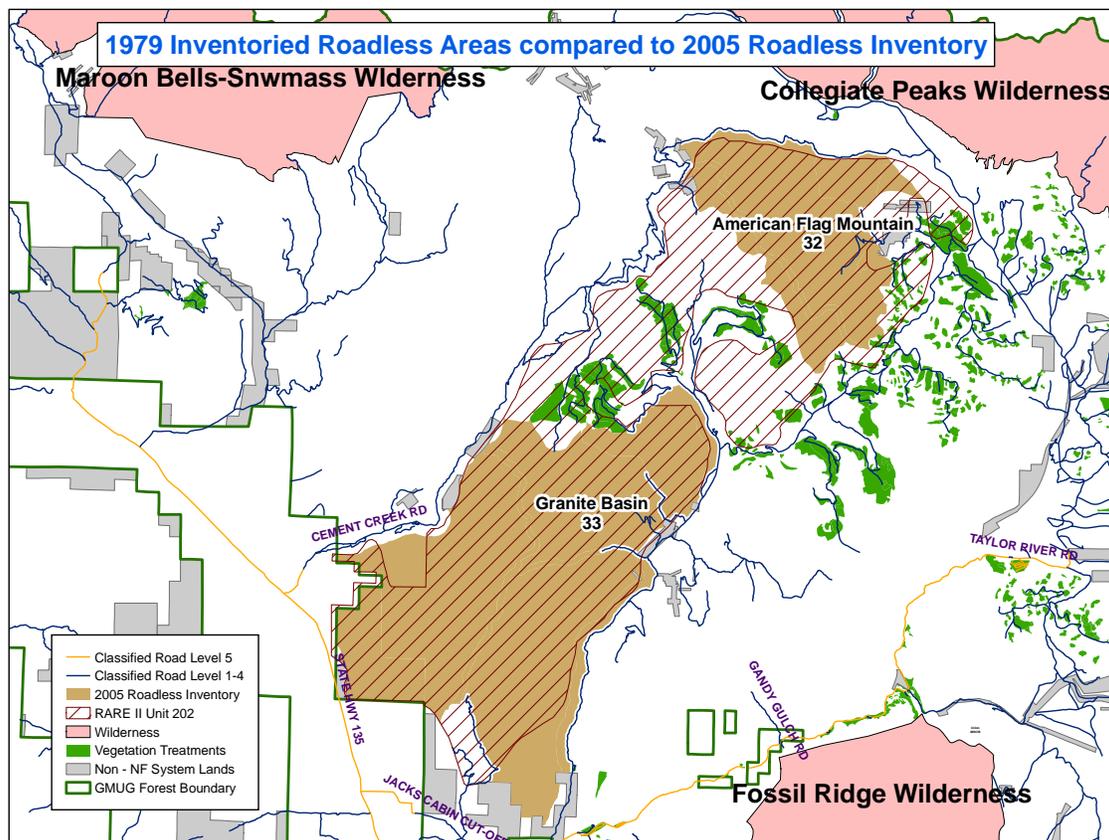
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 5 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 5 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 15 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 15 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 15 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 25 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 25 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 25 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 50 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 55 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 60 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 65 miles
- Lost Creek Wilderness – 65 miles
- Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 202 Boston

RARE II History – RARE II Unit #202 identified 48,640 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Today's mapping technology indicates this area to be approximately 46,600 acres. Lands with roads, lands altered with timber harvest, and non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20432 American Flag Mountain and #20433 Granite Basin.**

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 202 from 2005 inventory:

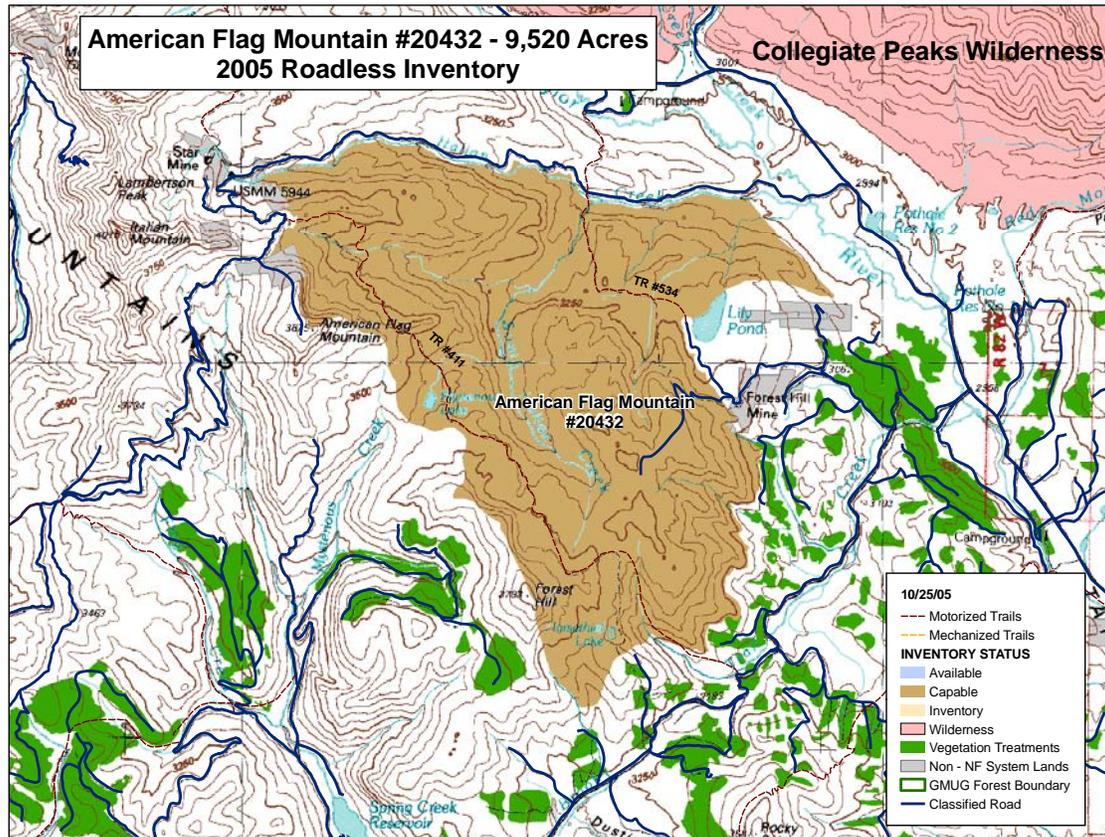
- Road construction – 33 miles
- Timber Harvest – 1,800 acres
- Non-National Forest System lands



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

American Flag Mountain #20432 – 9,520 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately 14 miles northeast of the Town of Crested Butte, just south of Road #759, the Italian Creek Road, and west of Lily Pond and Dorchester mine site.



Elevation Range – 9,800' – 13,200'

Eco-Section – M331I – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 47% spruce-fir, 10% lodgepole pine, 17% willow alder, 7% alpine, 7% bare ground, 6% aspen, and 4% grass/forbs.

Land Type –

85% 70IX – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks sideslopes, ridges, and peaks

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Taylor Park cattle allotment is within the area.
- Timber harvest has occurred adjacent to the roadless area.
- Motorized trail #411, Star; and #534, Lily Pond, bisect the area.
- The area has snowmobile use in the winter.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The developments near the mines and town site of Dorchester and Lily Pond affect the naturalness; however, once away from the mines and roads, the area appears natural.
- Solitude – The area is surrounded by motorized roads and trails and motorcycles travel to the summit of American Flag Mountain; thus it would be difficult to escape the sound of motors, affecting opportunities for solitude. Two motorized trails are within the unit further affecting solitude.

Challenge – The area provides a moderate challenge opportunity. The area is rugged and offers dense vegetation; however, the close proximity of roads and trails limits opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size – The area is large enough to manage for roadless character.
- Boundaries – The boundary to the east follows harvest units and would be difficult to manage, the boundary to the west follows topography, and the remaining boundaries, avoiding private inholdings, follow a series of roads and trails. Defensibility of the boundary during the winter would be difficult.

Special Features/Activities – Star Trail is an important motorized single-track link route. It provides a loop connection to Lilly Pond and Rocky.

Evaluation: This area minimally meets criteria for **capable** wilderness. Opportunities for solitude and sense of remoteness are limited due to the close proximity of motorized recreation activities.

Availability:

Recreation – The area contains two important motorized trails #411, Star, and #534, Lily Pond. Winter motorized recreation occurs along Italian Creek.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 6,100 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The potential for oil and gas in this area is low.

Management Considerations – Winter boundary management would be difficult. Motorized trail use to the top of American Flag Mountain, which is along the unit boundary, will always affect solitude and sense of remoteness.

Evaluation – The area provides winter and summer motorized recreation opportunities. The Star Trail is an important link within a loop system. The area is **not available** for wilderness.

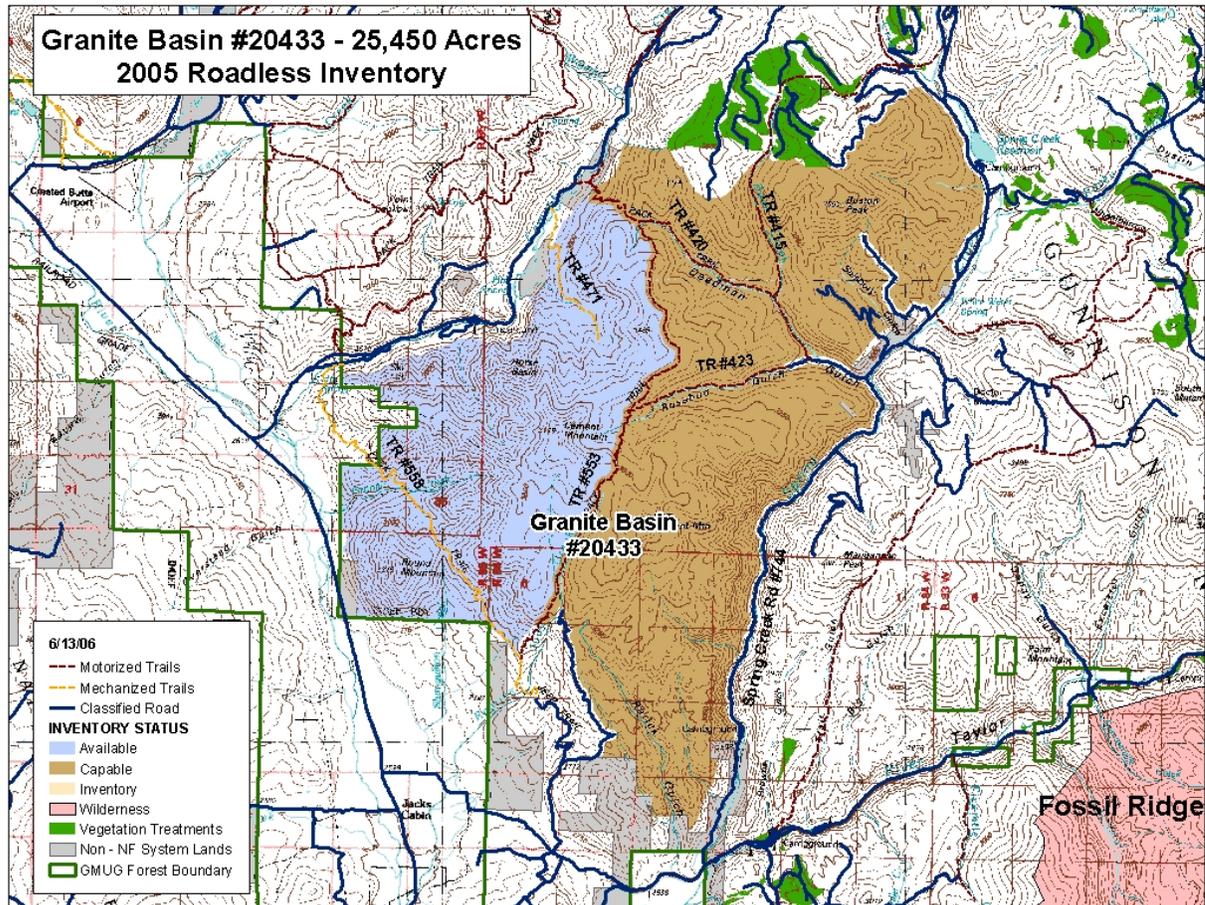
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 5 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 10 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 15 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 25 mile
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 25 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 30 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 45 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 50 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 55 miles
- Ptarmigan Wilderness – 60 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 60 miles
- Mt Evans Wilderness – 65 miles
- Lost Canyon Wilderness – 65 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 65 miles

Granite Basin #20433 – 25,450 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area lies within the Gunnison Basin Geographic area approximately eight miles north of the Town of Almont. The unit lies between Road #744 Spring Creek to the east and north, Road #640 Cement Creek to the west, and private lands to the south.



Elevation Range – 8,500' – 12,200'

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 9% lodgepole pine, 49% spruce-fir, 11% spruce-fir-aspen, and 13% willow-alder.

Eco-Section – M331I – Northern Parks and Ranges

Land Type –

55% 70SX– Montane Aspen climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology and landslide materials on mountain slopes and benches.

20% 70IX – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with

various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, sideslopes, ridges, and peaks

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Mesa and Soap Creek Cattle allotments are within this unit.
- Winter snowmobile recreation occurs along the Spring Creek road.
- Single-track motorized trails exist within the area:
 - Trail #415 – Bear Creek Trail, also used mountain bikes
 - Trail #420 – Deadman Gulch, also used by mountain bikes
 - Trail #553 – Cement Mountain
- Mountain bike trails exist within the area:
 - Trail #420.2A – Granite Basin
 - Trail #471 – Horse Basin

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – Opportunities for solitude are influenced by the high use levels of motorcycle and mountain bike use along the trail system within the area. A sense of remoteness is possible due to the deep canyon terrain and heavy conifer vegetation which acts as a visual screen

Challenge – The ruggedness of the landscape north of the road provides opportunities for challenge and self reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size and shape to be managed for roadless qualities.
- Boundaries – Boundaries follow roads and topography and, in some places, private land boundaries. Generally, the boundaries are manageable. Adjustments along private lands could improve boundary management.

Special Features/Activities – Sing track mountain bike trails opportunities.

Evaluation: The area is **capable** and will be further evaluated.

Availability:

Recreation – The Bear Creek and Deadman Gulch trails are considered premier single track mountain bike routes. These routes connect to a larger trail system within the Crested Butte area.

Timber – There are approximately 12,500 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Single track recreation opportunities.

Evaluation – The east side of the unit contains premier mountain bike opportunities and is **not available** for wilderness; however, west of the Deadman and Cement Mountain Trail is considered to be **available**.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

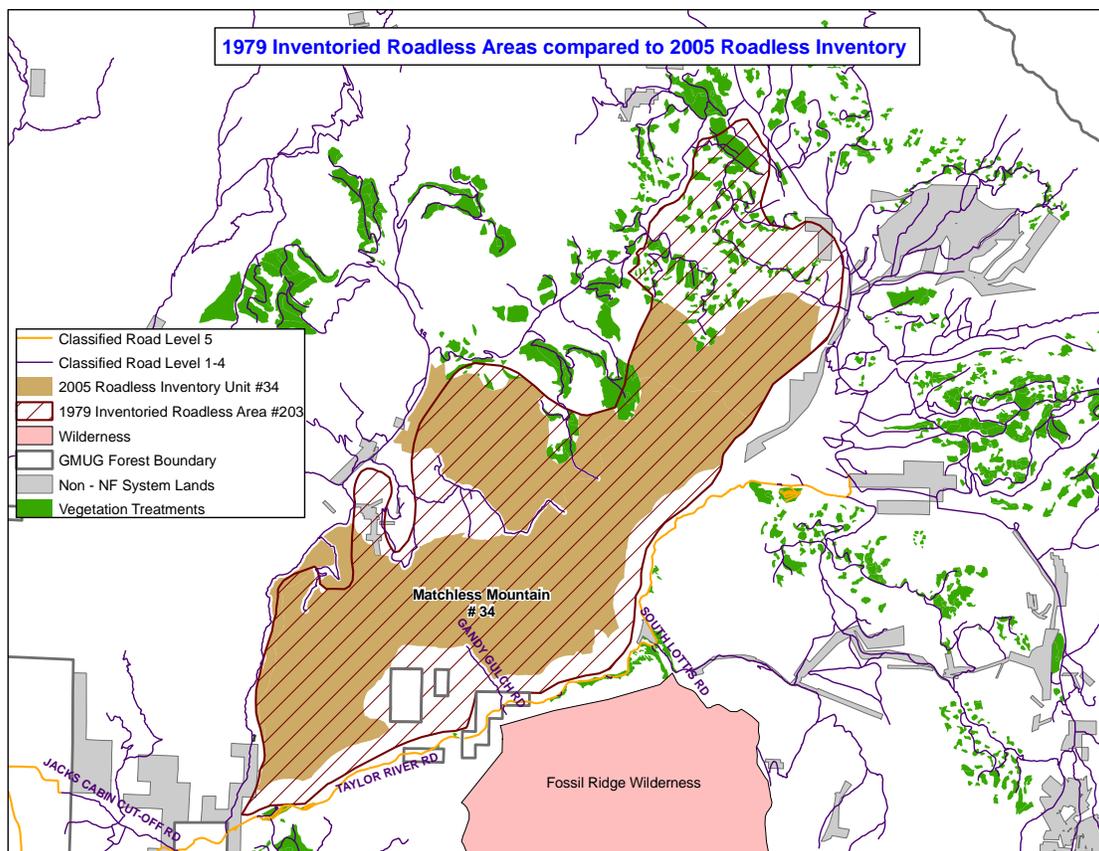
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 10 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 15 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 15 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 20 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 20 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 35 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 40 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 45 miles
- Sangre De Cristo – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 50 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 55 miles

Rare II # 203 Name: Matchless Mountain

RARE II History – RARE II unit #203 identified 35,100 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Today's mapping technology indicates this area to be approximately 34,240 acres. Lands with roads, lands altered with timber harvest, and non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20434 Matchless Mountain**

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 203 from 2005 inventory:

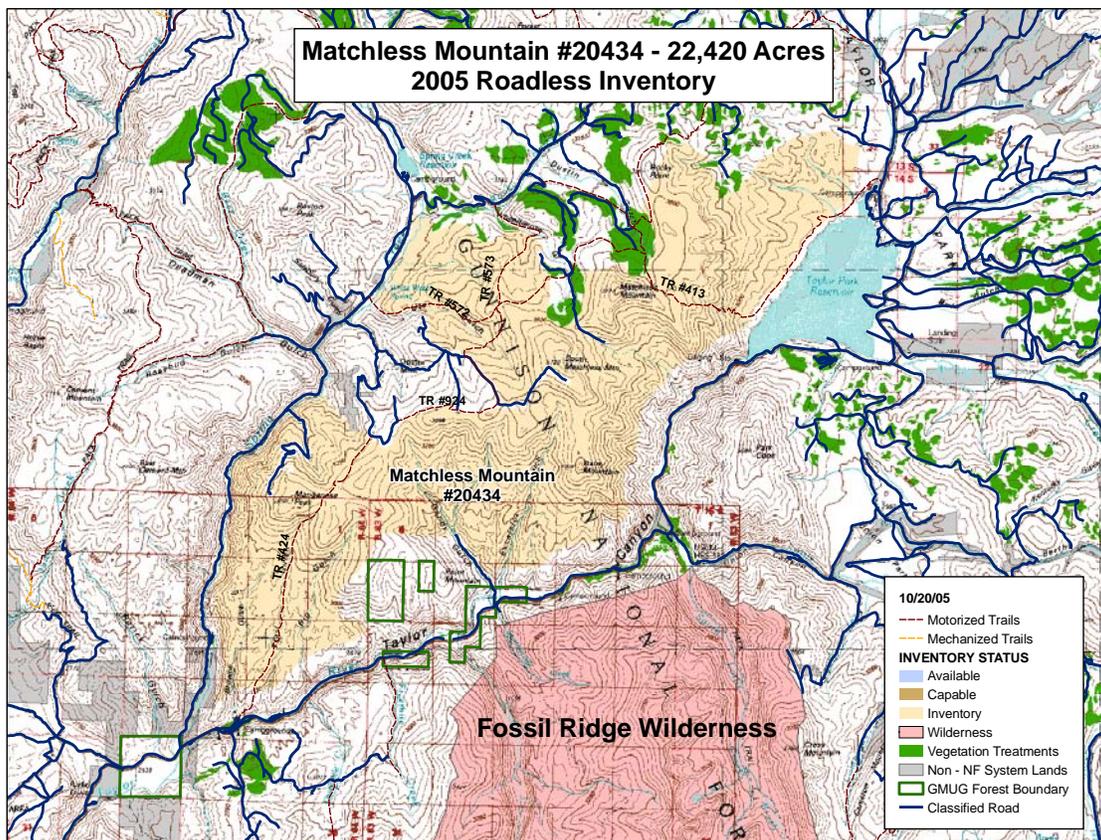
- Road construction - 30 miles
- Timber harvest – 1,300 acres
- Non-National Forest System lands



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Matchless Mountain #20434 – 22,420 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area lies within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately seven miles northeast of Almont and 15 miles northeast of Gunnison. More specifically, the area lies between Taylor Canyon and Spring Creek east-west and between Taylor Park and Almont north-south. The eastern boundary follows the canyon rim paralleling the Taylor River and canyon. A large tract of non-National Forest System land has been removed from the center of the inventory area. The boundary to the south and west begins at the Forest boundary and follows Road #744 Spring Creek Road for approximately five miles, where the boundary begins to follow a series of roads and harvest units which become difficult to describe.



Elevation Range – 8,700' – 12,400'

Eco-Section – M3311 – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 25% lodgepole pine, 22% Douglas-fir, 33% spruce-fir, 4% sagebrush, and 4% willow-alder.

Land Type –

65% 701X – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype

occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, sideslopes, ridges, and peaks.

15% 70SX– Montane Aspen climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology and landslide materials on mountain slopes and benches.

15% 50IX – Montane climate zone; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Spring Creek Cattle allotment is within the unit.
- The Taylor Canyon side of the unit has been managed with prescribed fire for Bighorn sheep habitat.
- Single-track motorized trails are within the area:
 - Trail #424 – Doctor’s Park Trail, considered a premier mountain bike route
 - Trail #572 – Ute Gulch Trail
 - Trail #413 – Matchless Mountain Trail

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The area has low opportunity for remoteness and solitude. Sights and sounds from Taylor Park are evident from within the area. Motorized recreation travel on land and on the reservoir detract from the opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. The area looks down on developments, roads, and traffic along Taylor Canyon Road.

Challenge – The area provides a moderate degree of challenge. Although the unit has rugged terrain and dense vegetation, it is within close proximity to roads and developments and motorized trails run throughout the area, limiting opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is long and narrow, with motorized trails traversing through the unit.
- Boundaries – Management along the western boundary would be defensible against trespass as it follows a series of roads and vegetation unit boundaries. Adjusting this boundary to a topographic feature would improve boundary management.

Special Features/Activities – The Gunnison Spur of the Colorado Trail is within this unit.

Evaluation: This unit is considered to be **not capable**. The naturalness of the area has been influenced by prescribed fire. It has limited opportunities for

solitude and sense of remoteness and only provides a moderate degree of challenge. The shape of the unit hinders effective boundary management particularly along the western boundary.

Availability (there are no capable lands in this unit):

Recreation – Motorized trails and a premier mountain bike route are within the unit.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 4,000 acres of suitable timber lands and another 5,000 acres of tentatively suited timber lands within the inventory portion of this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Boundary management defensibility in summer and winter and prescribed fire needs for Bighorn sheep habitat improvement needs.

Evaluation – The area is not capable and does not require an availability assessment; however, it would be considered **not available** for recreation and wildlife purposes. Motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities and Bighorn sheep habitat needs are valued resources within this unit.

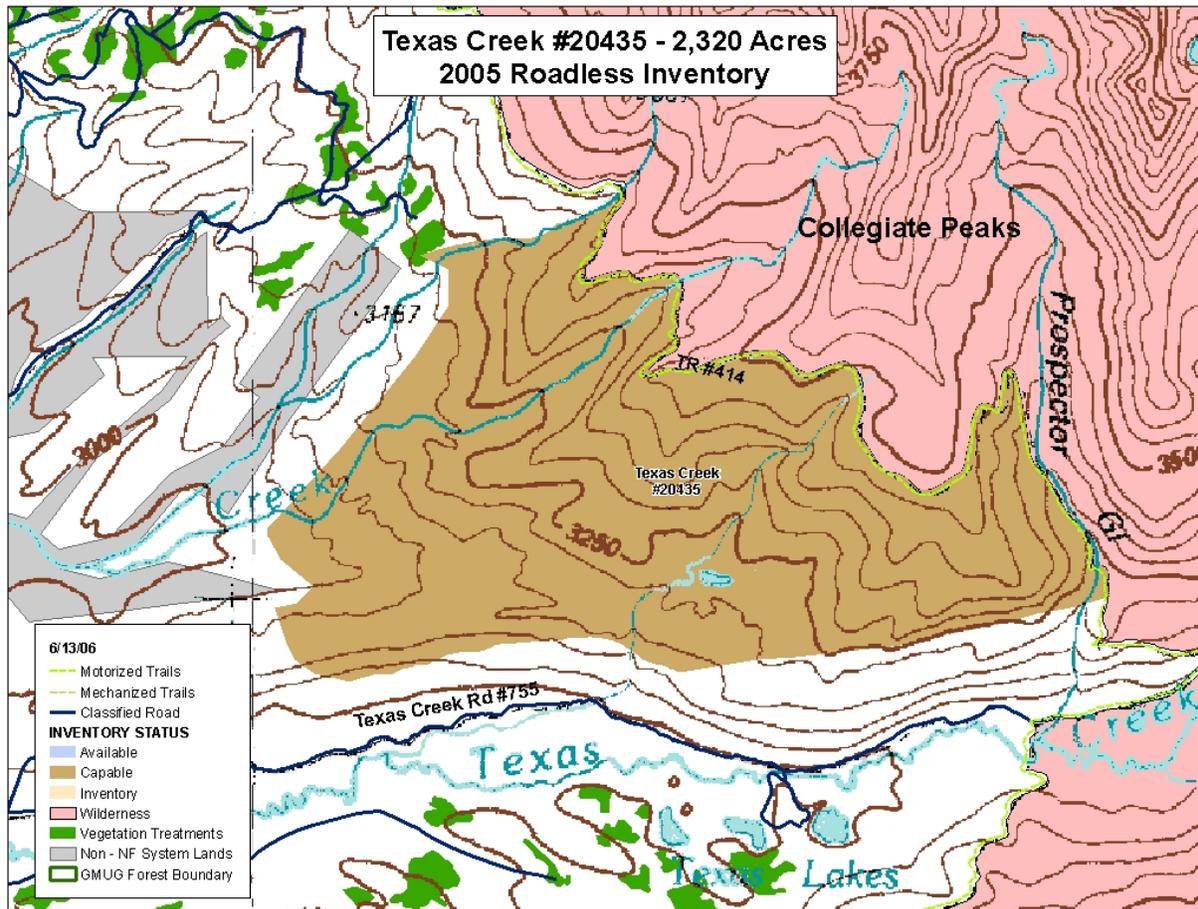
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 5 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 15 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 20 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 20 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 20 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 25 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 30 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 40 miles
- Sangre De Cristo – 45 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 50 miles
- Lost Canyon Wilderness – 50 miles
- Eagle's Nest – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 55 miles
- Ptarmigan – 65 miles
- Mt Evans – 65 miles

Texas Creek #20435 – 2,320 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately 25 miles east of Crested Butte and 17 miles north of the town of Pitkin. The area is directly north of the Cottonwood Pass road and adjoins the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, separated by Trail #414, the Timberline Trail.



Elevation Range – 9,900' – 11,600'

Eco-Section – M3311 – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 47% spruce-fir, 10% lodgepole pine, 17% willow alder, 7% alpine, 7% bare ground, 6% aspen, and 4% grass/forbs.

Land Type –

80% 701X – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, sideslopes, ridges, and peaks.

20% 70GT – Subalpine Climate zone.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- Portions of the Taylor Park cattle allotment are within this area.
- Motorized trail activities occur along National Forest System Trail #414, the Timberline Trail.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The proximity to the Timberline Trail, Texas Creek Road, adjacent harvest activities, and private in-holdings affect the opportunities for solitude.

Challenge – Combined with the existing wilderness area, opportunities to experience challenge exist.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size – The area is small; it is bounded by the Timberline Trail to the north and the Texas Creek road to the south.
- Boundaries – As an extension of the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, this area could be managed within its boundaries.

Special Features/Activities – The Timberline Trail is a part of the Colorado Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The non-motorized Gunnison Spur of the Colorado Trail follows the thread of Illinois Creek within the area.

Evaluation: The area is **capable** of wilderness.

Availability:

Recreation – The Timberline Trail, a heavily used motorized trail, separates the unit from the Collegiate Peak Wilderness. Wilderness designation would require the trail to be re-routed.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments in this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 1,900 acres within this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – This area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – The Timberline Trail, a heavily used motorized trail, separates the unit from the adjacent Collegiate Peak Wilderness

Evaluation – The area is **not available** because of motorized recreation values. Converting the trail to non-motorized use would break up the continuity of the Timberline Trail.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

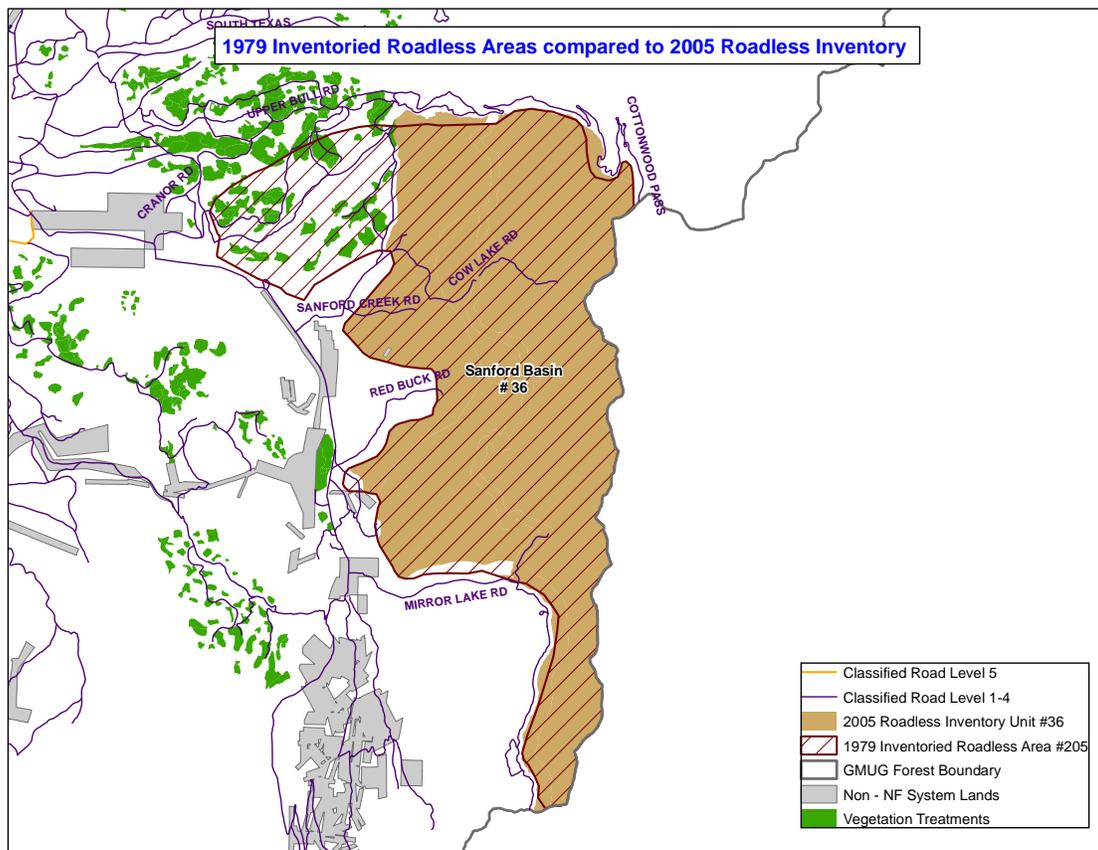
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – <1 mile
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 15 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 20 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 20 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 20 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 25 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 30 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 35 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 35 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 50 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 55 miles
- Lost Creek Wilderness – 55 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 60 miles
- Mt Evans Wilderness – 60 miles
- Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness – 60 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 205 Name: Kreutzer-Princeton

RARE II History – RARE II unit #205 identified 13,300 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Areas that were modified by road construction and vegetation harvest were removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20436 Sanford Basin**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 205 from 2005 inventory:

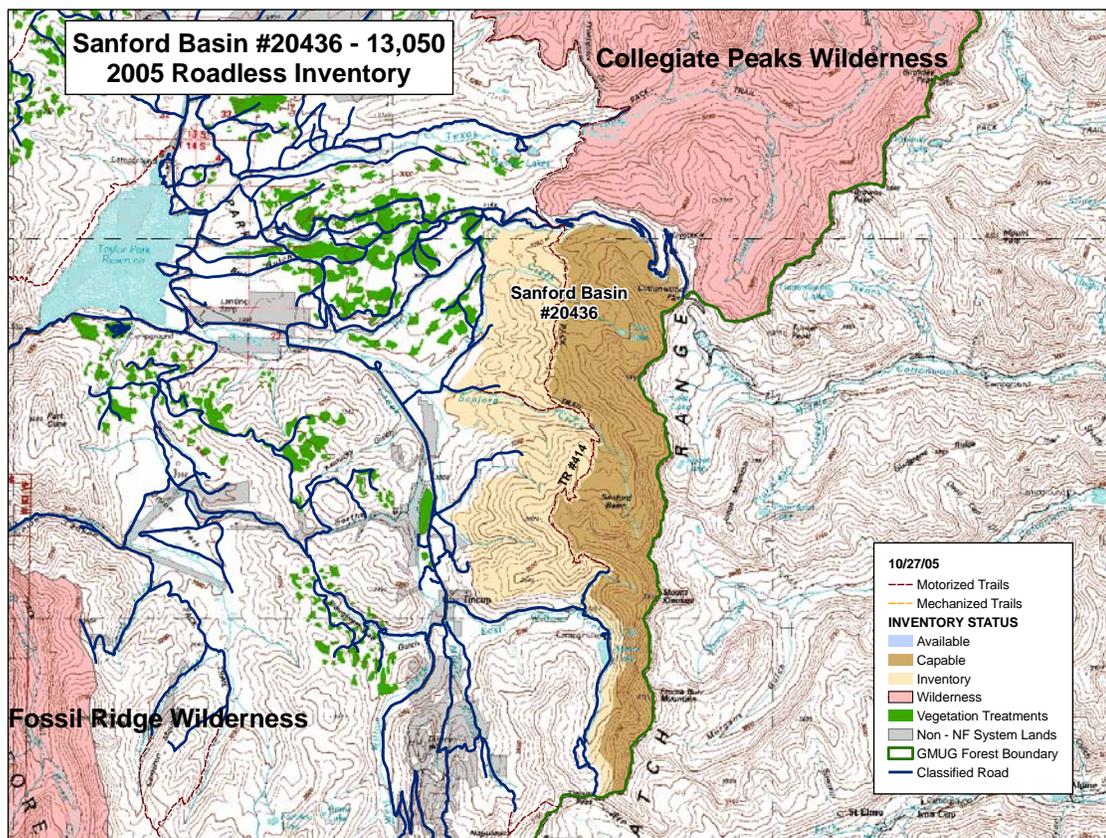
- 16 miles of roads
- Harvest activities have occurred along Willow Pass Creek (approx 500 acres)



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Sanford Basin #20436 – 13,050 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: Unit 20436 consists of high mountain peaks along the crest of the Continental Divide, separated from the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness by the Cottonwood Pass Road, approximately 10 miles northeast of the Town of Pitkin. The area was described in RARE II with an adjoining roadless area on the San Isabel National Forest. A narrow strip of land paralleling the Continental Divide on the San Isabel National Forest still retains its roadless character. The Mirror Lake Road, #267, separates this unit from 2005 inventory unit #20437 to the south.



Elevation Range – 9,800' – 13,500'

Eco-Section – M331I – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 20% lodgepole pine, 5% Douglas-fir, 41% spruce-fir, 4% sagebrush, 10% willow-alder, 8% alpine, and 10% bare ground.

Land Type –

35% 80IX – Alpine climate zone; mixed intrusive volcanic geologic materials, usually granite. This alpine landtype consists of grass, shrubs, forbs, and krummholtz vegetation on usually steep to very steep mountain peaks, ridges,

and cirques. These areas have typically been glaciated. This landtype includes high elevation jagged peaks, glacial cirques, alpine ridges, glacial basins, rock glaciers, and rock outcrops.

35% 70IX – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, sideslopes, ridges, and peaks

30% 70SX – Montane Aspen climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology and landslide materials on mountain slopes and benches.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Taylor Park and Pitkin cattle allotments are within this unit.
- One motorized trail, the Timberline Trail #414, runs north and south through the unit, paralleling the Continental Divide and bisecting the area into two segments west and east. The Timberline trail, also a piece of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, acts as a connector to motorized trail systems in the Taylor Park area.
- The Cottonwood Pass Road is groomed for snowmobiling. This winter route connects the Arkansas Valley to Taylor Park. Snowmobile access to northern portions of the unit in the vicinity of the road. A snowmobile route is also groomed along the Tincup road to Mirror Lake.
- A proposed non-motorized route for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is within this unit.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area sits along the crest of the Continental Divide, mostly above timberline. There is some evidence of historic mining.
- Solitude – Away from the activity of the Timberline Trail and Cottonwood Pass road, a sense of remoteness and solitude may be experienced.

Challenge – The area offers a moderate degree of challenge, the unit is a high elevation rugged terrain. Being above timberline, it is difficult to get away from the sights and sounds of roads and activities.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is oblong in shape and narrows to less than one mile along the Mirror Lake Road.
- Boundaries – Boundaries may prove difficult to defend during the winter months when winter over snow activity is high, particularly along the Cottonwood Pass road.

Special Features/Activities – The area provides spectacular scenery.

Evaluation: Evaluated alone, this unit would be classified as not capable due to its size and shape; however, the physical attributes of the unit east of the Timberline Trail meet the criteria for capability. Therefore, those lands are deemed **tentatively capable** pending decisions on the adjacent San Isabel National Forest lands that will be evaluated during their current forest planning process.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The Timberline Trail #414, acts as a connector to motorized trail systems in the Taylor Park area. Currently, winter motorized use is heavy within portions of this unit.

Timber – There are no suitable timber lands within the capable portion of this unit. However, there are approximately 4,500 acres of tentatively suitable timber land within the inventory portion.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Management of adjacent San Isabel lands.

Evaluation – Evaluated alone, this unit might not be classified as capable due to its size and shape; therefore, the availability evaluation of the area is being reserved until the San Isabel National Forest evaluates the adjacent land during their current forest planning process.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

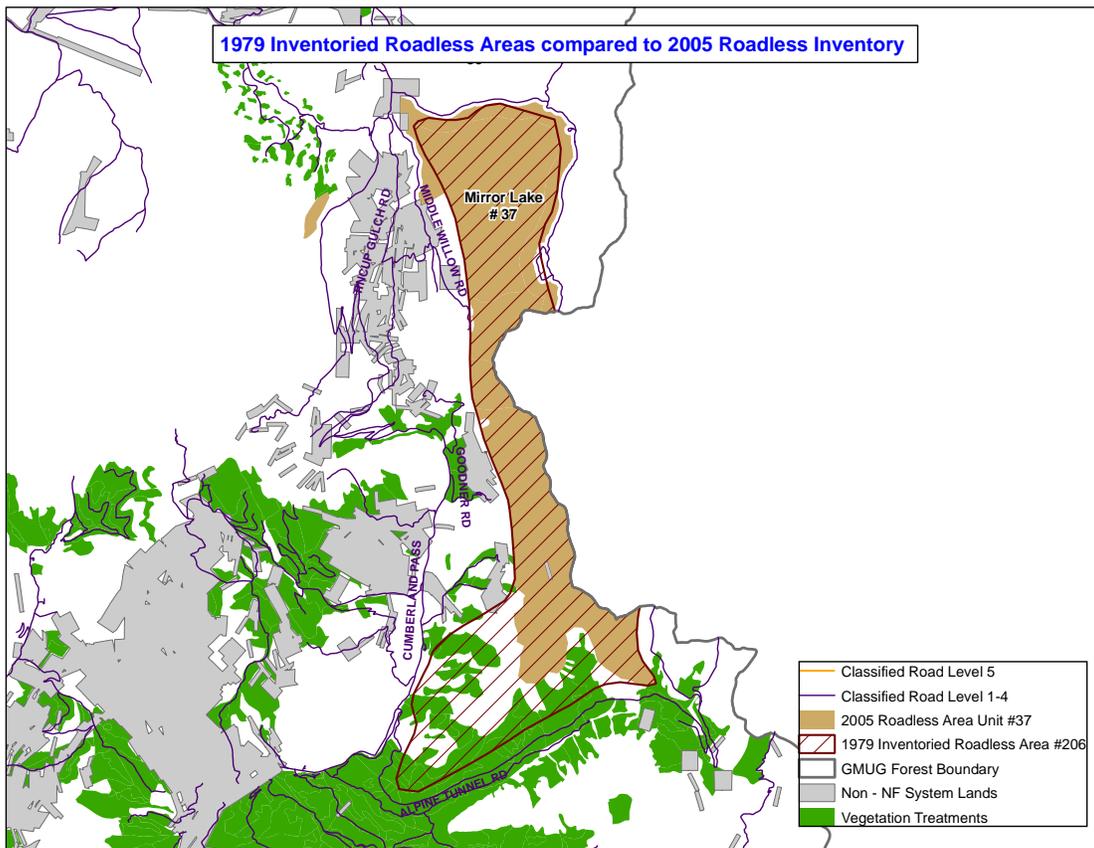
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – <1 mile
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 10 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 20 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 25 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 25 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 25 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 25 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 30 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 35 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 35 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 50 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Lost Canyon Wilderness – 55 miles
- Ptarmigan Wilderness – 60 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 65 miles
- Mt Evans Wilderness – 65 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 206 Romley

RARE II History – RARE II unit #206 identified 8,860 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered by roads and timber harvest, along with non-National Forest System lands, were removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20437 Mirror Lake**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 206 from 2005 inventory:

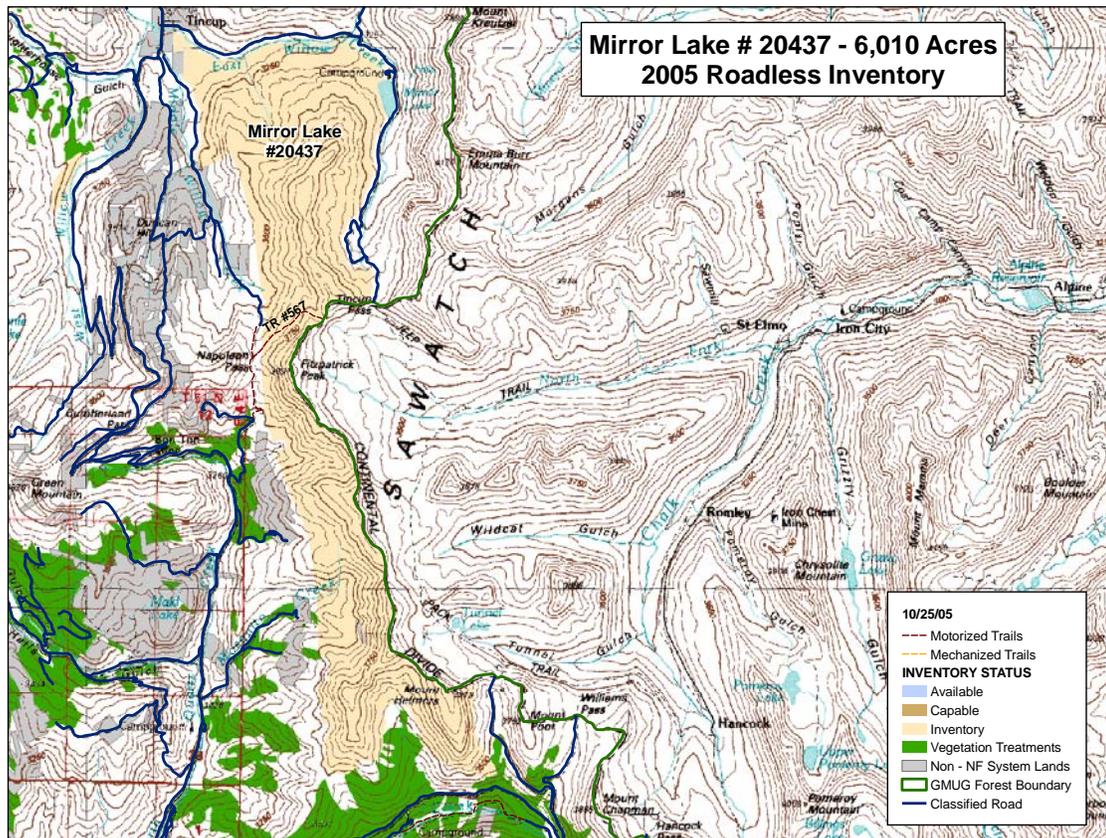
- Harvest activities have occurred along Quartz Creek
- Non-National Forest System lands



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Mirror Lake #20437 – 6,010 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: Unit 20437 is located along the Continental Divide approximately nine miles northeast of the Town of Pitkin and just south of unit 20436. The Tincup Pass Road forms the northern boundary. The area is adjacent to roadless lands to the east managed by the San Isabel National Forest.



Elevation Range – 10,200' – 13,000'

Eco-Section – M331I – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 3% lodgepole pine, 45% spruce-fir, 11% spruce-fir-aspen, 9% willow-alder, 25% alpine, and 6% bare.

Land Type –

50% 80IX – Alpine climate zone; mixed intrusive volcanic geologic materials, usually granite. This alpine land type consists of grass, shrubs, forbs, and krummholtz vegetation on usually steep to very steep mountain peaks, ridges, and cirques. These areas have typically been glaciated. This land type includes high elevation jagged peaks, glacial cirques, alpine ridges, glacial basins, rock glaciers, and rock outcrops.

40 % 70IX – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks, sideslopes, ridges, and peaks.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Pitkin cattle allotment is within this unit.
- One motorized trail, the Tincup Interceptor #567, runs east and west through the area bisecting the unit in half, north and south.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The land generally appears natural although there is some evidence of historic mining activities.
- Solitude – The area is narrow in places and above timberline, affecting opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude. Once away from Mirror Lake, the land provides a sense of solitude.

Challenge – The area has a low degree of challenge. The rugged terrain is mostly above timberline and the close proximity to roads and activity diminish opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Management direction on the adjacent San Isabel National Forest largely affects the size and shape of this area. Without adjacent lands, this unit would be too narrow to manage as wilderness.
- Boundaries – The boundary to the west follows private lands and the boundary to the east follows the Continental Divide and the San Isabel National Forest.

Special Features/Activities – The Alpine Tunnel Historic District is directly south of this unit.

Evaluation: Evaluated alone, this unit does not meet the criteria for capability due to size and shape. Capability determination is being reserved until the adjacent lands on the San Isabel National Forest are evaluated during their current Forest Plan Revision process. These lands remain **not capable** until that time.

Availability (there are no capable lands in this unit):

Recreation – Tincup Interceptor #567 trail receives moderate use.

Water – No ditches / water developments.

Timber – There are approximately 600 acres of tentatively suited timber lands within the inventory portion of this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations –Management of adjacent San Isabel lands.

Evaluation – This area is currently considered **not capable**. Availability determination of this area will be considered after the adjacent lands are reviewed by the San Isabel National Forest during their current Forest Plan Revision process.

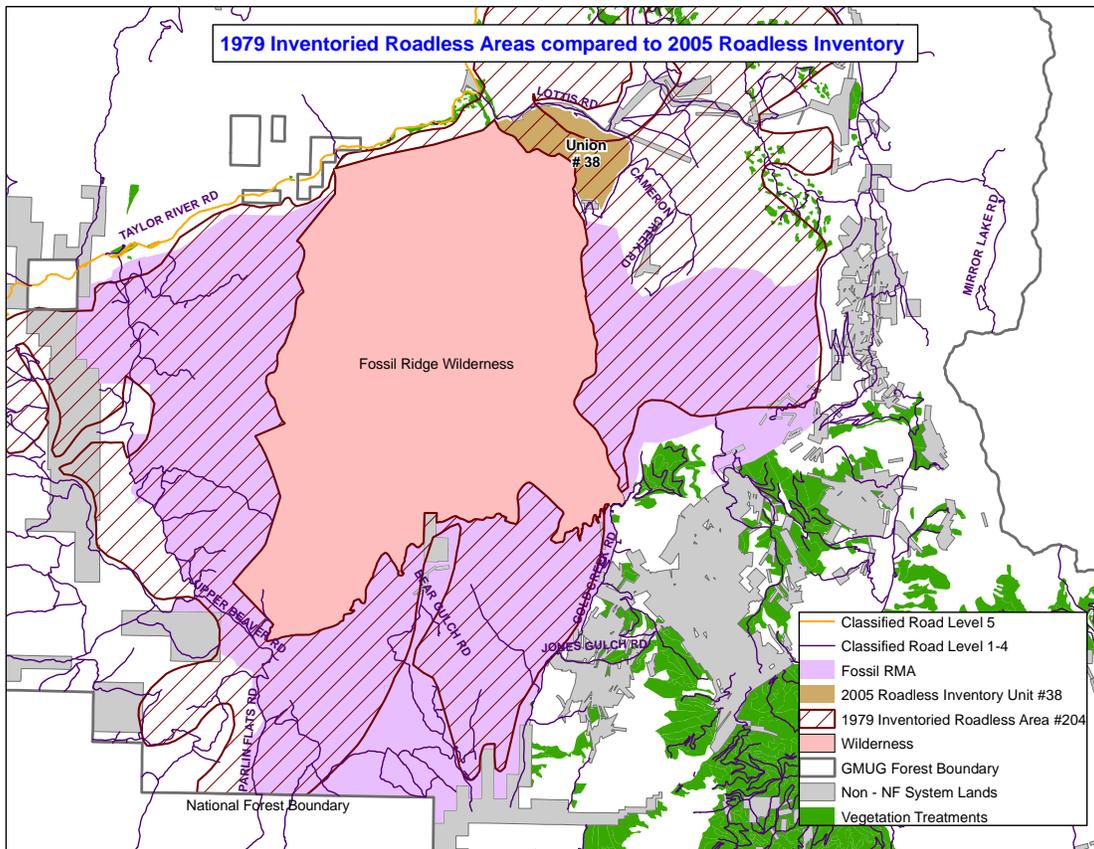
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 10 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 10 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 25 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 25
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 25 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 30 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 30 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 35 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 35 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 40 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 55 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 60 miles
- Lost Canyon Wilderness – 60 miles
- Mt Evans Wilderness – 65 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 204 Crystal Creek (Fossil Ridge)

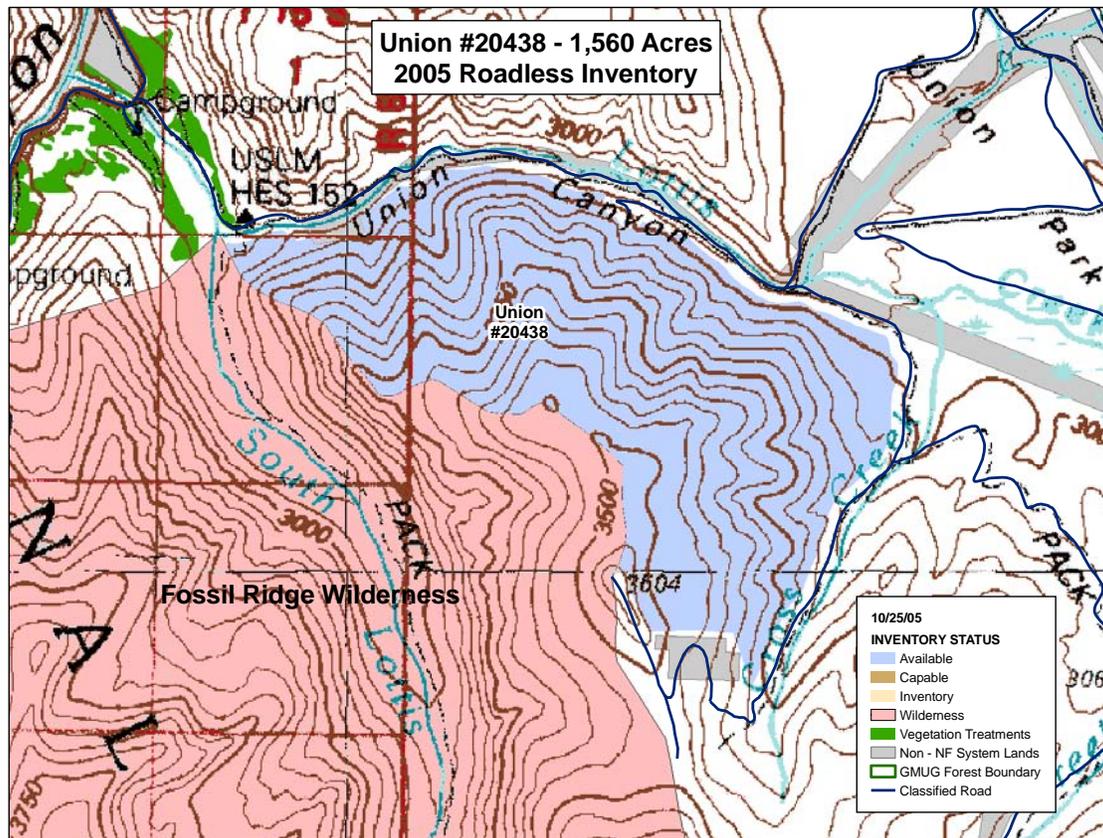
RARE II History – RARE II unit #204 identified 90,380 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. In the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Bill, Public Law 96-560, 33,060 acres were designated as the Fossil Ridge Wilderness and 43,900 acres were designated as the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (RMA). Lands with roads, lands altered with timber harvest, and non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20438 Union Park**.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Union Park #20438 – 1560 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately 20 miles northeast of the City of Gunnison. The unit lies north and immediately adjacent to the Fossil Ridge Wilderness. It is bounded to the north by road #752.2A Lottis Road and to the east by road #752.3A Cross Mountain Road. The south and east boundaries are contiguous with the Fossil Ridge Wilderness.



Elevation Range – 9,200' – 11,700'

Eco-Section – M3311 – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 16% lodgepole pine, 25% Douglas-fir, 27% spruce-fir, 8% spruce-fir-aspen, 11% sagebrush, and 6% willow-alder.

Land Type –

98% 701X – Subalpine climate; mixed intrusive volcanic materials and interbedded sandstones and shale. This moderately steep to steep landtype occurs on mountain sideslopes with mixed intrusive volcanic material with various interbedded sandstone and shale on outer edges. Vegetation is spruce fir on mountain flanks sideslopes, ridges, and peaks

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Taylor Park cattle allotment is within this unit.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The Union Canyon Road, a four-wheel drive jeep road, runs along the bottom of the canyon and receives a moderate level of use. Once away from the road corridor, opportunities for remoteness and solitude increase.

Challenge – The area offers a moderately high degree of challenge; it has rugged terrain with dense vegetation. The close proximity to roads and trails affects the opportunity for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is contiguous with Fossil Ridge Wilderness and would be a manageable addition.
- Boundaries – The existing Fossil Ridge Wilderness boundary is located along a hillside and is very defensible. The addition of this unit to the wilderness would not improve the defensibility of the boundary as it may encourage trespass off of the Union Canyon Road.

Special Features/Activities – None identified.

Evaluation: The area meets criteria as **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – There are no recreation conflicts.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are no lands suitable for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Boundary management along the Union Canyon road will be more difficult to defend than the existing topographic boundary.

Evaluation – This area is **available** for wilderness.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – <1 mile
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 20 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 25 miles

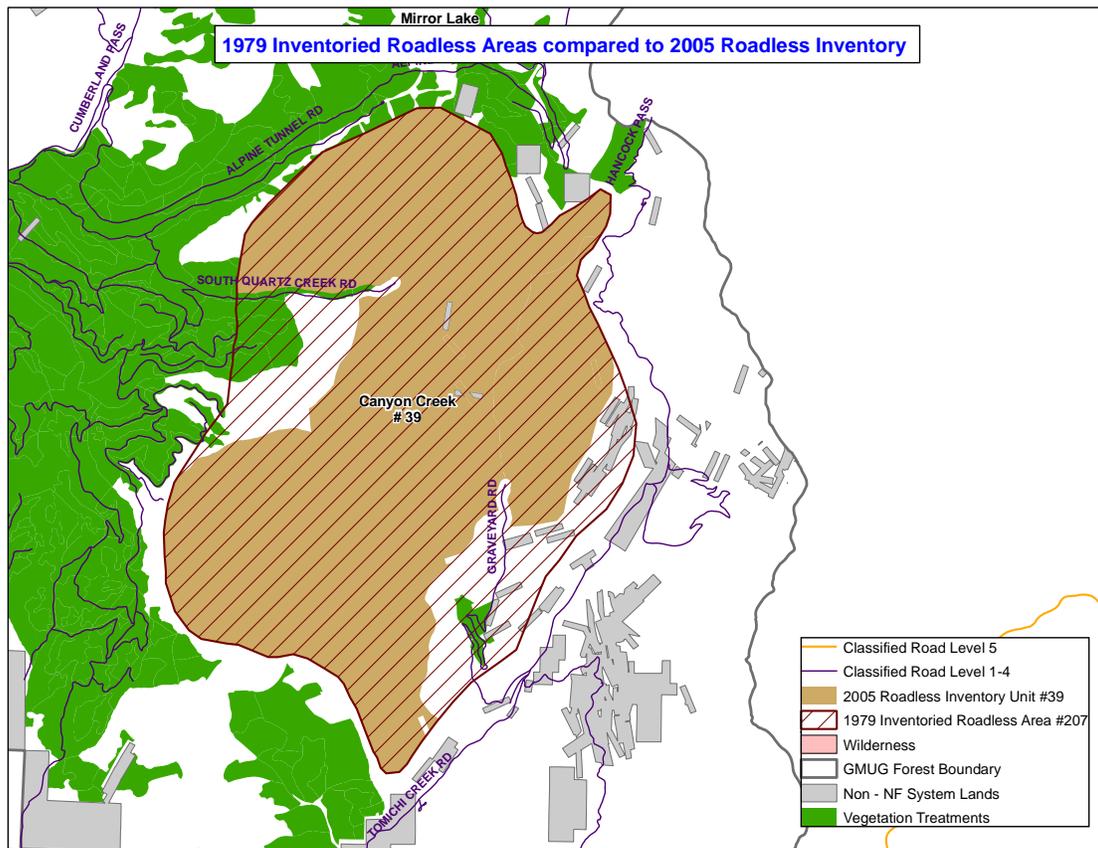
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 30 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 30 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 30 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 40 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 40 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 60 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 60 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 60 miles
- Lost Canyon Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 207 Canyon Creek

RARE II History – RARE II unit #207 identified 13,100 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered by roads, timber harvest, and non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20439 Canyon Creek**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 207 from 2005 inventory:

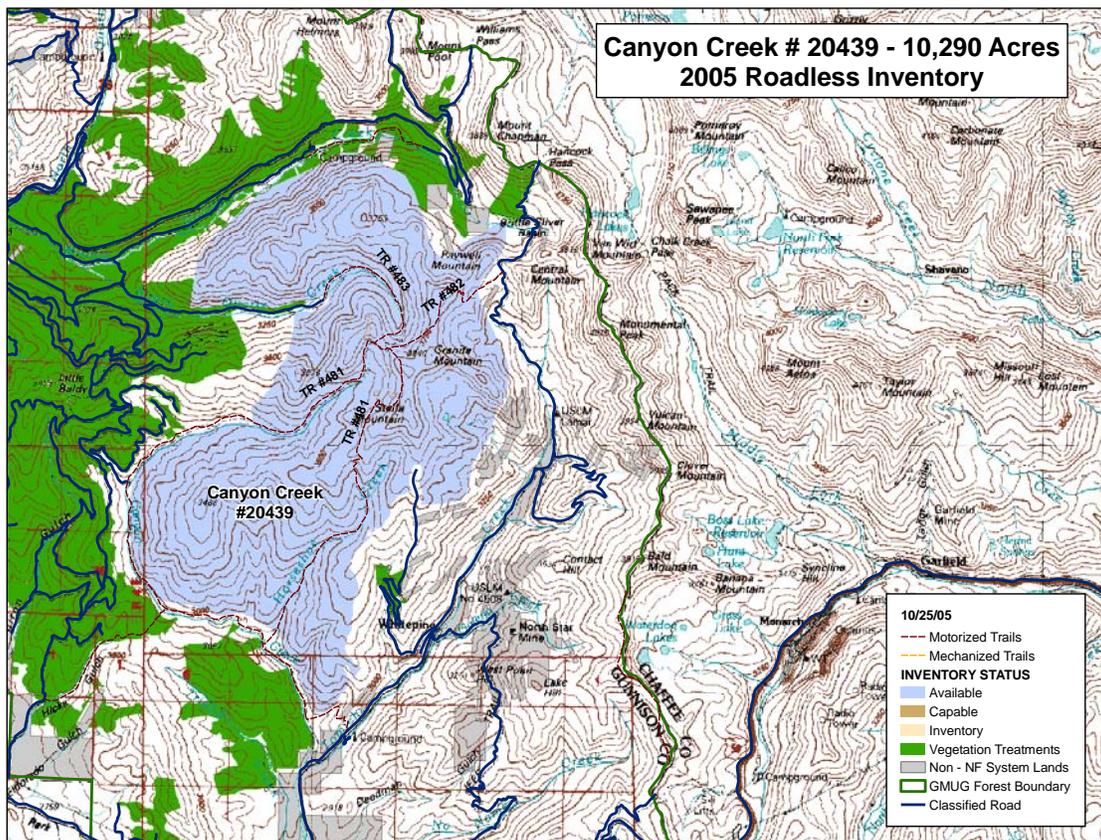
- There are six miles of road
- Vegetation harvest of 110 acres
- Non-National Forest System lands



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Canyon Creek / Antero #20439 – 12,060 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: Unit 20439 is located along the Continental Divide, approximately six miles from the Town of Pitkin. The area is south of the Mirror Lake inventory unit 20437, separated by the Alpine Tunnel Road and Middle Quartz Creek Road. The unit is bounded to the east by patented mining claims along the Tomichi Creek Road (#788). The western boundary follows Canyon Creek and topography along vegetation units. The town of White Pine is just to the southeast of the unit. The area is within the Quartz Creek drainage; Stella and Granite Mountains are prominent features within the unit.



Elevation Range – 9,400' – 12,600'

Eco-Section – M3311 – Northern Parks and Ranges

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 7% Douglas-fir, 45% spruce-fir, 19% spruce-fir-aspen, 4% willow-alder, 15% alpine, and 8% bare.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Tomichi and Pitkin cattle allotments are within this area.

- Some winter motorized activities occur in the vicinity of Granite Mountain and South Quartz Creek.
- The area is adjacent to the Buffalo Fork timber sale unit.
- A network of motorized trails are within the unit:
 - #482 Horseshoe Trail
 - #481 Canyon Creek Trail
 - #483 South Quartz Trail

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Roads and vegetation treatments adjacent to the area influence the naturalness of the Canyon Creek unit. Away from the Tomichi Creek road, the Antero unit has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The high density of motorized trails limits opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude in the Canyon Creek unit. Away from the Tomichi Creek road, the Antero unit offers opportunities for solitude.

Challenge – The area provides a moderate to high degree of challenge. Rugged terrain, dense vegetation, and distance from sights and sounds of developments provide opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The Canyon Creek unit is of sufficient size to be managed for roadless character. The Antero unit is only sufficient size when considered with the adjacent lands on the San Isabel National Forest.
- Boundaries – Boundary management along private lands could prove to be difficult. Potential winter motorized trespass in the Tomichi Pass/Granite Mountain area could occur.

Special Features/Activities – The unit is directly south of the Alpine Tunnel Historic District.

Evaluation: Both areas meet the criteria as **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – A network of motorized trails are located within the area. Some winter snowmobiling occurs in the Tomichi Pass area.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 1,500 acres within the unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Winter snowmobile trespass.

Evaluation – The Canyon Creek area is **available** for wilderness. As is, the Antero unit is too small to be considered available for wilderness. A final

availability evaluation for Antero is reserved until the San Isabel National Forest makes a determination on the adjacent lands.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

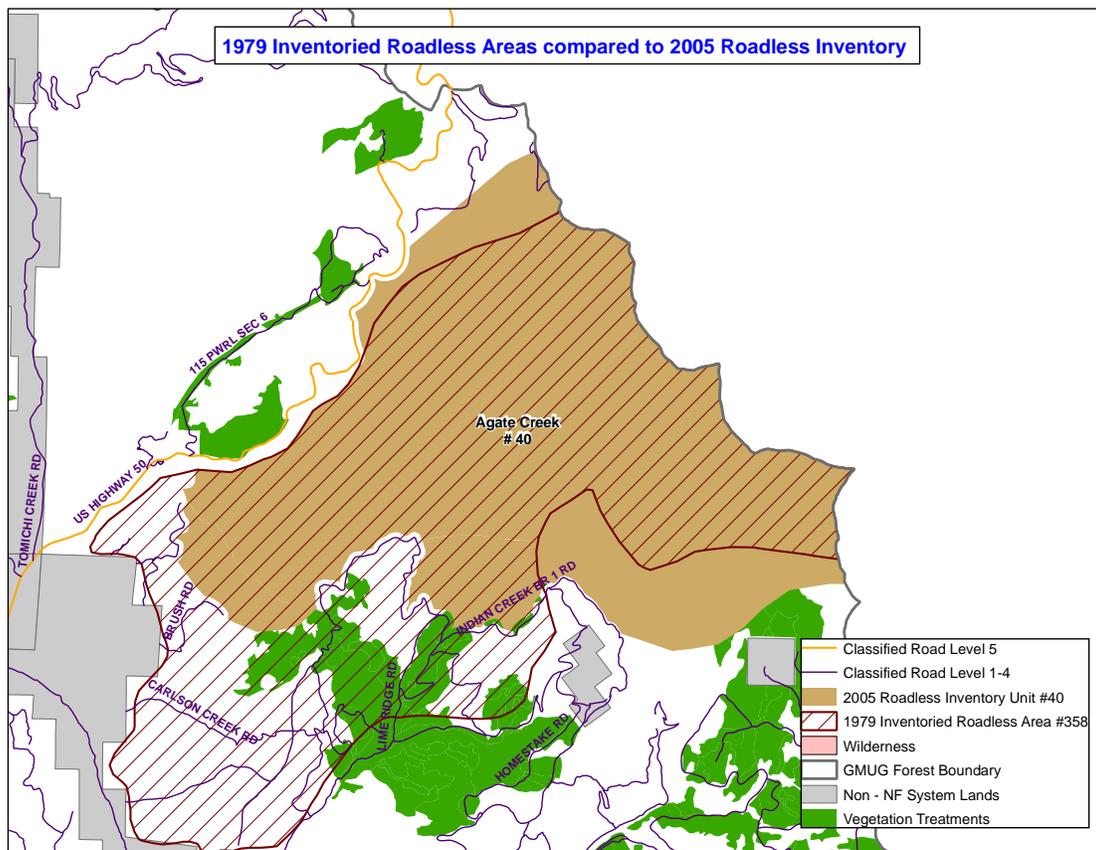
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 20 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 25 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 35 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 35 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 40 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 40 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 40 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 40 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 45 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 60 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 65 miles
- Lost Canyon Wilderness – 65 miles
- Eagle's Nest Wilderness – 65 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 358 Chipeta Mountain

RARE II History – RARE Unit 358 identified 16,520 acres as roadless yet the area was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered by road construction and timber harvest have been removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are described in the **2005 inventory as #20440 Agate Creek**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 358 from 2005 inventory:

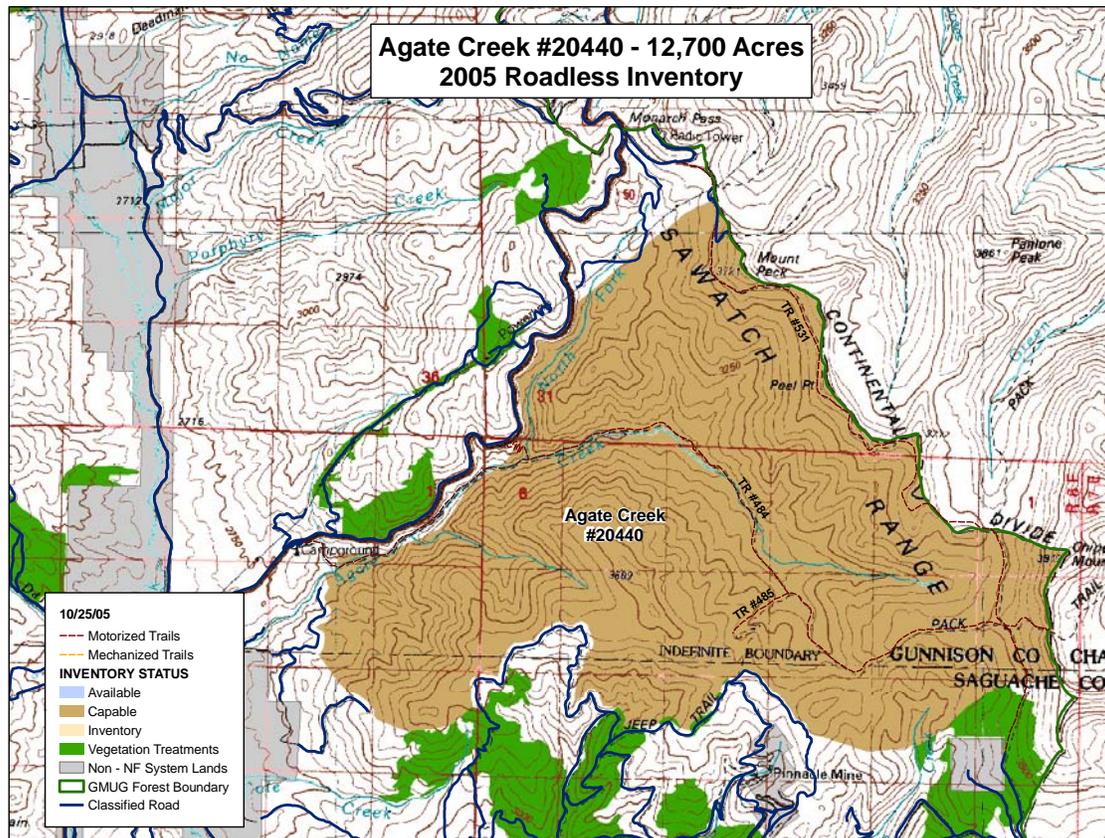
- There are 23 miles of roads
- Timber harvest of approximately 80 acres.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Agate Creek #20440 – 12,700 Acres – Hinsdale County

General Description: Located east of the town of Sargents, the area parallels Hwy 50 just west of Monarch Pass. The unit is within the Agate Creek drainage, Mt Peek is to the north, and Chipeta Mountain to the south along the Continental Divide and the Sawatch Range.



Elevation Range – 8,900' – 12,400'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 3% alpine, 8% Douglas-fir, 48% spruce-fir, 25% spruce-fir-aspen, and 4% sagebrush.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Agate Creek cattle allotment is within this unit.
- Powerline adjacent to the north east boundary.
- There are 12 miles of single track motorized/mechanized trails:
 - #484 Agate Creek Trail
 - #531 Monarch Crest Trail – one of the best mountain bike trails in the country.

- The Larkspur Ditch is within T48N, R6E, Sec 11 and 14; there is an access road for Larkspur Ditch that runs along the ditch
- The Cole Ditch is within T48N, R5E, Sec 11 and 12; one historical access road for Cole Ditch is in Sec 11.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Once away from Hwy 50, the area appears natural.
- Solitude – The sights and sound of Hwy 50 can be heard from lands paralleling the road. Once away from the road, solitude and sense of remoteness increases. This area is adjacent to roadless lands on the San Isabel National Forest.

Challenge – This unit offers a high degree of challenge. The area is within the sights and sounds of Hwy 50 and adjacent powerline utility corridor; however, the rugged terrain and dense vegetation provide an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size and shape to be managed for roadless/wilderness.
- Boundaries – The boundaries to the south follow a series of roads and topography. This boundary may be difficult to manage.

Special Features/Activities – None identified.

Evaluation: The area is **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – A world class mountain bike trail (Monarch Crest Trail) is located within the unit.

Water – Larkspur Ditch has an existing Ditch Bill Easement and access road along it. Cole Ditch has historical access road in Section 11.

Timber – There are approximately 4,700 acres of land in this unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Management of the ditches within this unit.

Evaluation – This area provides high valued mechanized recreation opportunities. The unit is **not available** for wilderness.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 15 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 20 miles

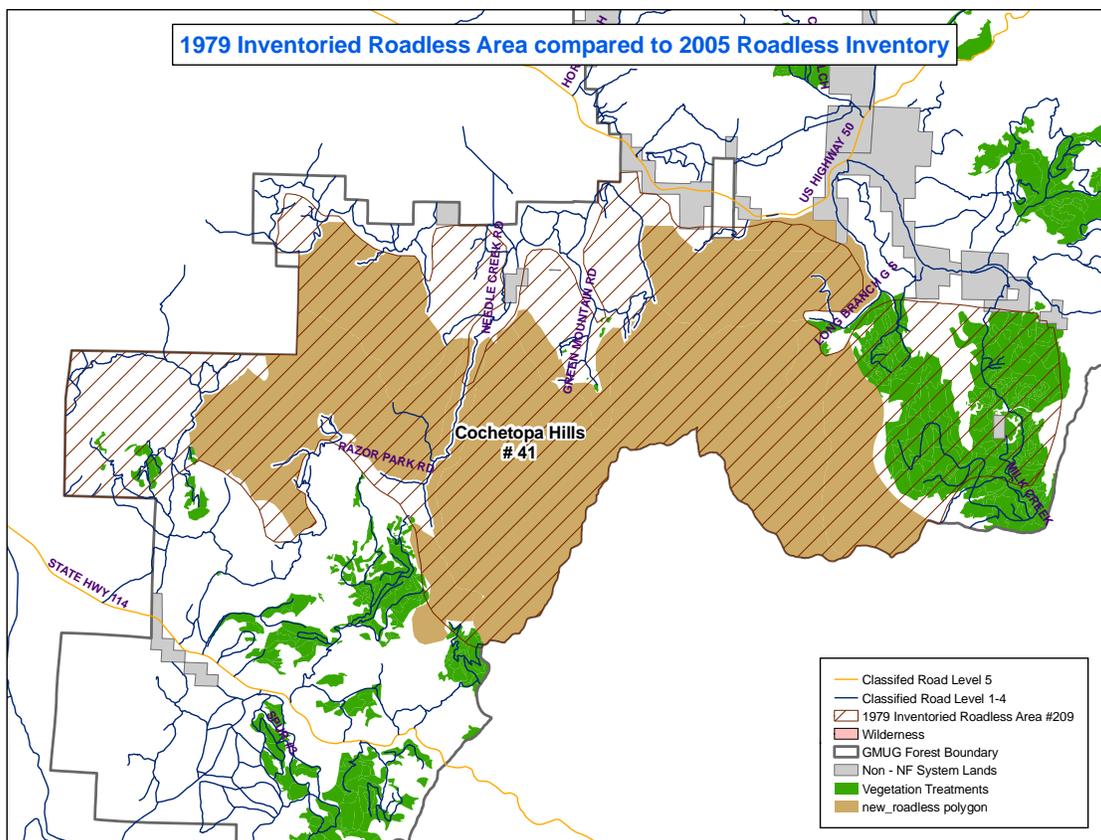
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 20 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 35 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 35 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 45 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 45 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 45 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 50 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 50 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 50 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 55 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 60 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 60 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 60 miles
- Lost Creek Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 209 Cochetopa Hills

RARE II History – RARE II unit #209 identified 65,680 acres as roadless yet was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered by roads and timber harvest were removed from the inventory along with non-National Forest System lands. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Unit #20441 Cochetopa Hills**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 209 from 2005 inventory:

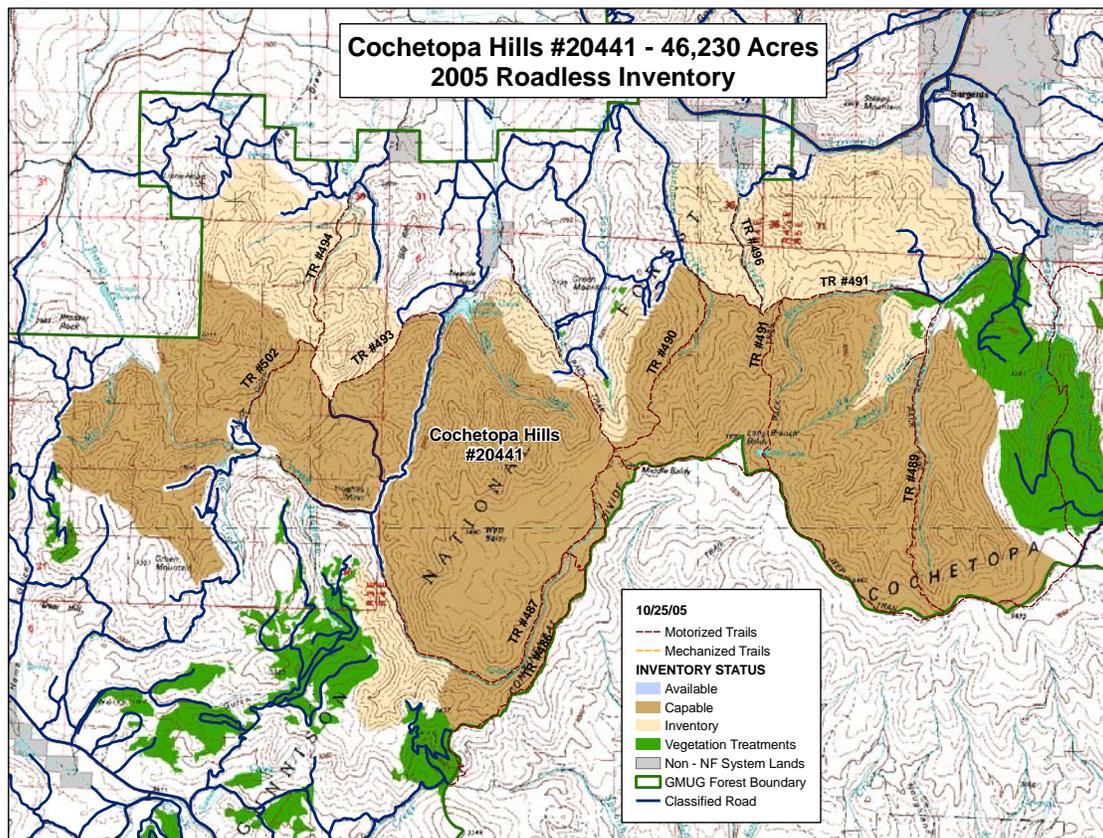
- There are 67 miles of road
- Timber harvest on approximately 1,400 acres predominately in the Long Branch and Tank Seven Creek drainages.
- Non-National Forest System lands



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Cochetopa Hills #20441 – 46,230 Acres – Saguache County

General Description: Unit 20441 is located south of Hwy 50 and north of the Continental Divide approximately 23 miles southeast of Gunnison and two miles south of the Town of Sargents. The southern boundary of the unit follows the Forest boundary with the Rio Grande National Forest. This area of the Rio Grande National Forest is not within a roadless inventory. Unit 20441 extends west to the Forest boundary near Antelope Mountain and east to Long Branch Creek. The lands east of Long Branch Creek to the Forest boundary with the Rio Grande National Forest have been heavily altered from intensive timber management.



Elevation Range – 8,400' – 11,700'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 47% Douglas-fir, 13% lodgepole pine, 16% spruce-fir, 14% spruce-fir-aspen, and 2% willow-alder.

Land Type - The area ranges from lower montane sagebrush areas up through subalpine spruce-fir and riparian along drainages. The geology is a mix of extrusive volcanic materials. Landforms are hills, drainage sideslopes, domes, and mountain sideslopes gradually raising in elevation from the Forest boundary to the Continental Divide.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Long Branch, Razor, Needle, and Rock cattle allotments are within this area.
- Ponderosa pine restoration projects utilizing prescribed fire are planned for the northern portions of the unit.
- An interconnected series of single-track motorized trails are within the area. Trails are used by both motorcyclists and mountain bikes. Trails include:

East of Needle Creek Rd #502 North Gulch #494 Middle Barret Ck #493 Right Hand	West of Needle Creek Road #487 Razor Creek #490 Dutchman #491 Baldy Lake #496 Hicks Creek #489 Long Branch #486 Summit (along boundary)
--	--
- Needle Creek Reservoir, a popular camping area, is adjacent to the north of the roadless unit.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The Needle Creek Road #781, bisects the area leaving two unroaded segments, one to the east and one to the west. Portions of the eastern unit have low naturalness due to past management activities. Within the western segment, the Hicks Gulch drainage, specifically the ponderosa pine lands, has evidence of dozer lines and past prescribed fire activities. Once away from roads and harvest units on the eastern edge of the unit, the remainder of the western segment retains a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The high density of motorized trails influences the sense of solitude. However, the terrain and vegetation does provide enough screening for a sense of remoteness.

Challenge – The heart of the area has a moderate to high challenge level. Rugged terrain, dense thickets of lodgepole pine vegetation, and distance away from roads and trails offers opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The Needle Creek Road runs through the middle of the unit, bisecting the area into two units. The west unit has a larger contiguous land area; however, both units are of sufficient size to manage for roadless character.
- Boundaries – Realigning segments of the boundary to topographic features would improve manageability.

Special Features/Activities – A segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) are within this unit.

Evaluation: Approximately 77% of the area meets criteria for capability. Areas of low naturalness and adjustments for boundary management account for the remaining 34%.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The CDNST trail, currently used by motorcycles, is within this unit. Additionally, an interconnected system of other single-track motorized trails that are also used by mountain bikes exist within the area.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 4,400 acres within the capable portion of the unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 6,400 acres of tentatively suitable timber land are within the inventory portion of the unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Motorized travel on the CDNST trail is contrary to national policy and direction.

Evaluation – The capable lands are **not available** due to the semi primitive motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities that the area provides.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

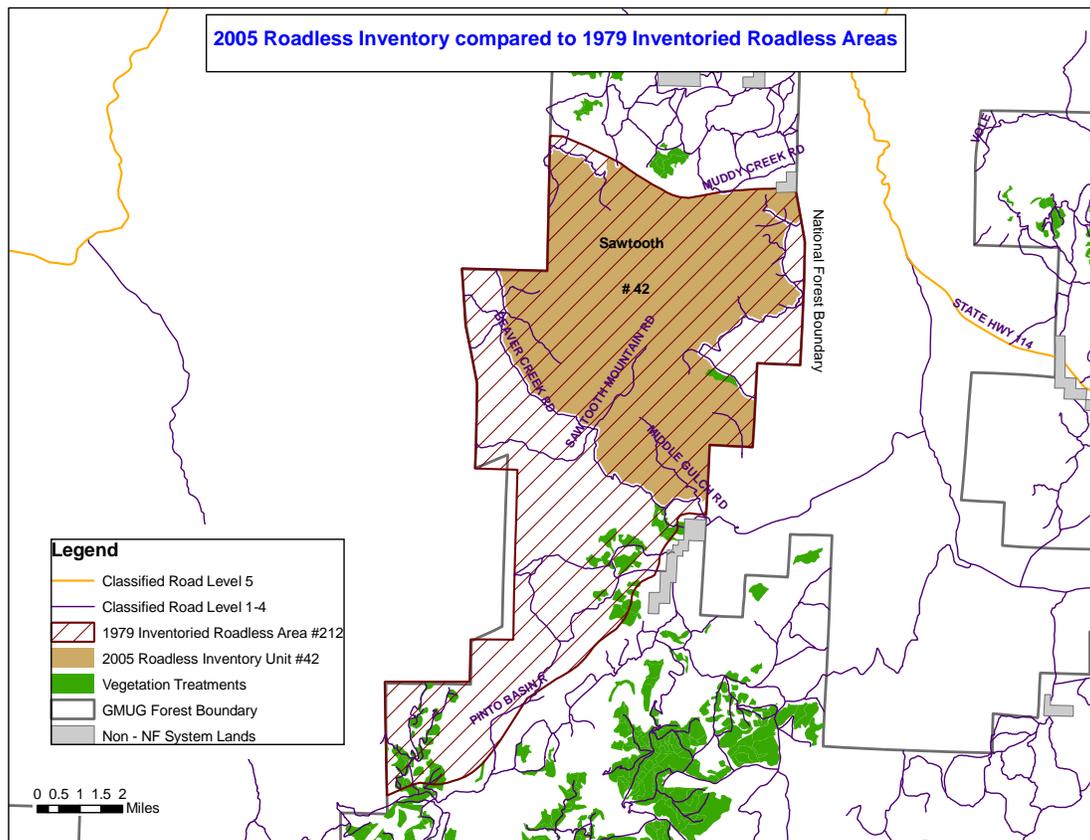
- LaGarita Wilderness – 20 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 25 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 25 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 35 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 35 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 40 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 45 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 45 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 50 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 55 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 55 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 55 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 65 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 212 Sawtooth Mountain

RARE II History – RARE Unit 212 identified 45,400 acres as roadless yet the area was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered by road construction and timber harvest have been removed from the inventory. The remaining acres are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20442 Sawtooth**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 212 from 2005 inventory:

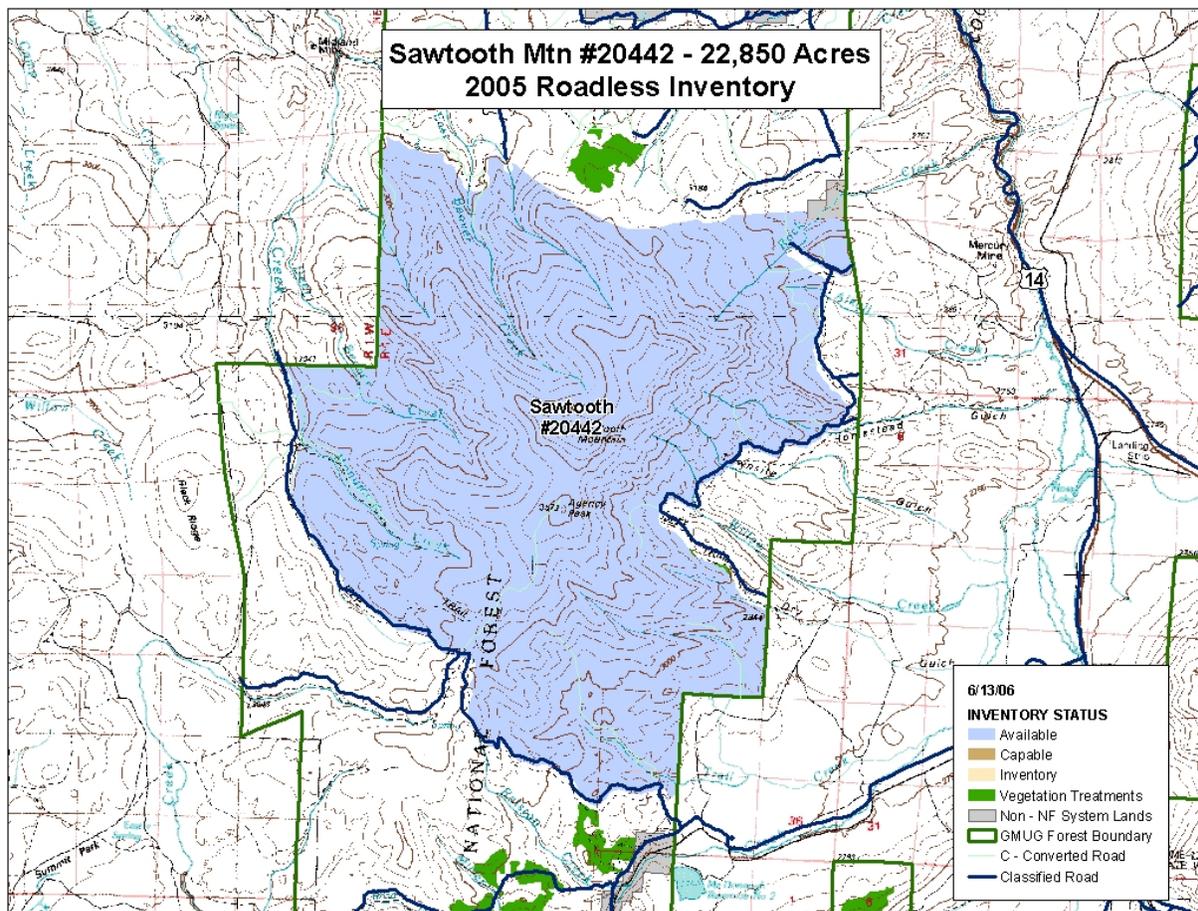
- Harvest activities have occurred within the unit south of Road 806 (742 acres).
- Thirty-seven miles of roads have intruded into RARE 212, predominately in the southern portion of the unit.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Sawtooth #20442 – 22,850 Acres – Saguache County

General Description: Unit #20442 is located within the Gunnison Basin Geographic Area approximately 15 miles south of the City of Gunnison. The area located within a parcel of the National Forest approximately seven miles wide. The inventory unit follows the National Forest boundary and a series of roads. The lands adjacent to the National Forest are a mixture of BLM and private lands. Sawtooth Mountain (12,147') and Agency Peak (11,719') are the prominent features in the Sawtooth unit.



Elevation Range – 9,200' – 12,100'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 21% spruce-fir, 40% spruce-fir-aspen, 9% Douglas-fir, 5% willow-alder, 3% Bristle cone pine, 3% sagebrush, and 2% grass.

Land Type – The area ranges from lower montane sagebrush to small amounts of subalpine spruce-fir. Pockets of blue spruce and montane subalpine bristle cone pine are within this unit. The geology is a mix of extrusive igneous/volcanic

materials. The landform includes hills, plateau-like situations, pediments, domes, drainage sideslopes, and mountain sideslopes.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The East Beaver, South Beaver, Los Pinos, Sawtooth, and Beak Creek cattle allotments are within this unit.
- Several roads have recently been decommissioned within the unit. Motorized and mechanized travel opportunities have been limited by the closures.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The decommissioning of roads within the area has been largely successful and previously roaded lands are reverting to a natural appearing landscape.
- Solitude – Opportunities for remoteness and solitude within the unit are high due to terrain and vegetation.

Challenge – This unit offers a high degree of challenge. Rugged terrain, dense vegetation, distance away from sights and sounds of development, and lack of trails within the unit provide an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size to manage for roadless/wilderness character.
- Boundaries – Most boundaries follow identifiable roads. The northern boundary may be difficult to identify on the landscape.

Special Features/Activities – The area contains pockets of Bristle Cone Pine. The area is a summer concentration area for elk.

Evaluation: This area is **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – Recreation activities are generally non-motorized, hunting and horseback riding.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 600 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Boundary management along the north.

Evaluation – This landscape is **available** for wilderness

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- Powderhorn Wilderness – 10 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 15 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 25 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 25 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 25 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 35 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 45 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 45 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 45 miles
- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 45 miles
- Buffalo Peaks Wilderness – 55 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 55 miles
- Mount Massive Wilderness – 60 miles
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness – 60 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 215 Mineral Mountain

RARE II History – RARE Unit 215 identified 51,600 acres as roadless that was recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. The 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-560, designated 52,800 acres of this unit as part of the LaGarita Wilderness. Of the lands remaining of the RARE inventory, some have been altered by timber harvest and road construction and others are non-National Forest System lands with private use access roads. Consequently, **no lands were carried forward in the 2005 inventory.**

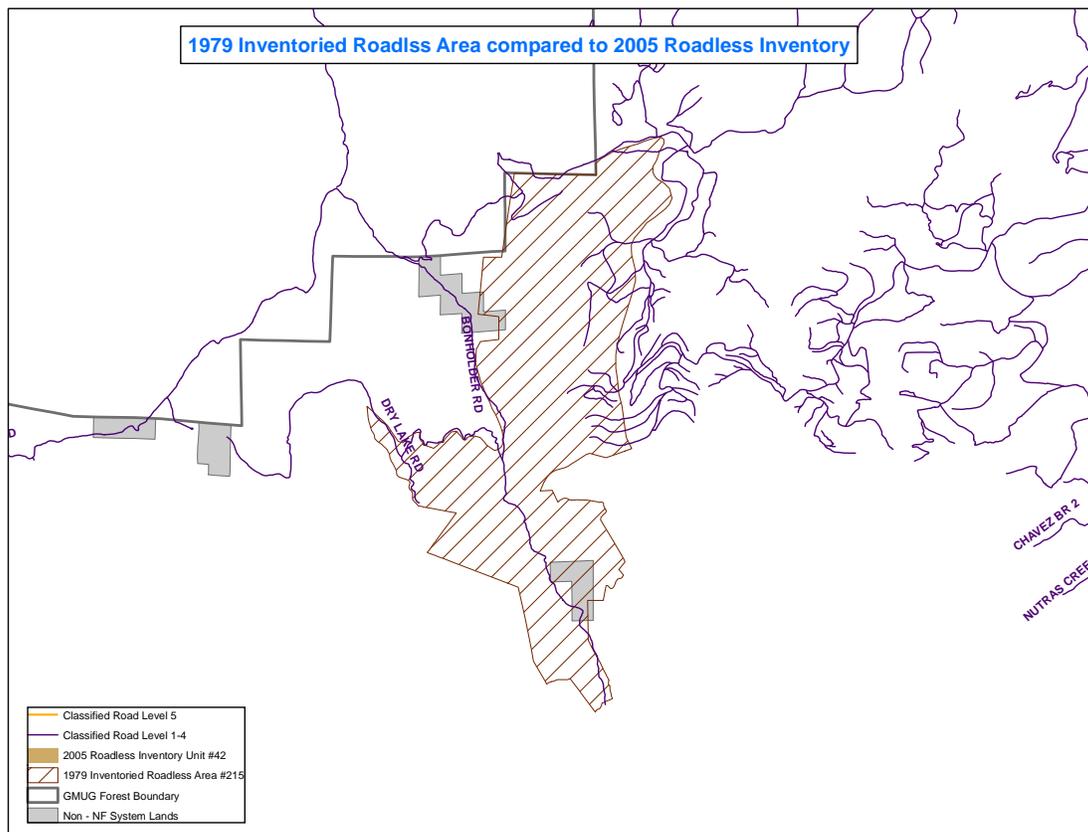
Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 215 from 2005 inventory:

- Thirteen miles of road exist, primarily to access the private land inholdings and one mile of motorized trail.
- Harvest activities have occurred in the Cathedral Creek area.

General Description: This area is a narrow strip of land adjacent to the LaGarita Wilderness along Forest Road 592.

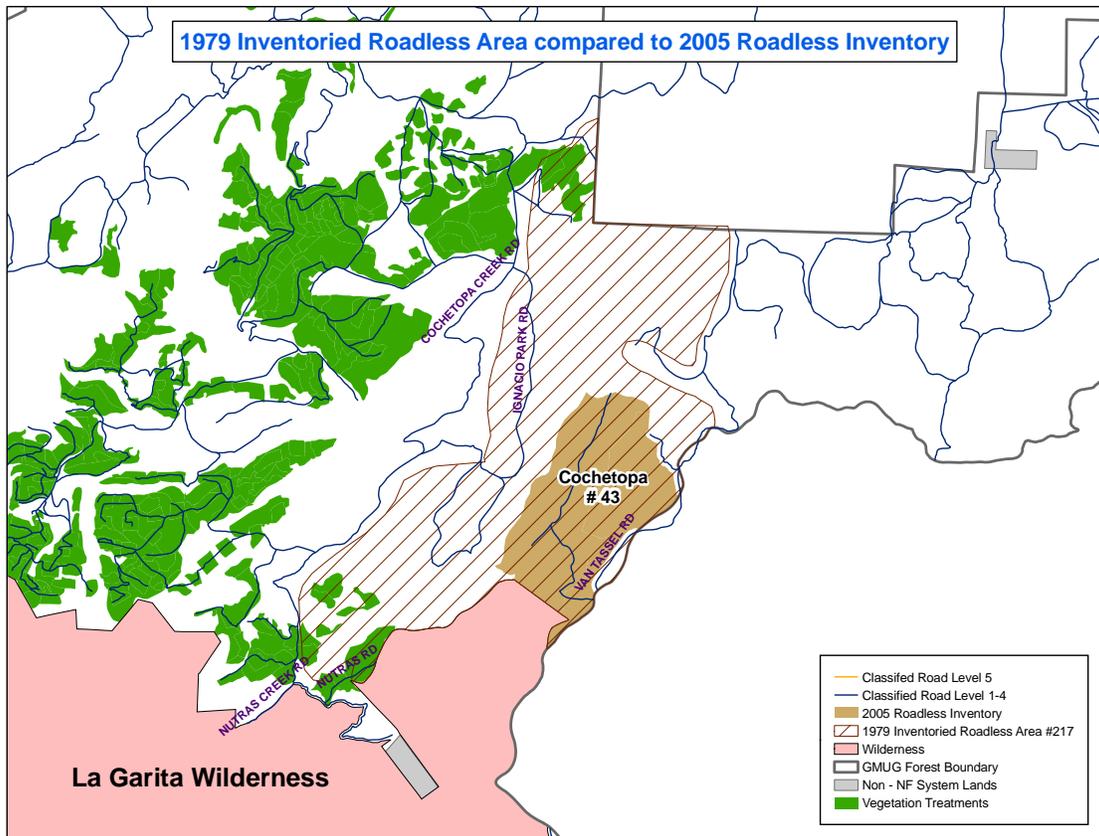
Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately Bristle cone pine 4%, Douglas-fir 11%, spruce-fir 10%, spruce-fir 14%, spruce-fir-aspen 40%, sagebrush 4%, grass 5%, and willow-alder 6%.



Rare II # 217 Middle Fork

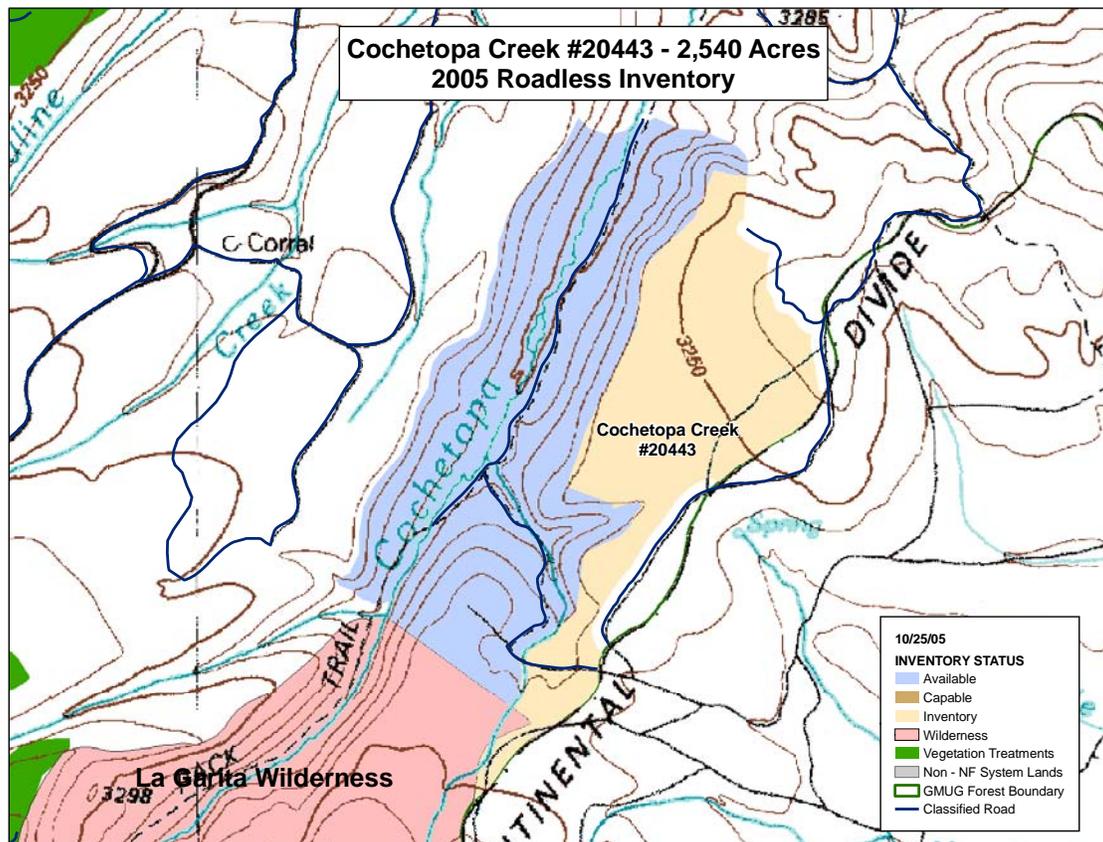
RARE II History – RARE Unit 217 identified and recommended 8,000 acres for wilderness. An additional 10,700 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. The 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-560, designated portions of this unit as part of the LaGarita Wilderness. Lands altered by road construction and timber harvest have been removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Unit #20443 Cochetopa Creek.**



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Cochetopa Creek #20443 – 2,540 Acres – Saguache County

General Description: This area is located approximately 27 miles east of Lake City and is adjacent to the western boundary of the LaGarita Wilderness (in the vicinity of Chavez Creek and Cochetopa Creek). The unit follows the Continental Divide to the south and the rim of Cochetopa Creek canyon to the north.



Elevation Range – 9,700' – 10,900'

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately Bristle cone pine 5%, spruce-fir 8%, spruce-fir-aspen 55%, aspen 5%, brush 14%, grass 7%, and willow-alder 5%.

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Saguache Park and Cochetopa cattle allotments are within this unit.
- One administrative road, the Table Mountain road #472.1A is located within the area.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The canyon area along Cochetopa Creek retains a high degree of naturalness even with a road running through it.
- Solitude – Due to the terrain of the canyon, that area provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The portion outside the canyon however, sits on a bench adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest where the lands are roaded and experience heavy motorized use.
- Challenge – The canyon portion of this area provides a moderate degree of challenge. The remaining area, being gentle terrain and in view of sights and sounds of roads does not provide a sense of adventure or self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Though the area is small, the nature of the canyon would allow for manageability.
- Boundaries – The boundary of the canyon is manageable, however the area outside of the canyon would be difficult to manage.

Special Features/Activities – None identified.

Evaluation: The canyon portion of the unit is **capable**. The area outside of the canyon is **not capable** because of limited opportunities for a sense of remoteness, challenge and solitude, and unmanageable boundaries.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – Fishing occurs within Cochetopa Creek.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are no suitable timber lands within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Boundary management outside of the canyon segment would be unmanageable.

Evaluation – The capable portion of this unit is **available** for wilderness.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

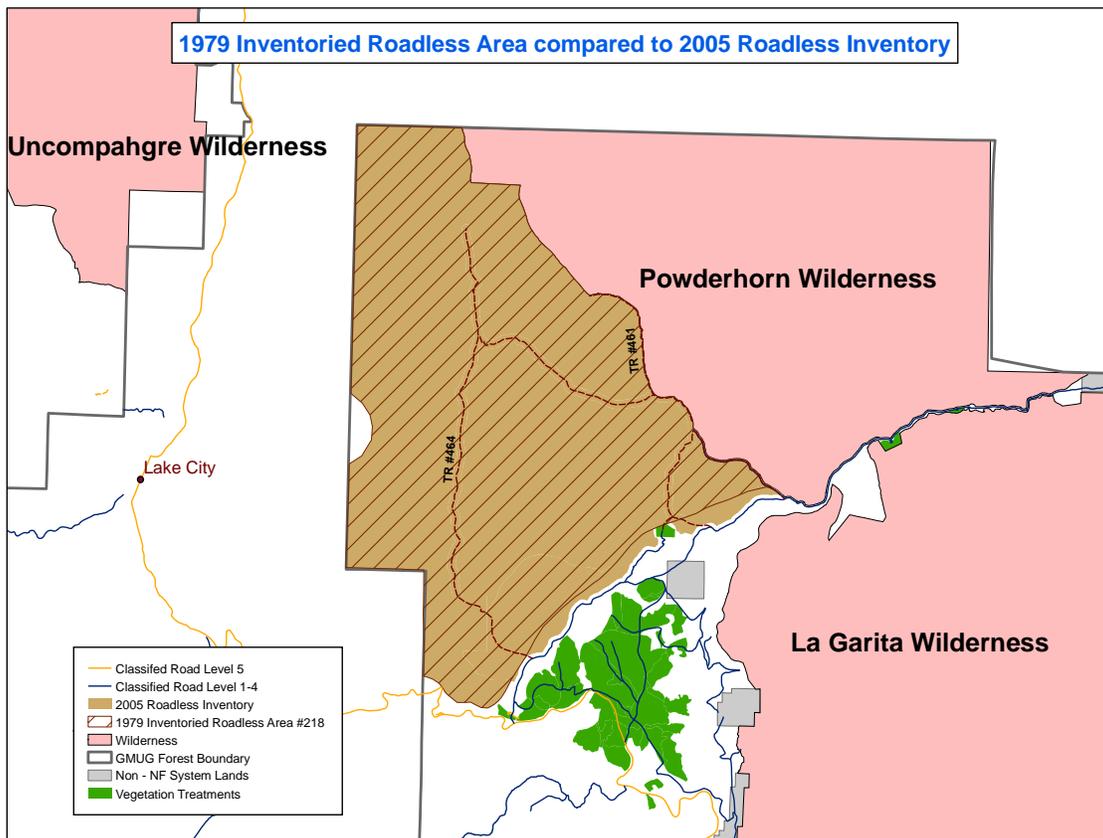
Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- LaGarita Wilderness – <1 mile
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 15 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 25 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 40 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 45 miles

- Sangre De Cristo Wilderness – 50 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 55 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 55 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 60 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 60 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 60 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 60 miles

Rare II # 218 Cannibal Plateau

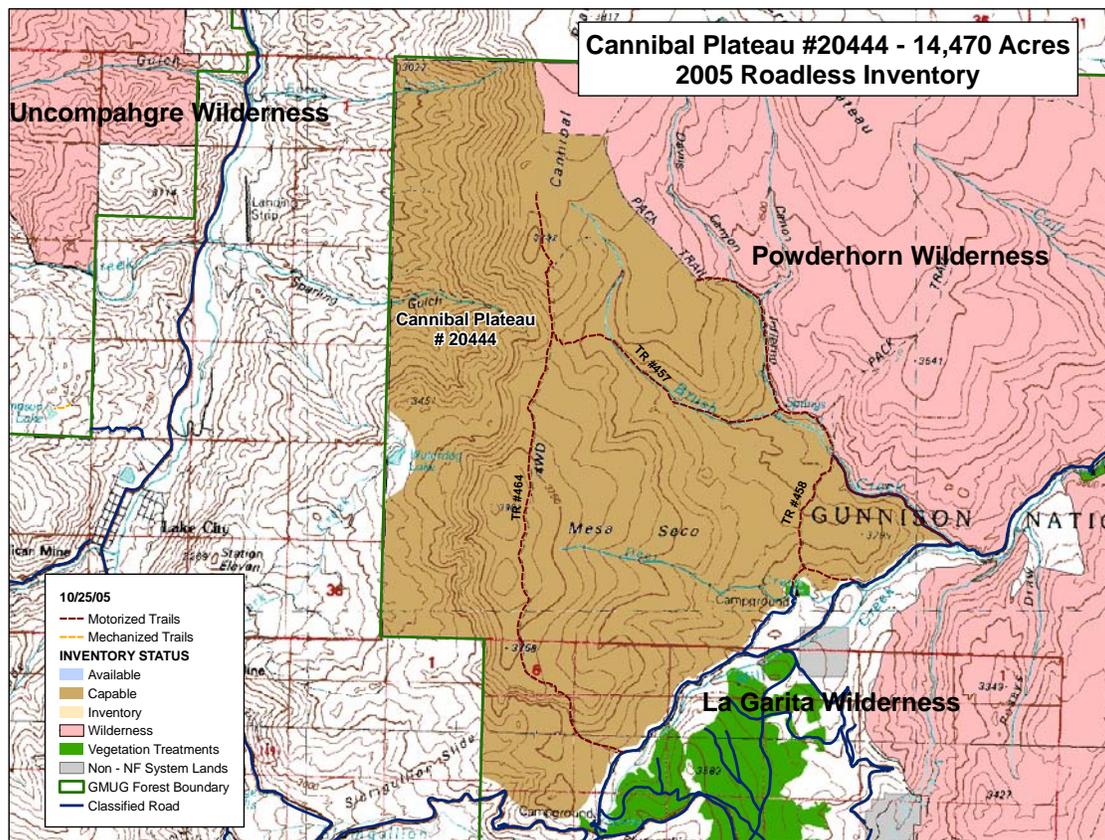
RARE II History – RARE Unit 218 identified 31,990 acres as roadless and recommended the area for further planning in the RARE II Final EIS. The 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act, Public Law 103-77, designated 13,935 acres of this unit as part of the Powderhorn Wilderness. The Deer Lakes Reservoir developed campground was removed from the inventory. The remaining acres are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20444 Cannibal Plateau**.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Cannibal Plateau #20444 – 14,470 Acres – Hinsdale County

General Description: Unit 20444 is located approximately three miles from Lake City. This area is bounded by the BLM and private land along the west, Forest Road #788, Los Pinos-Cebolla Road to the south, and the Powderhorn Wilderness to the east and north.



Elevation Range – 9,600' – 12,600'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 9% alpine, 26% spruce-fir, 27% spruce-fir-aspen, 4% grass, 18% willow-alder, and 14% bare ground.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Cannibal sheep allotment is within this unit.
- A groomed snowmobile route is within the unit.
- Three motorized trails, representing an important and popular ATV route in the Lake City area, traverse the unit:
 - #464 – Cannibal Plateau Trail
 - #458 – Calf Creek Plateau Trail

#457 – Brush Creek Trail

- No harvest activities have occurred in this unit.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Naturalness of this area is high.
- Solitude – Along the crest of the Plateau, the sense of remoteness is high; along the western rim, the town of Lake City and developments can be viewed diminishing the sense of remoteness. Away from the motorized trails, opportunities for solitude can be obtained.

Challenge – The area provides a moderate degree of challenge. The relatively close proximity to roads, trails, and sights and sounds of development limit opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is large enough and contiguous to existing wilderness lands to be manageable as roadless/wilderness.
- Boundaries – The existing boundary of the Powderhorn Wilderness is very defensible and has been effectively managed. Relocating portions of the boundary to the road would increase boundary management needs. Winter defensibility may be difficult.

Special Features/Activities – None identified.

Evaluation: The area is **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – Three popular motorized trails traverse this area. A groomed snowmobile route exists within the unit.

Water – No ditches / water developments.

Timber – There are approximately 1,300 acres of land tentatively suitable for wood fiber production.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – The presence of the groomed snowmobile route would likely affect winter boundary management.

Evaluation – The unit is **not available** for wilderness. Motorized recreation opportunities, both summer and winter are highly valued within this area..

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Powderhorn Wilderness – <1 mile
- LaGarita Wilderness – 1 mile
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 5 miles

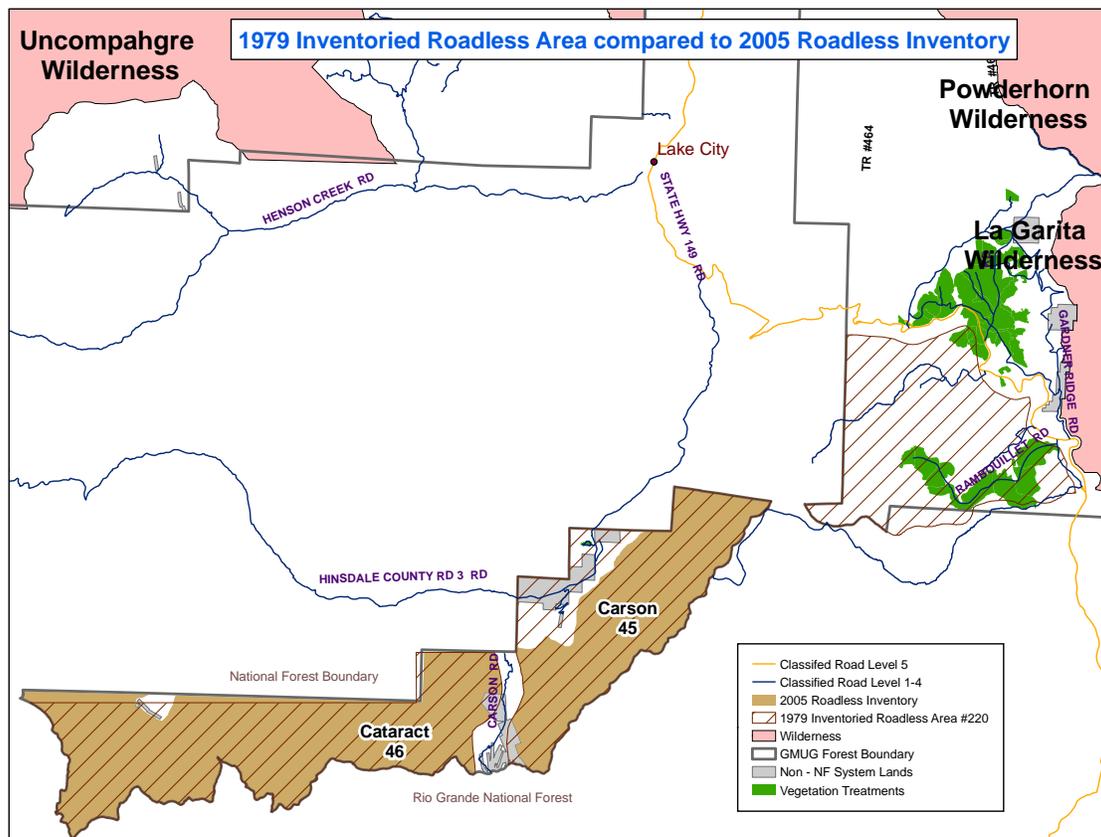
- Weminuche Wilderness – 20 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 30 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 30 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 40 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 50 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 50 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 55 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 60 miles
- Tabeguache Special Area – 65 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 220 Carson Peak

RARE II History – RARE Unit 220 identified 27,560 acres as roadless yet this area was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered by road construction and timber harvest along with non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. The remaining lands are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as #20445 Carson and #20446 Cataract.**

- Timber harvest in Rambouillet Creek drainage (1033 acres)
- The area has 16 miles of road
- Private in-holdings along Alpine Loop Road, Wager Gulch Road, and Cuba Gulch Road

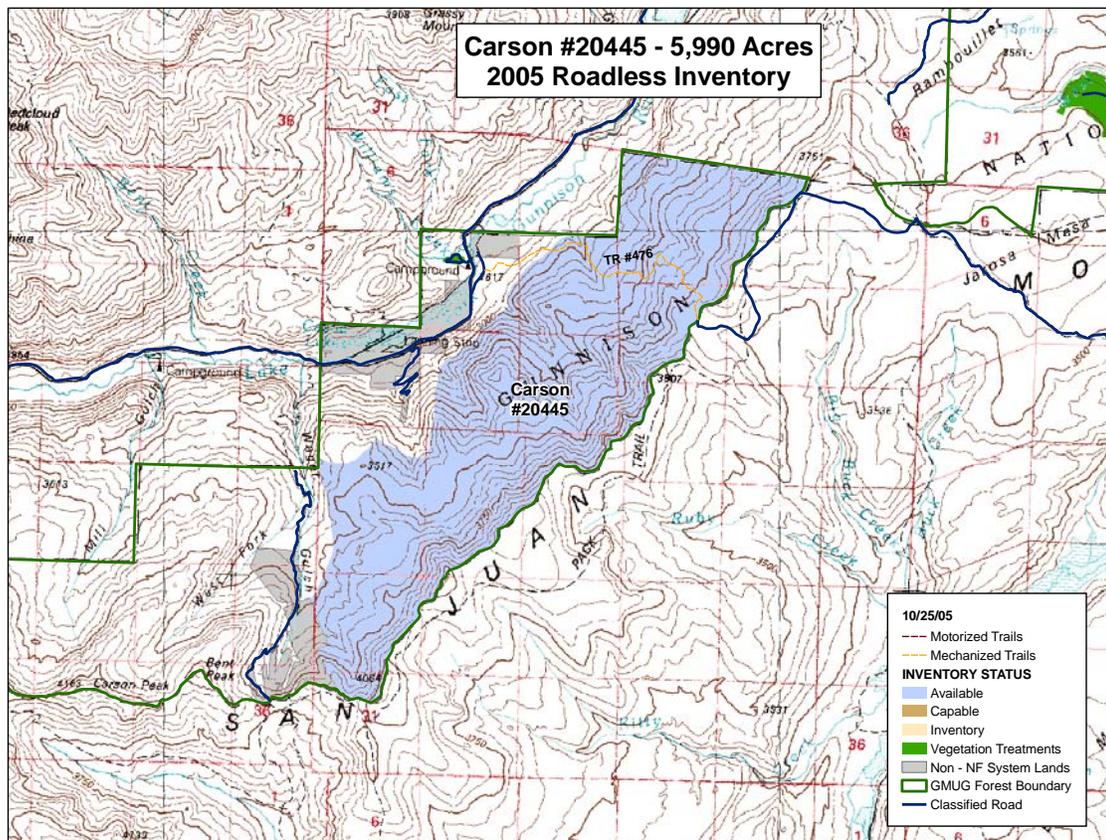
Of note: Within the eastern most portion of RARE 220, a fraction of the interior continues to have roadless qualities; however, the acreage is less than minimum 5,000 and the adjacent lands on the Rio Grande National Forest are not roadless.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Carson #20445 – 5,990 Acres – Hinsdale County

General Description: This area is located approximately seven miles south of Lake City and bordered by a segment of the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway. BLM and private land border the area to the north and the Rio Grande National Forest to the south shares the Continental Divide. The adjacent lands on the Rio Grande National Forest are inventoried as roadless; however, the lands were not recommended for wilderness in their forest plan.



Elevation Range – 9,400' – 13,300'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 14% alpine, 5% Douglas-fir, 23% spruce-fir, 34% spruce-fir-aspen, 5% grass, 16% willow-alder, and 21% bare ground.

Land Type –

60% 60VX – Montane and Subalpine climate zones; mixed extrusive volcanic geologic materials and spruce-fir-aspen vegetation on mountain summits and ridges.

20% 80VX – Alpine climate zone; mixed intrusive volcanic material.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- There is a closed livestock allotment within this unit.
- The Camp Trail #476, open to mountain bikes, bisects the unit. The trail runs north from Road #547 LaGarita Stock Driveway, to the Alpine Loop Road.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness
- Solitude – The area is narrow, one mile wide in places. There is a high volume of traffic along the Alpine Loop Road that influences solitude and sense of remoteness. Snowmobiling is popular on this road in the winter. Away from the road corridor the sense of solitude and remoteness is high.

Challenge – The area provides a high degree of challenge. Rugged terrain, dense vegetation, distance away from sights and sounds of development, and lack of trails within the unit provide an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is narrow in places; a portion of this unit is adjacent to roadless lands on the adjacent Rio Grande National Forest. In combination with the Rio Grande, this area is of a size and shape to provide manageability.
- Boundaries – Boundaries follow the National Forest boundary in most places. The northern boundary where private lands are located approximates the toe of the slope. This topographic boundary would be an identifiable boundary.

Special Features/Activities – The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway is a nationally significant four wheel drive road. The highest point along the Continental Divide (Coney) is located within this unit.

Evaluation: The area meets criteria for **capability**.

Availability:

Recreation – Some snowmobiling originating from the Rio Grande National Forest occurs within this unit.

Water – There are no ditches or water developments within this unit.

Timber – There are no suitable timber lands within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – This unit is of a minimal size for wilderness. It would be preferred that this area share management objectives with the adjacent lands on the Rio Grande National Forest.

Evaluation – This area is **available** for wilderness.

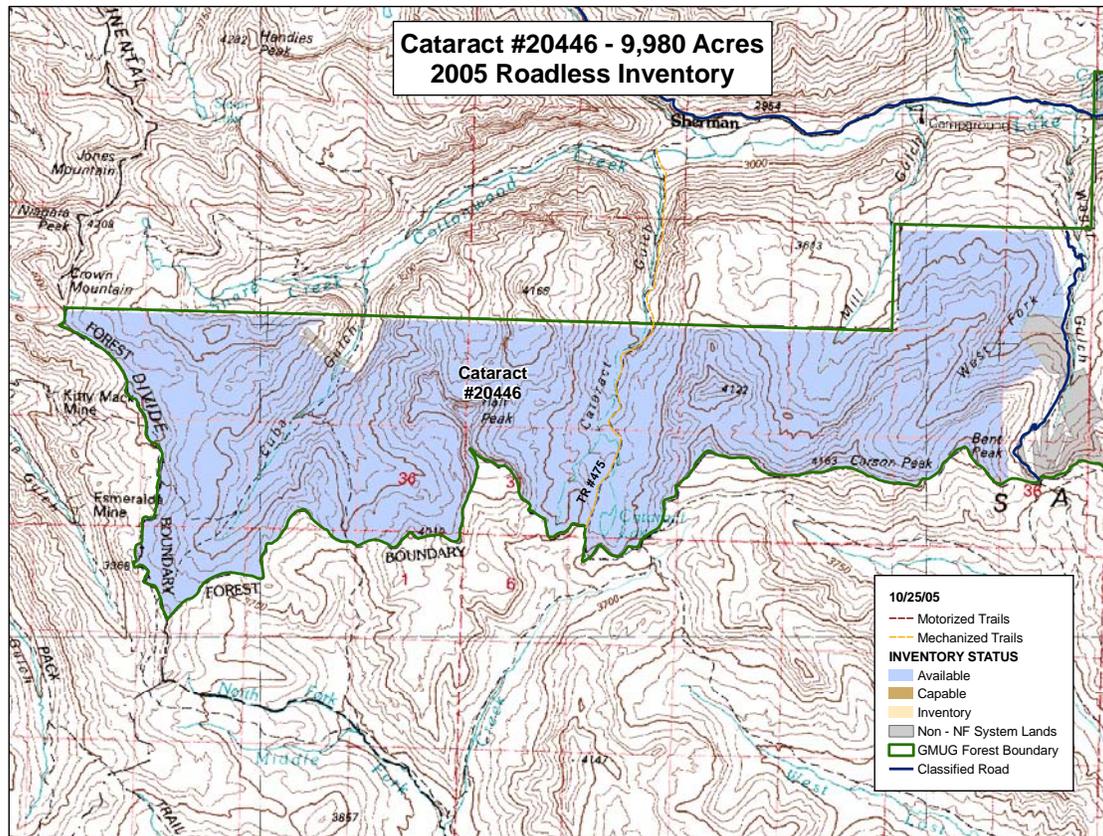
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 10 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 10 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 10 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 10 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 30 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 30 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 45 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 45 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 50 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 55 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 60 miles
- Tabeguache Special Area – 65 miles

Cataract #20446 – 9,980 Acres – Hinsdale County

General Description: This area is approximately 10 miles southwest of Lake City and 10 miles northeast of Silverton. The area is bordered by the BLM to the north, the Rio Grande National Forest to the south and shares the Continental Divide. This area was included in the 2003 Colorado Wilderness Act proposal as part of the Handies Peak Wilderness Area. The area is separated from Inventory Unit #20445 Carson, by the Wager Gulch Road (#468).



Elevation Range – 10,900' – 13,900'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 14% alpine, 5% Douglas-fir, 23% spruce-fir, 34% spruce-fir-aspens, 5% grass, 16% willow-alder, and 21% bare ground.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- This area is within the Cottonwood and Cataract-Cuba cattle allotments.
- Mountain bike trail #475, Cataract Creek Trail, runs north-south through the area.

- Cuba Gulch Trail #477 receives light mountain bike use and is located on the western side of the unit.
- Winter snowmobiling originating from the Rio Grande National Forest takes place in the Cataract Lake area.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Some evidence of historic mineral development may be seen throughout the area. However, overall, the area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – Travel is moderate to heavy along the Wager Gulch Road and will have some influence on solitude; however, once away from the road, opportunities for remoteness and solitude are high.

Challenge – The area provides high challenge opportunities. The dense vegetation, distance away from roads and developments, and lack of sights and sounds of developments and trails create an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is narrow, less than two miles in places. The area is adjacent to roadless lands on Rio Grande National Forest. In combination with the Rio Grande, this area is of a size and shape to provide manageability.
- Boundaries – Boundaries along the Wager Gulch Road have been drawn to exclude private lands. The boundaries as drawn are manageable.

Special Features/Activities – This area along the Continental Divide provides spectacular views. Cataract Lake is a scenic high alpine lake, which are fairly rare in the Gunnison National Forest. Three 13,000' peaks are within the area.

Evaluation: The area is **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – Some snowmobiling occurs in the Cataract Lake area. One mountain bike trail bisects this area and receives light to moderate use.

Water – No ditches / water developments.

Timber – There are no suitable timber lands within the capable lands within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas.

Management Considerations – Management of adjacent lands on the Rio Grande National Forest.

Evaluation – This area is **available** for wilderness.

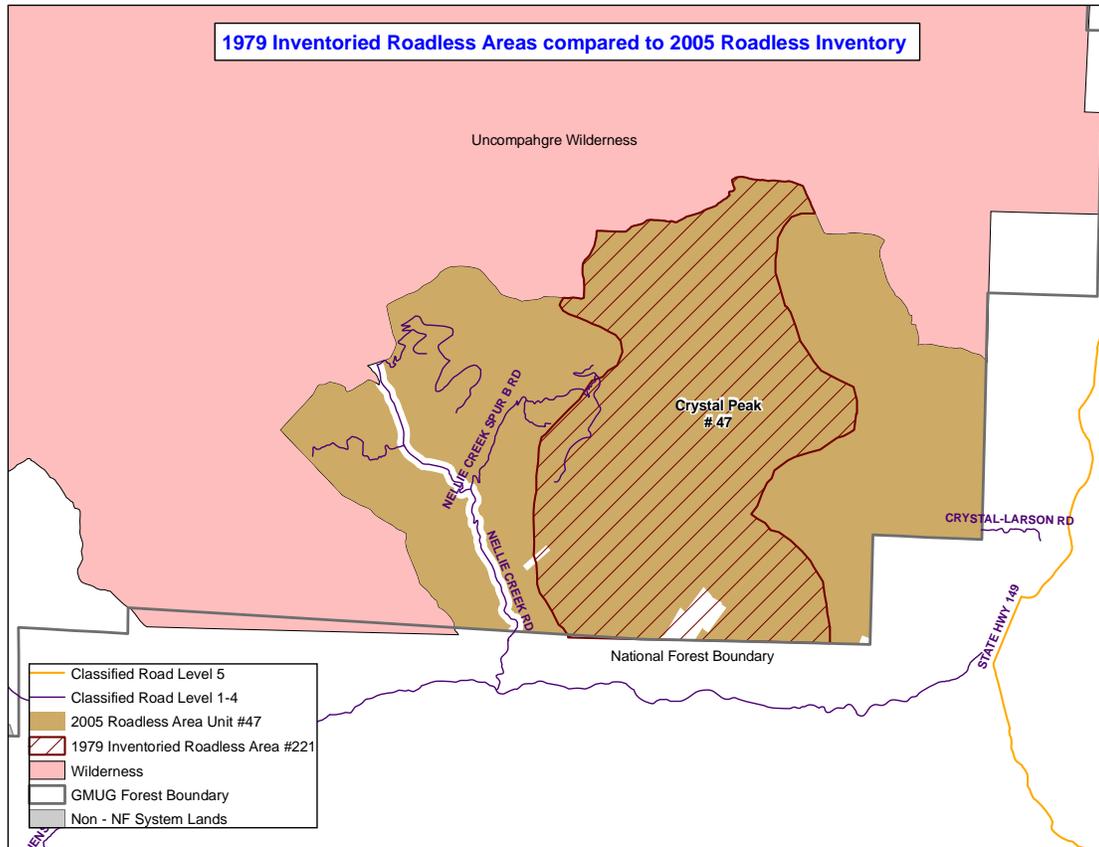
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 10 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 10 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 15 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 20 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 20 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 50 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 50 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 50 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 55 miles
- Tabeguache Special Area – 65 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 221 Crystal Peak

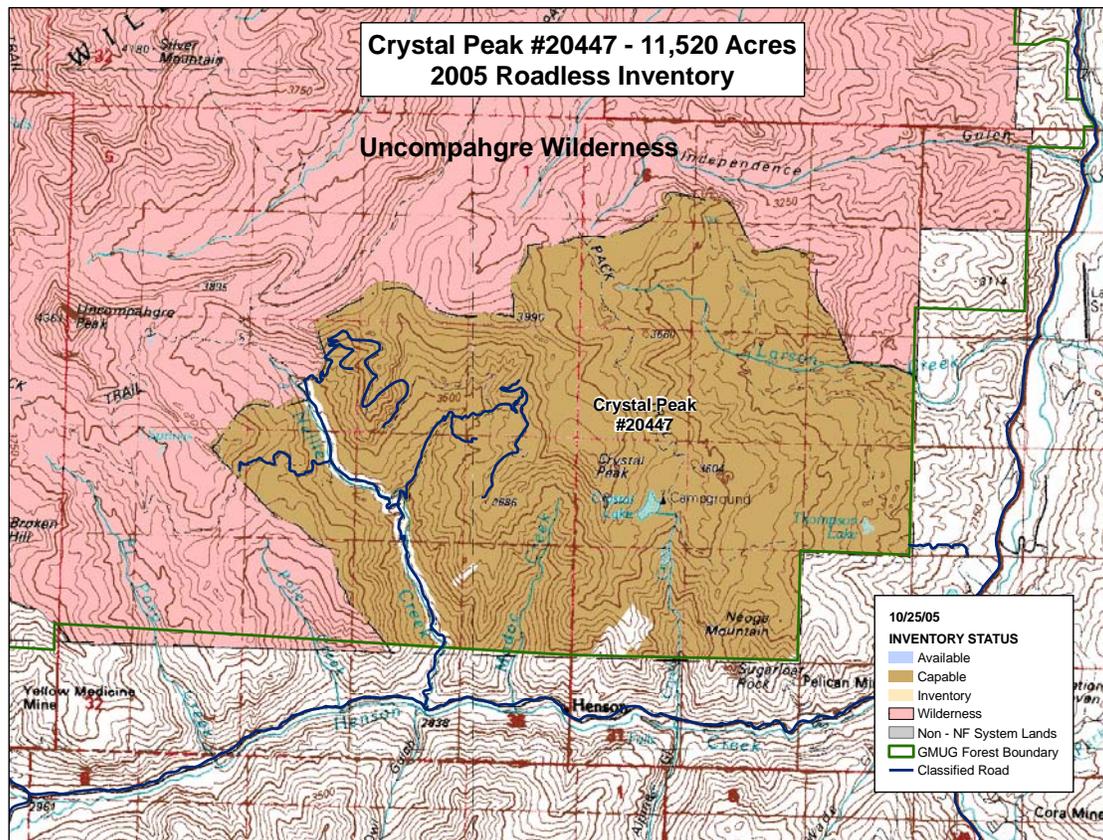
RARE II History – RARE Unit 221 identified 5,300 acres as roadless yet the area was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. This area and adjacent lands are described in the **2005 inventory** as **#20447 Crystal Peak**.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Crystal Peak #20447 – 11,520 Acres – Hinsdale County

General Description: The area is located approximately three miles from Lake City and is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, south of Independence Gulch. The unit borders the BLM land to the south. The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway runs through the adjacent BLM land.



Elevation Range – 9,400' – 13,100'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 17% alpine, 21% spruce-fir, 34% spruce-fir-aspen, 2% brush, 4% willow-alder, and 20% bare ground.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Crystal Peak/Lower Elk sheep allotment, which is currently vacant, is within this unit.
- Nellie Creek Road #877 provides access to the Wilderness trailhead and the 14,000 foot Uncompahgre Peak.
- Larson Lakes Trail #236 receives some mountain bike use.

- Historic roading for mineral prospecting exists east of the Nellie Creek Road.
- Winter snowmobile activity is light within this area.
- T44N, R4W, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 21 – San Juan Springs Irrigation ditch.
- T44N, R4W, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 7 – SUP to CDOW – Larson Lakes for fish culture.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Portions of the area are recovering from historic mining activities; the remainder of the area has a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – Once away from the Nellie Creek road, visitors can experience a sense of remoteness and solitude.

Challenge – The area provides high challenge opportunities. The high elevation rugged mountain landscape and dense vegetation create an environment for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is contiguous to the Uncompahgre Wilderness and is a manageable size and shape.
- Boundaries – The boundaries follow the National Forest boundaries to the east and south and the Wilderness to the north and west. Boundary management along the eastern boundary where the Forest joins private land could prove difficult. The boundary to the south is shared with the BLM, with the exception of a private land in-holding; this boundary would be defensible.

Special Features/Activities – Private inholding in T44N, R5W, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 26 may present ANILCA access issues.

Evaluation: The area is **capable**.

Availability:

Recreation – Motorized recreation activities occur along the Nellie Creek Road. The area receives some winter snowmobile use.

Water – Two water developments are within the unit – the San Juan Springs Subdivision Irrigation Ditch and the Larson Lakes/dam permitted to CDOW.

Timber – There are approximately 200 acres of land tentatively suited for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas. The southern portion of this unit is within the Henson Creek mineralized area.

Management Considerations – Hinsdale County Commissioners have concerns over the amount of wilderness within Hinsdale County.

Evaluation – This area is **not available**.

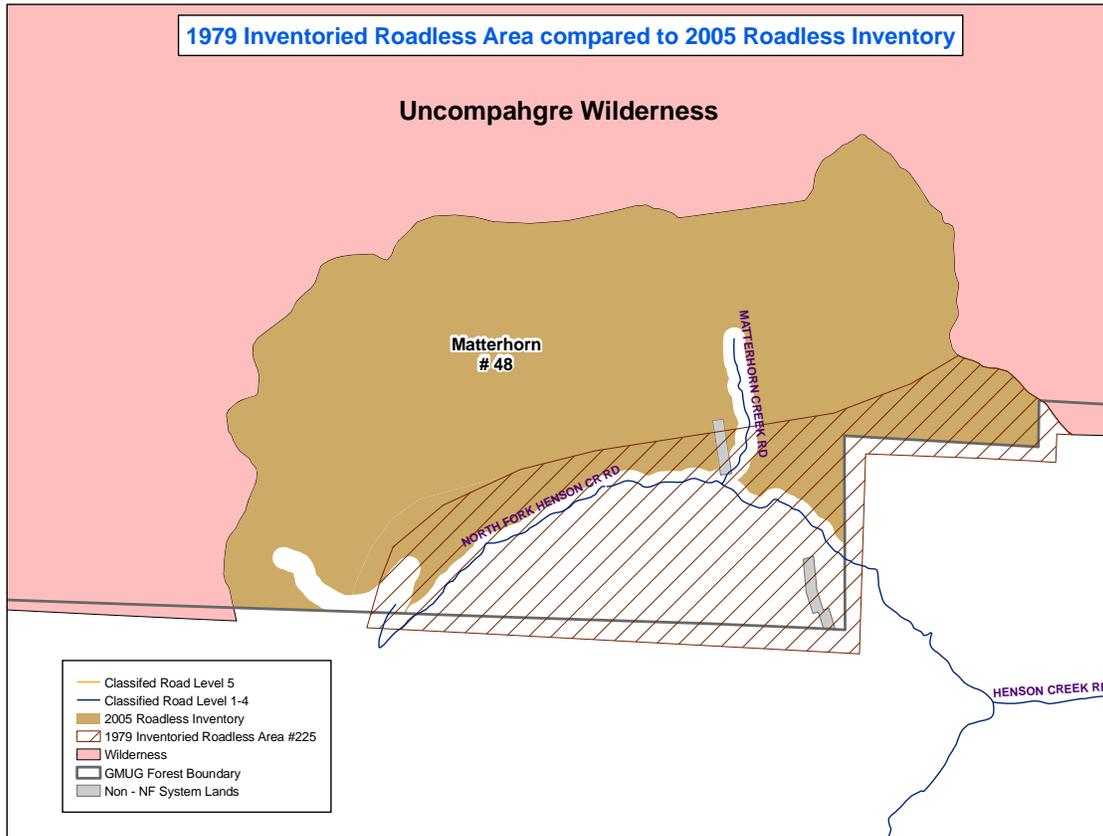
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 1 mile
- LaGarita Wilderness – 10 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 10 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 25 miles
- Weminuche Wilderness – 25 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 30 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 35 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 50 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 55 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 55 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 60 miles
- Tabeguache Special Area – 60 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 225 El Paso Creek

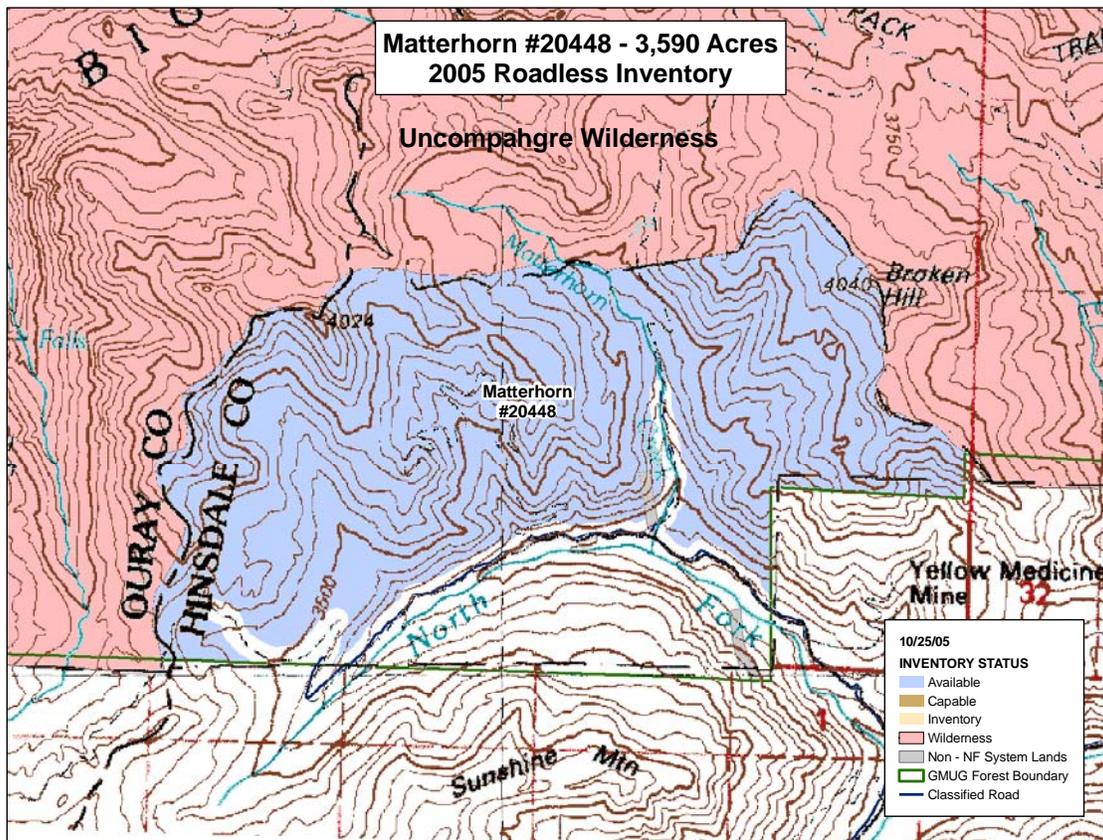
RARE II History – RARE Unit 225 identified 3,100 acres as roadless yet the area was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE II Final EIS. Lands altered with roads and private inholdings were removed from the inventory. Lands north of Mary Alice Creek, once roaded and mined, are in a state of recovery that meets the inventory criteria. These lands are described in the **2005 inventory as #20448 Matterhorn**.



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Matterhorn #20448 – 3,590 Acres – Hinsdale County

General Description: The area lies approximately 10 miles west of Lake City and approximately eight miles east of Ouray. The area is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, south of Wetterhorn Peak. The area is bounded by the Wilderness on three sides. The North Fork of Henson Creek Road #870.3 makes the south boundary. The BLM American Flats WSA is south of the National Forest boundary, however, it does not adjoin this unit.



Elevation Range – 10,300' – 13,200'

Eco-Section – M331G – South Central Highlands

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 34% spruce-fir, 38% spruce-fir-aspen, 7% willow-alder, and 18% bare ground.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Uncompahgre Peak-North Henson Creek sheep allotments are within this unit.

- There are four miles of roads – Mary Alice Creek #870 and Matterhorn Creek #870.2A. A private access road permit to land in the southeast corner of the forest has been granted.
- Several non-motorized trails are within the area – Matterhorn Basin, Mary Alice Creek #226.5, and Ridge Stock Driveway #233.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Numerous historic mining roads are evident off of Mary Alice Creek. Other evidence of historic mining exists on the landscape. Away from the road, the area has recovered to a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – Opportunities for solitude and remoteness can be found within this area.

Challenge – This unit offers a moderate degree of challenge. The rugged terrain provides opportunities for adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Being contiguous with the wilderness, it is a manageable size and shape.
- Boundaries – Road #870, North Fork of Henson Creek Road, is an easily identifiable and manageable boundary. The remaining boundaries are with the existing wilderness.

Special Features/Activities – Access to Uncompahgre Peak.

Evaluation: This area is **capable** of being wilderness.

Availability:

Recreation – The existing roads, #870 and #870.2A, are cherry stemmed out of the area. Recreation use on these roads are very popular for wilderness access.

Water – No ditches / water developments.

Timber – There are no suitable timber lands within this unit.

Minerals – The area has no known potential for oil and gas. The southern portion of this unit is within the Henson Creek Mineralized Area as defined by the USGS.

Management Considerations – None identified.

Evaluation – This area is **available** for wilderness consideration.

Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – Approximate distance away:

- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 1 mile
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 15 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 20 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 20 miles

- Weminuche Wilderness – 20 miles
- Lizard Head Wilderness – 25 miles
- Black Canyon Wilderness – 40 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 40 miles
- Roubideau Special Area – 45 miles
- Tabeguache Special Area – 55 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 60 miles
- South San Juan Wilderness – 60 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 65 miles