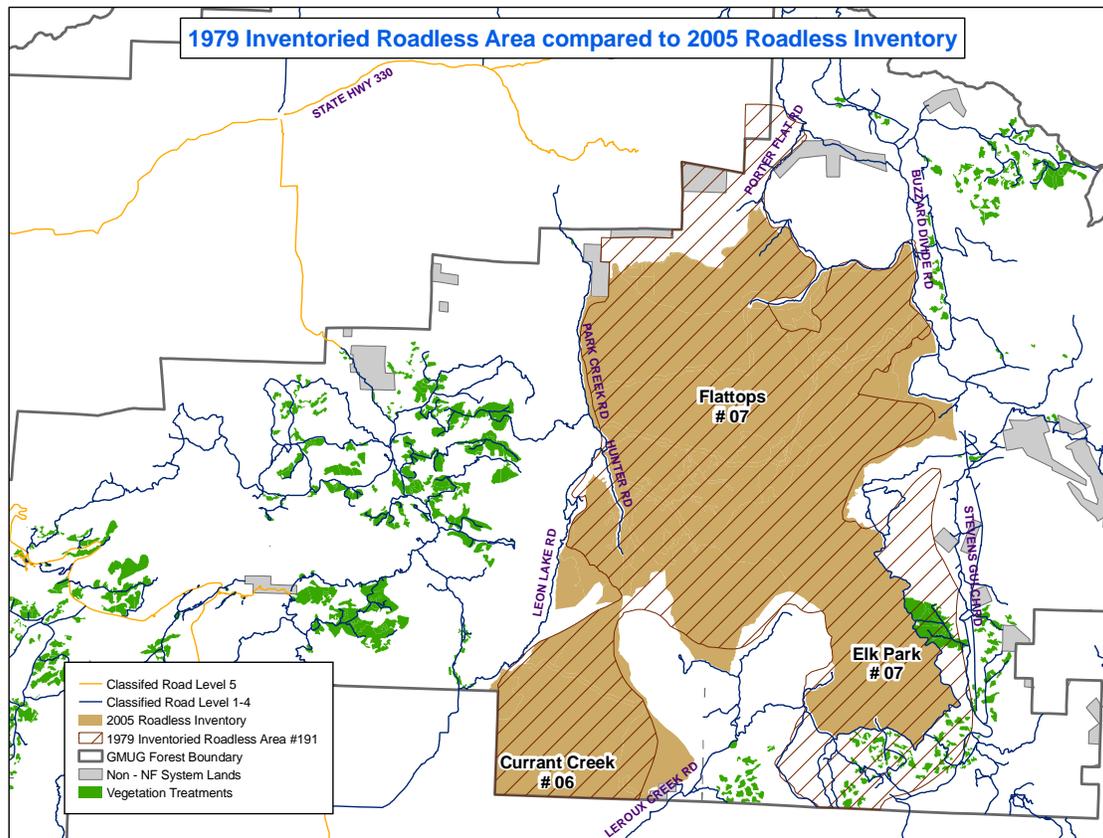


Rare II # 191 Priest Mountain

RARE II History – RARE Unit 191 identified 102,580 acres as roadless yet did not recommend the area for wilderness in the RARE II FEIS. Lands altered from road construction, timber harvest, water developments, and water transmission lines were removed from the inventory. Non-National Forest System lands were also removed from the inventory. The remaining area is described in the **2005 inventory as #20406 Currant Creek and #20407 Flattops/Elk Park.**

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 191 from 2005 inventory:

- There are 50 miles of road
- Vegetation harvest of 1,576 acres
- Water developments and transmission lines
- Non-National Forest System lands



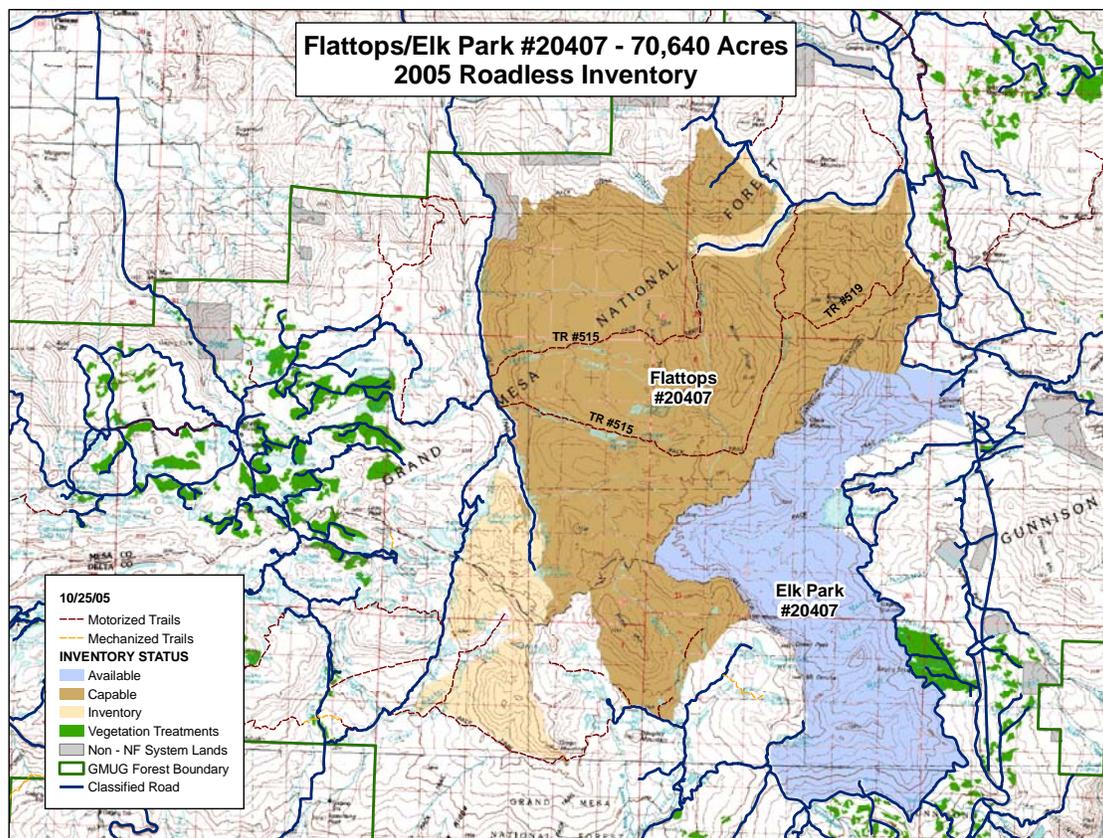
2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Flattops / Elk Park #20407 – 70,640 Acres – Mesa & Delta Counties

General Description: The area is located approximately 10 miles north of Paonia. The area is bounded to the west by the Park Creek Road #262 and the Buzzard Divide Road #265 and the Overland Ditch to the east. There are two distinct segments the Flattops and Elk Park, which are separated by the watershed divide which separates Mesa and Delta Counties.

Flattops – Located within Mesa County from the divide to Park Creek Road #262

Elk Park - Located within Delta County from the divide to the Overland Ditch. This segment is located within both the Grand Mesa National Forest (western most portion) and the Gunnison National Forest (eastern portion).



Elevation Range – 7,500' – 11,300'

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 37% spruce-fir, 21% spruce-fir-aspen, 17% aspen, 11% shrub, 6% riparian, and 4% grass.

Land Type

37% 60IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded shale and sandstone geology.

33% 70BS02 – Subalpine climate zone; basalt geologic material.

19% 50IH – Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded shale and sandstone geology.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing –Flattops Segment:

- The area is within the Leon, Buzzard, and Dyke cattle allotments.
- There are popular motorized ATV trails within the unit:
 - High Trail #515
 - Monument Trail #518
 - Buzzard Park Trail #519
 - East Leon Trail #730
- Several water developments are within the unit. Of note are Monument Reservoirs #1 and #2 located in the center of the Flattop segment.
- The area is covered by a No Lease stipulation for oil and gas.

Current & Ongoing –Elk Park Segment:

- The area is within the West Muddy and West Terror cattle allotments.
- Motorized trails Elk Park Trail #800 and East Leon Trail #730 are within the area.
- The area is currently available for oil and gas leasing; a portion of one existing lease overlaps in the extreme southeast corner of this unit. Much of the area is covered by a No Lease stipulation; however, the southern portion of this segment is covered by a Controlled Surface Use stipulation.
- The Overland ditch makes the southern and eastern boundary of this segment.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The southwest portion of the Flattop segment is heavily influenced by water developments. Away from these developments and boundary roads, the area retains a high level of naturalness.
- Solitude – The motorized trails within the Flattop segment influence the sense of solitude and remoteness. The relatively open vegetation and flat terrain cannot screen the motorized activities, thus solitude is affected. The Elk Park segment, however, retains a very high sense of remoteness.

Challenge – The Flattop segment offers a moderate degree of challenge. The open vegetation and flat terrain of the Flattops does not provide the same sense of adventure and self-reliance as does the Elk Park segment. The dense vegetation and limited trails within the Elk Park segment provides a high degree of adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- **Size/Shape** – The area is large and could be managed for roadless qualities. The area within the Flattop segment near Leon Lake has an odd boundary and shape that would be difficult to identify and manage.
- **Boundaries** – The boundary within the extreme southeast corner would require adjustment to eliminate the area encumbered by the existing oil and gas lease. Boundaries along the southwest portion of the Flattop segments in the vicinity of Leon Lake Road #127 would be difficult to manage. The boundary skirts several reservoirs and access roads making an unusual shape and unmanageable boundary. The remainder of the boundary follows roads and terrain features.

Special Features/Activities – The Overland Ditch along the eastern boundary.

Evaluation: The majority of the area meets criteria for capability. However, the portion near Leon Lake does not meet capability requirements for manageability due to the unusual shape that avoids reservoirs and other water developments. In total, approximately 63,370 acres or 90% of the area is **capable** of wilderness.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – A motorized trail system exists within the Flattops segment of this unit.

Water – Several water developments, including those for municipal use, are located within the unit. Some are located within the middle of the unit.

Timber – There are approximately 30,300 acres within the capable portion of the unit that are tentatively suitable for wood fiber production. Another 1,300 acres of tentatively suitable timber land is within the inventory portion of the unit.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas. The Flattop segment has a No Lease stipulation; however, the Elk Park segment has a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. There is currently only a small area in the extreme southeast corner of the unit encumbered with an existing lease.

Management Considerations – A portion of the Elk Park segment is available for lease with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation.

Management Considerations – The Elk Park segment is available for lease.

Evaluation – The Elk Park segment of this unit that is located on the Gunnison National Forest is **available** for wilderness. The Grand Mesa National Forest portion of the Elk Park segment is **not available** due to water developments. The Flattop segment of this unit is **not available** for wilderness due to the highly valued motorized recreation trail system within the area.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness –20 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles

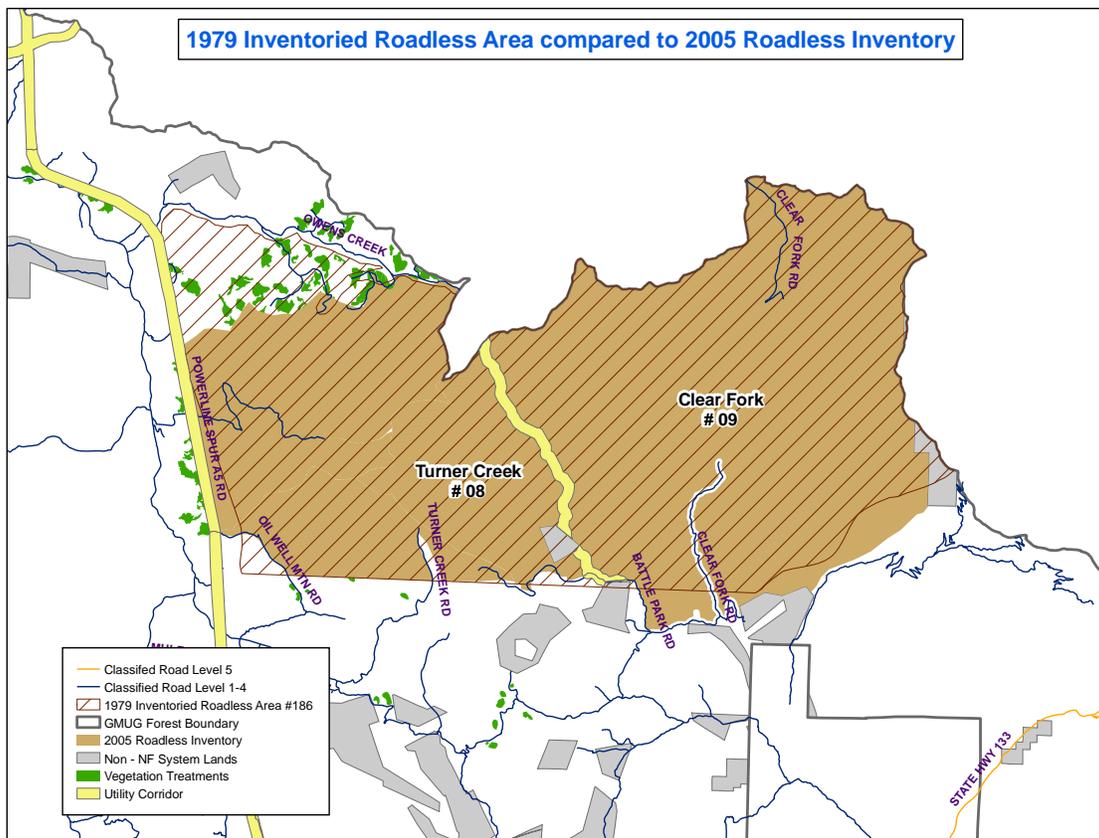
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 25 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Roubideau Area – 45 miles
- Flattop Wilderness – 45 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 60 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 60 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 65 miles

Rare II # 186 Clear Creek

RARE II History – This area was identified in 1979 as roadless area #186; 40,780 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended for wilderness. Lands altered by road construction and vegetation harvest have been removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Clear Fork #20409 and Turner Creek #20408.**

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 186 from 2005 inventory:

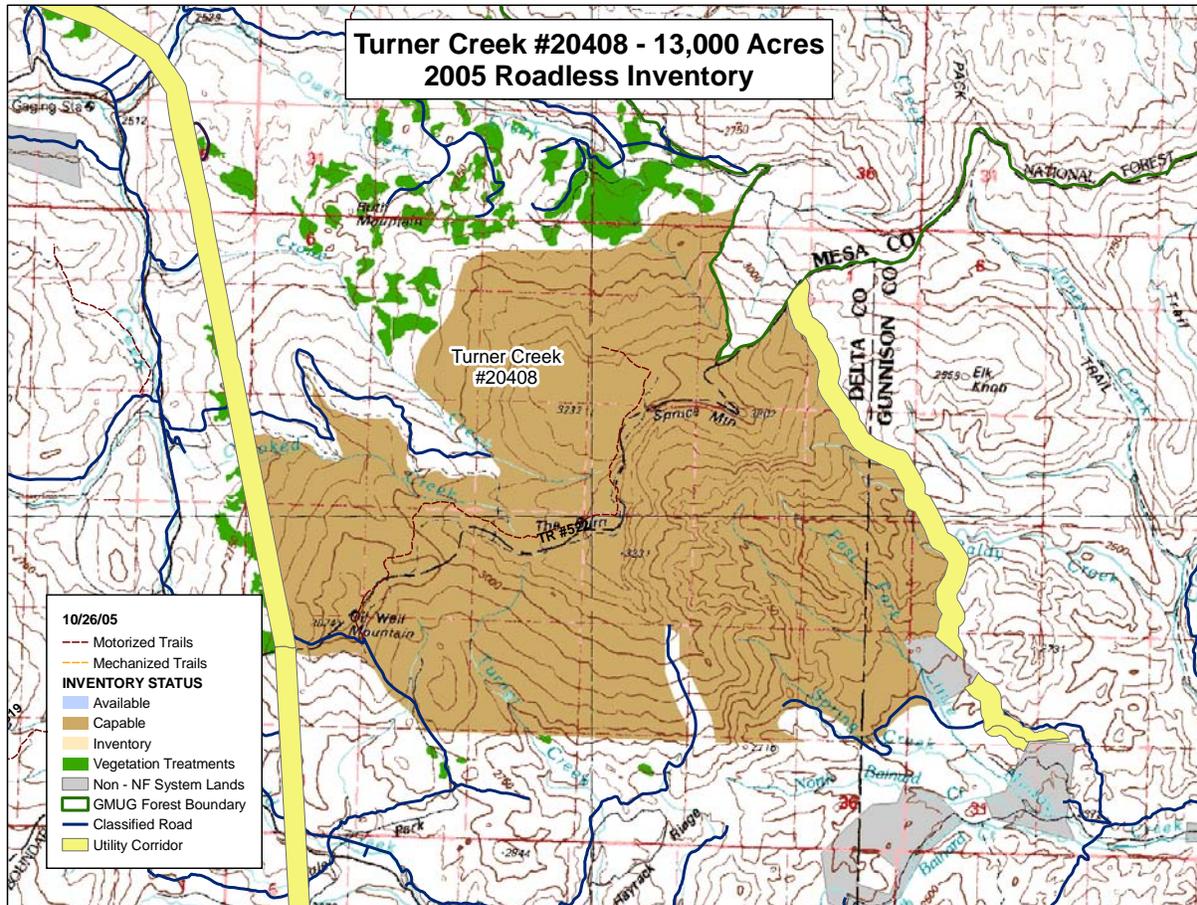
- Sixteen miles of road
- Vegetation harvest (988 acres)
- Gas pipeline and right-of-way
- Ten drilled wells
- 230 KV power line and associated roads



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Turner Creek #20408 – 13,000 Acres – Delta County

General Description: The area is located approximately 20 miles north of Paonia, it is adjacent to unit 20409, Clear Fork; separated by a gas pipeline which forms the eastern boundary, the northern boundary is the hydrologic divide between the Grand Mesa and Gunnison National Forests which also forms the boundary between Mesa and Delta Counties.



Elevation Range – 7,600’ – 11,800’

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 17% spruce-fir, 33% spruce-fir-aspen, 40% aspen, 5% shrub, 2% willow alder, and 2% sagebrush.

Land Type –

82% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The West Turner and Muddy sheep allotments are within this unit.
- There are existing and pending oil and gas leases. The area has a high potential for oil and gas.
- Two producing gas wells are located along the southern boundary of the area.
- An active gas line forms the eastern boundary. Management is evaluating a current proposal to expand the existing pipeline ROW and another proposal for a new pipeline.
- Forest Road #522, Burn 277, is located along the western boundary of the unit. Travel is restricted to ATV, foot, horse, and bicycle.
- Recreation Route Designation EA decision to be signed in 2005. It will designate a motorized trail system in western half of Turner Creek.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Once away from the gas pipeline, the area appears natural.
- Solitude – Away from the gas pipeline the area has a sense of remoteness.

Challenge – The area provides a high degree of challenge. The steep terrain and dense vegetation along with limited trails within the unit provides opportunities for self-reliance and adventure.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size and shape to be managed for its roadless character.
- Boundaries – Boundary along the south is indefinable.

Special Features/Activities –

- Summer big game range
- Desirable fall big game hunting unit

Evaluation: This area meets the criteria and is, therefore, **capable** of wilderness because many of the existing oil and gas leases have not yet exercised their development rights.

Availability:

Recreation – Motorized trail #522 is along the boundary of the unit. The area is a popular fall hunting area.

Water – No known water developments.

Timber – There are approximately 9,500 acres of land that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas and has existing oil/gas leases.

Management Considerations – Pre-existing rights to access oil and gas leases.

Evaluation – This area is **not available** for wilderness consideration due to existing mineral leases.

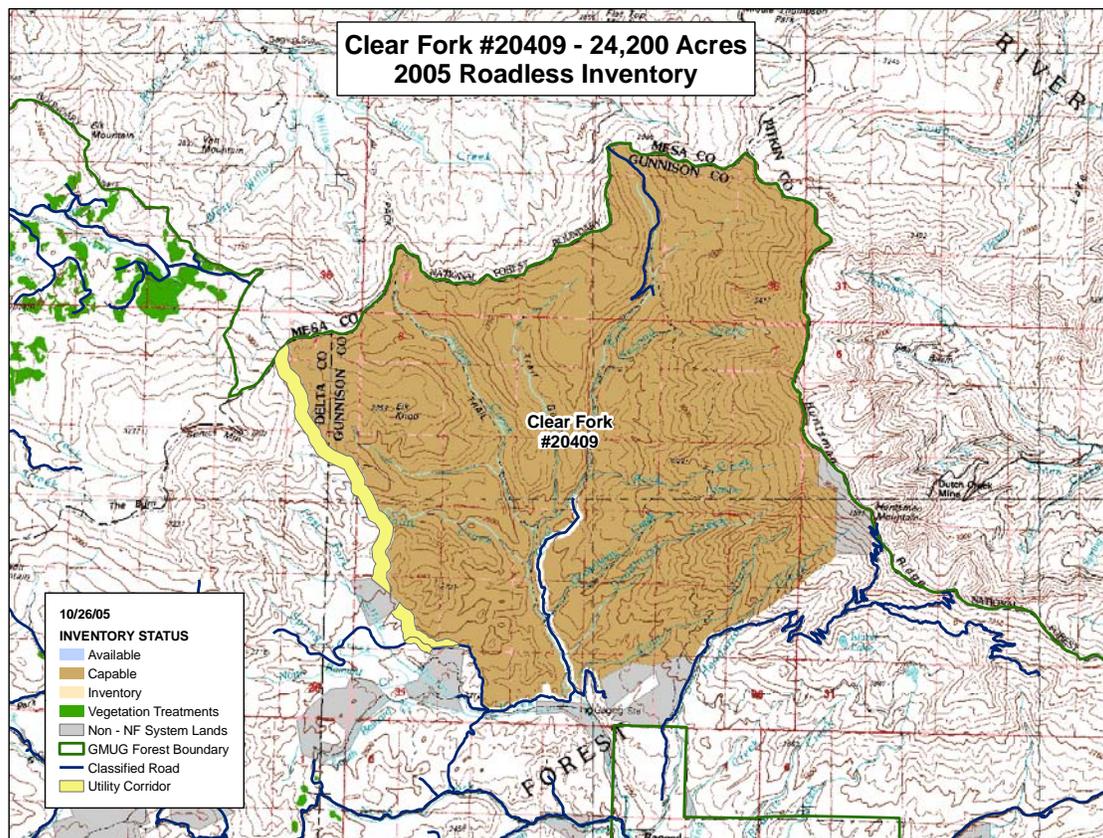
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Raggeds Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 15 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 25 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Flattops Wilderness – 50 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 50 miles

Clear Fork #20409 – 24,200 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The area is located approximately 20 miles north of Paonia; it contains the headwaters of the east Fork of Muddy Creek and the Clear Fork. The gas pipeline forms the western boundary, the northern boundary is shared with the White River National Forest boundary, and the eastern boundary is adjacent to Henderson Creek Road and private land.



Elevation Range – 7,600' – 11,800'

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 17% spruce-fir, 33% spruce-fir-aspen, 40% aspen, 5% shrub, 2% willow alder, and 2% sagebrush.

Land Type:

82% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone with interbedded sandstone and shale geology. Coniferous and deciduous forest are located on mountain slopes, hills, sideslopes and ridges.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Deadhorse and Muddy sheep allotments are within this unit.

- There are existing and pending oil and gas leases. The area has a high potential for oil and gas.
- Two producing gas wells are within the area.
- An active gas pipeline with a cleared ROW forms the western boundary. Management is evaluating a current proposal to expand the existing pipeline ROW and a proposal for another pipeline.
- Several water facilities including ditches and spring developments.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Once away from the gas wells and associated road, the area appears natural.
- Solitude – Away from the gas wells, roads and pipeline the area has a sense of remoteness.

Challenge – The area offers a high degree of challenge. The terrain and vegetation coupled with limited trail within the unit provides opportunities for self-reliance and adventure.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size and shape to be managed for its roadless character.
- Boundaries – Boundaries are identifiable.

Special Features/Activities –

- Summer big game range
- Desirable fall big game hunting unit

Evaluation: This area meets the criteria and is therefore **capable** of wilderness because many of the existing oil and gas leases have not yet exercised their development rights.

Availability:

Recreation – Non-motorized trails traverse the area.

Water – Several water facilities including spring developments and ditches.

Timber – There are approximately 14,600 acres of land that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas and has existing oil/gas leases.

Management Considerations – Pre-existing rights to access oil and gas leases.

Evaluation – This area is **not available** for wilderness consideration due to existing mineral leases.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

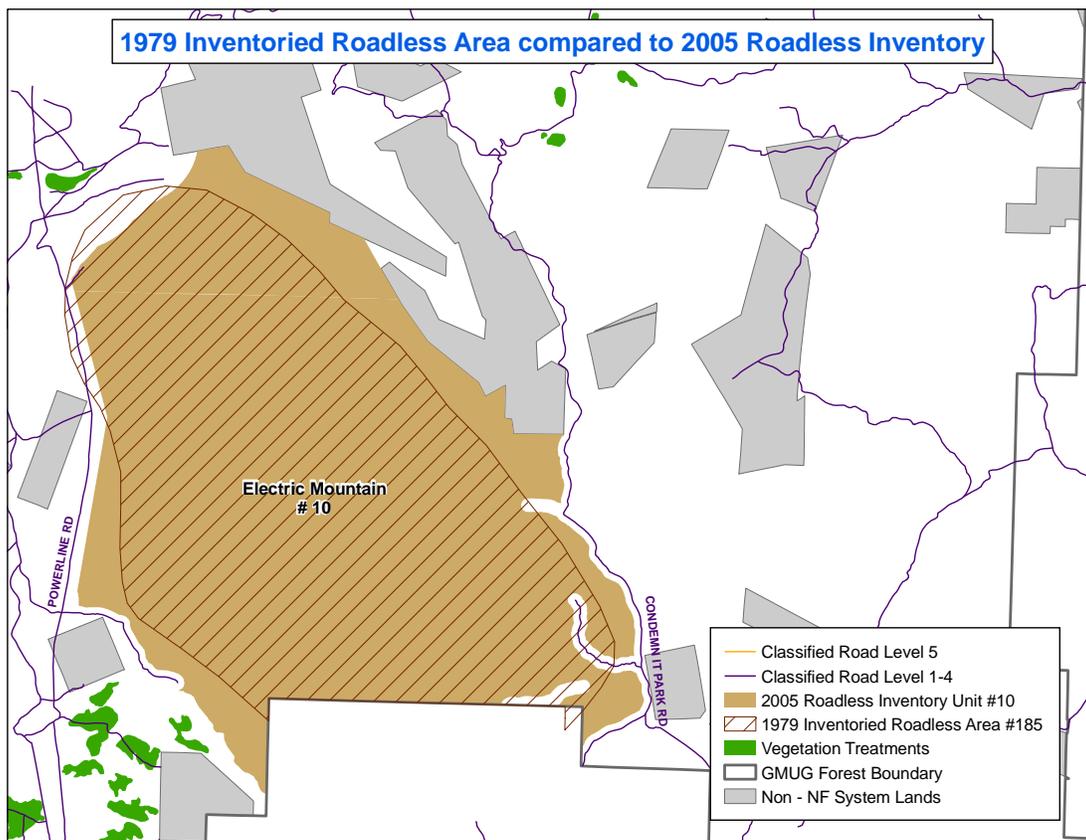
- Raggeds Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 15 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 25 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Flattops Wilderness – 50 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 50 miles

Rare II # 185 Electric Mountain

RARE II History – This area was identified in 1979 as roadless area #185; 8,600 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended for wilderness. Most of the area still retains their roadless character. This acreage and additional lands adjacent to RARE 185 are carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Electric Mountain #20410**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 185 from 2005 inventory:

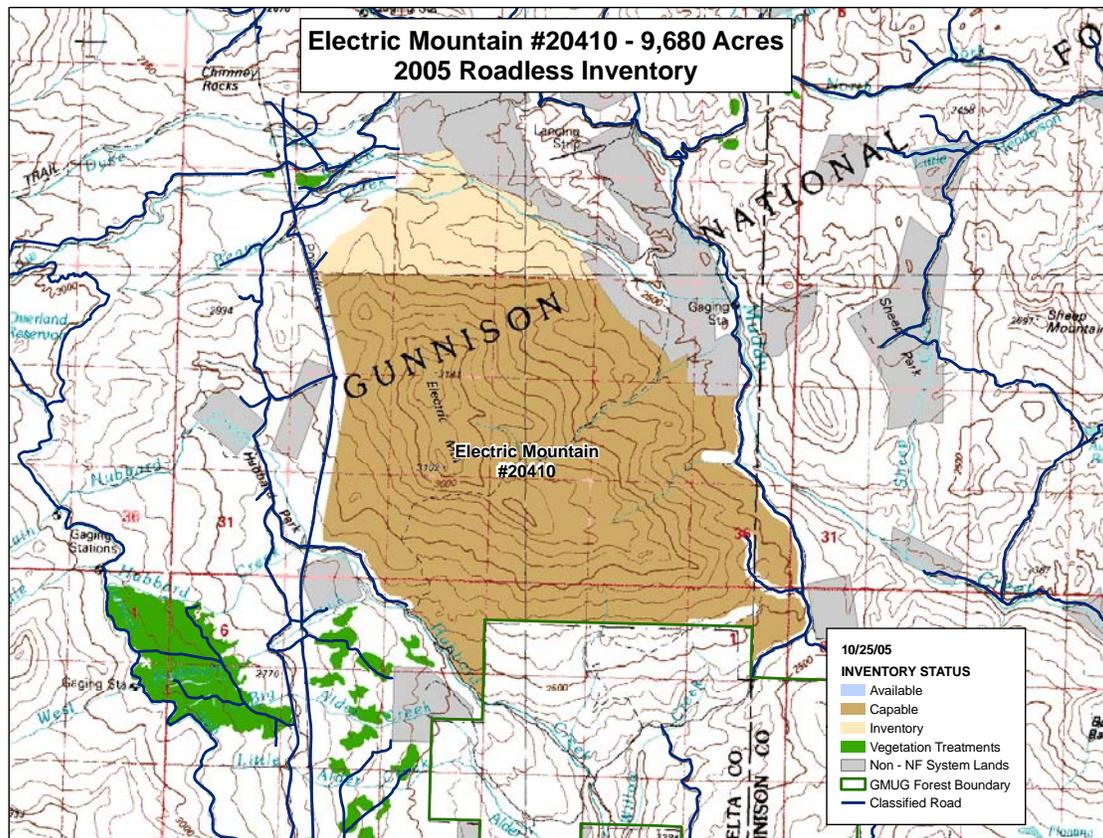
- One miles of road
- 230 KV power line and associated right-of-way
- Water transmission lines



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Electric Mountain #20410 – 9,680 Acres – Delta County

General Description: The area is located approximately 10 miles south of Somerset. Electric Mountain is within the center of the area. The south boundary is the National Forest boundary, bordered by private land. The west boundary is the 230 KV power line, and the remaining boundaries are formed by roads and private land in-holdings that encircle Electric Mountain.



Elevation Range – 8,000' – 10,300'

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 57% spruce-fir-aspen, 35% aspen, 2% shrub, and 3% willow-alder.

Land Type –

95% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Electric Mountain, Condemit Park, Hubbard Park, and West Muddy sheep allotments are within this unit.
- The area has a high potential for oil and gas. There is an existing lease in the southeast corner of the area along section line 31 and 6.
- Multiple water transmission ditches are located within the northern portion of the area. Several spring developments and pipelines located to the west, near private lands.
- Western Area Power Association (WAPA) electrical transmission line runs along the western boundary of the unit.
- The Terror Trail #802, a foot and horse trail, bisects the area.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Roads surround the area. The powerline and its associated road are adjacent to a portion of the area. An irrigation ditch near Beaver Creek is within the area.
- Solitude – Although the area retains its roadless character, it is not remote because it is surrounded by roads. The Forest boundary to the south is bordered by private lands which are developed as 35 acre ranchettes. Activities along the edges of the area are particularly widespread during the hunting season, limiting opportunities for solitude.

Challenge – The terrain and vegetation provides opportunity for challenge and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Though the area is small and surrounded by roads, the roads do not penetrate into the area. It is possible to manage its roadless character by not constructing roads into the area.
- Boundaries – Much of the northeastern boundary is along private inholdings. This boundary could prove challenging to manage. The southeast boundary would need modification to eliminate lands encumbered by the existing oil and gas lease.

Special Features/Activities –

- Summer big game range
- Desirable fall big game hunting unit

Evaluation: The majority (8,390 acres or 86%) of the area is capable of being wilderness. The northern section of the unit is not capable as it is encumbered by water facilities and is influenced by private land developments.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – Non-motorized trail, #802.

Water – There are no water diversions within the capable portion of this unit.

Timber – There are approximately 3,300 acres within the capable portion that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 600 acres of tentatively suitable timber land are within the inventory portion.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas. There is a small area of land in the southeast corner of the unit encumbered by existing oil and gas lease. The leasing stipulations for this area are Controlled Surface Use and No Surface Occupancy.

Management Considerations – The area is available for oil and gas leasing. Existing lease stipulations for most of this unit is Controlled Surface Use.

Evaluation – This landscape is valued for its high oil and gas reserves and thus is **not available** for wilderness consideration.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

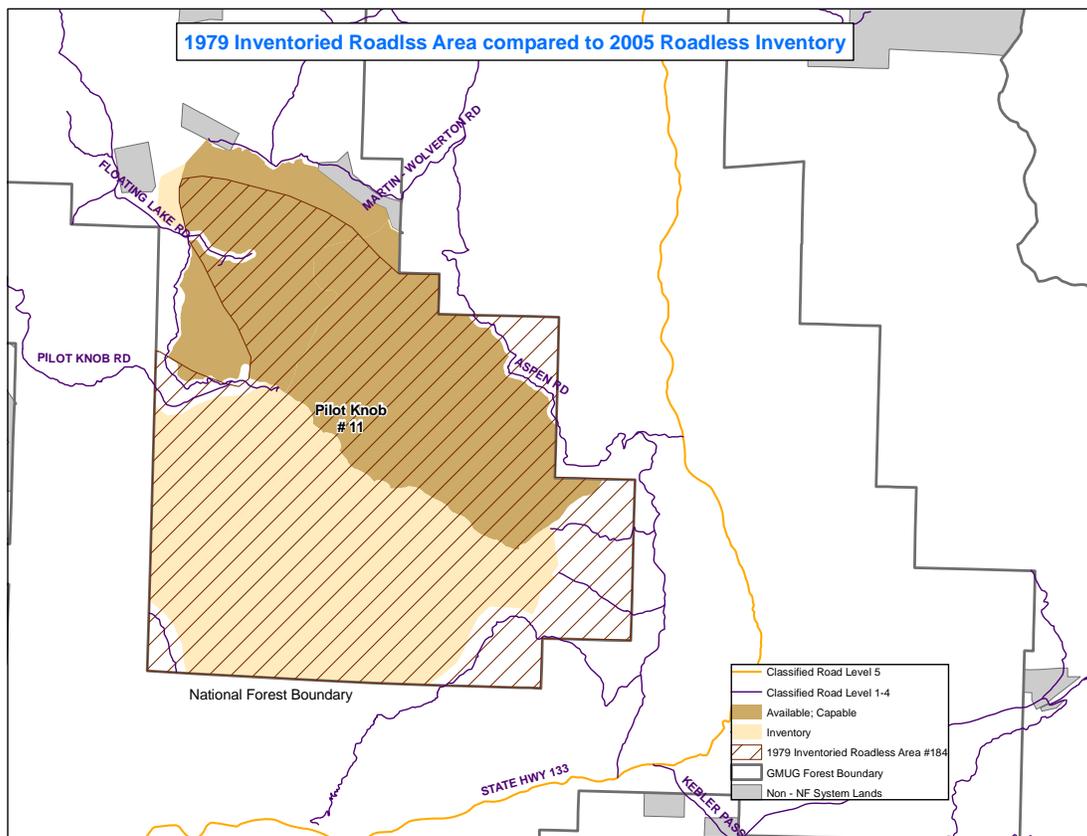
- Raggeds Wilderness – 15 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 20 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 50 miles
- Flattops Wilderness – 55 miles

Rare II # 184 Springhouse Park

RARE II History – This area was identified in 1979 as roadless area #184; 16,000 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended for wilderness in the RARE FEIS. Lands altered by road construction and gas well development have been removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Pilot Knob #20411**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 184 from 2005 inventory:

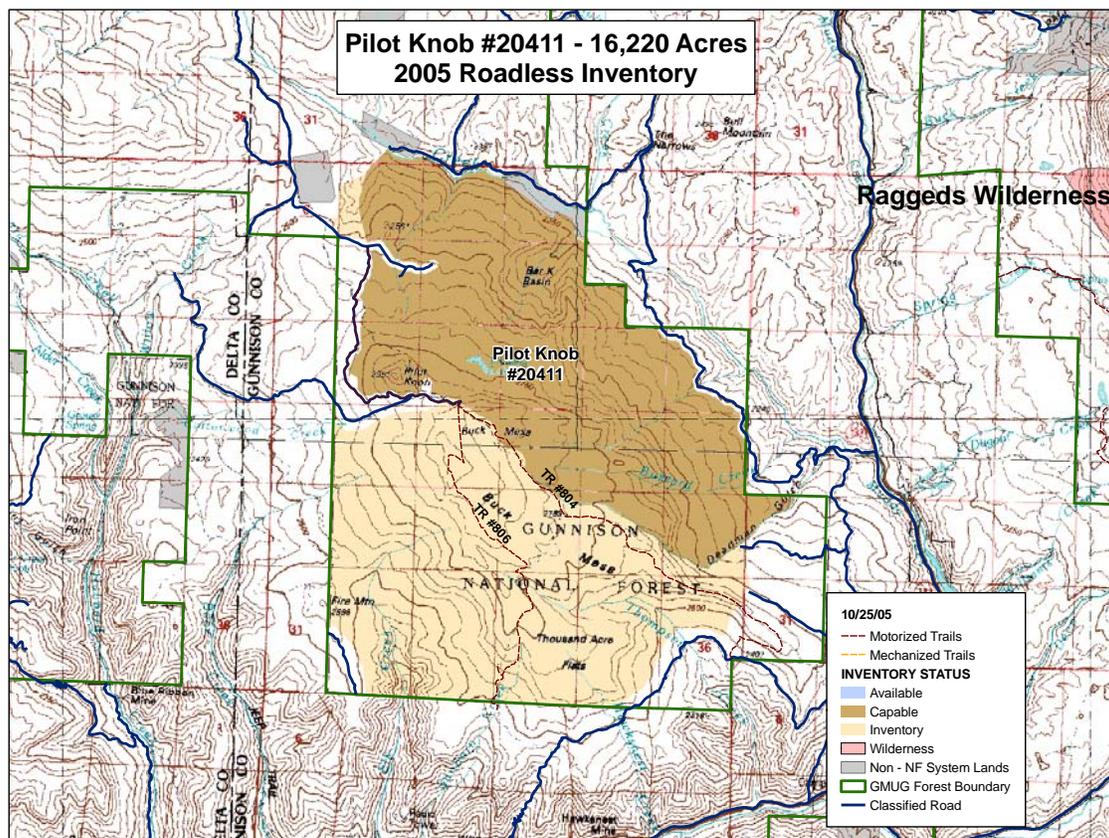
- Eight miles of road
- Two gas wells



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Pilot Knob #20411 – 16,220 Acres – Delta County

General Description: The area is located approximately two miles north of Somerset. Springhouse Park is in the geographic center of the area. The west boundary is formed by the National Forest boundary and Springhouse Park Trail #704.4D. Private land is adjacent to the National Forest boundary. The east boundary is bordered by roads #783, Coal Gulch; and #849, Aspen. The northern boundary is bordered by private land inholdings and various roads. The southern boundary is along the National Forest boundary which is adjacent to BLM land.



Elevation Range – 6,700' – 9,800'

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 16% spruce-fir-aspen, 57% aspen, 17% shrub, and 4% sagebrush.

Land Type –

52% 50IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

24% 30IH – Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

14% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Condemit Park and Hotchkiss sheep allotments are within this unit.
- There are existing and pending oil and gas leases. The area has a high potential for oil and gas.
- The area south of Buck Mesa Trail #804, contains recoverable coal reserves. There are existing coal exploration licenses for the area.
- Forest Service radio site is located approximately one mile west of Springhouse Park.
- Motorized trails:
 - #806 – Thousand Acre Flat
 - #804 – Buck Mesa Trail

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Roads surround the area. Road #503.1 intrudes into the area. Motorized trails bisect the landscape. A solar powered Forest Service radio site is located within the area, approximately one mile west of Springhouse Park. The southern portion of the area has road scars from coal exploration and methane drainage gas wells. The area north of the Buck Mesa Trail (#804) retains a higher degree of naturalness than the southern portion.
- Solitude – The proximity to roads and motorized trails reduces opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. The lands north of the Buck Mesa Trail possess greater opportunity for a sense of solitude and remoteness.

Challenge – The area north of Buck Mesa Trail offers a moderate degree of challenge. The mixed conifer vegetation type shields from sights and sounds of the roads and trails providing some opportunity for self-reliance. The area to the south of Buck Mesa Trail offers a low degree of challenge as it is an oak brush community with a low screening capacity from sights and sounds of existing travelways.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size and shape to manage its roadless character.
- Boundaries – Manageability of the southern boundary would be enhanced by using the Buck Mesa Trail.

Special Features/Activities – The area south of the Buck Mesa Trail contains recoverable coal reserves.

Evaluation: The northern portion of the unit, above the Buck Mesa Trail, meets the criteria for wilderness **capability** (approximately 8,160 acres). The southern portion does not because of low levels of naturalness and lack of opportunities for remoteness, solitude, and challenge.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The Buck Mesa motorized trail forms the southern boundary for the lands being evaluated for Availability.

Water – No known water facilities.

Timber – There are approximately 4,200 acres within the capable portion that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 3,300 acres of suitable timber land are within the inventory portion.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas and has existing and pending oil/gas leases plus a coal exploration license.

Management Considerations – Current stipulations for oil and gas developments are Controlled Surface Use, Standard Lease Terms, and No Surface Occupancy.

Evaluation – This area is **not available** for wilderness consideration due to existing mineral activities.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

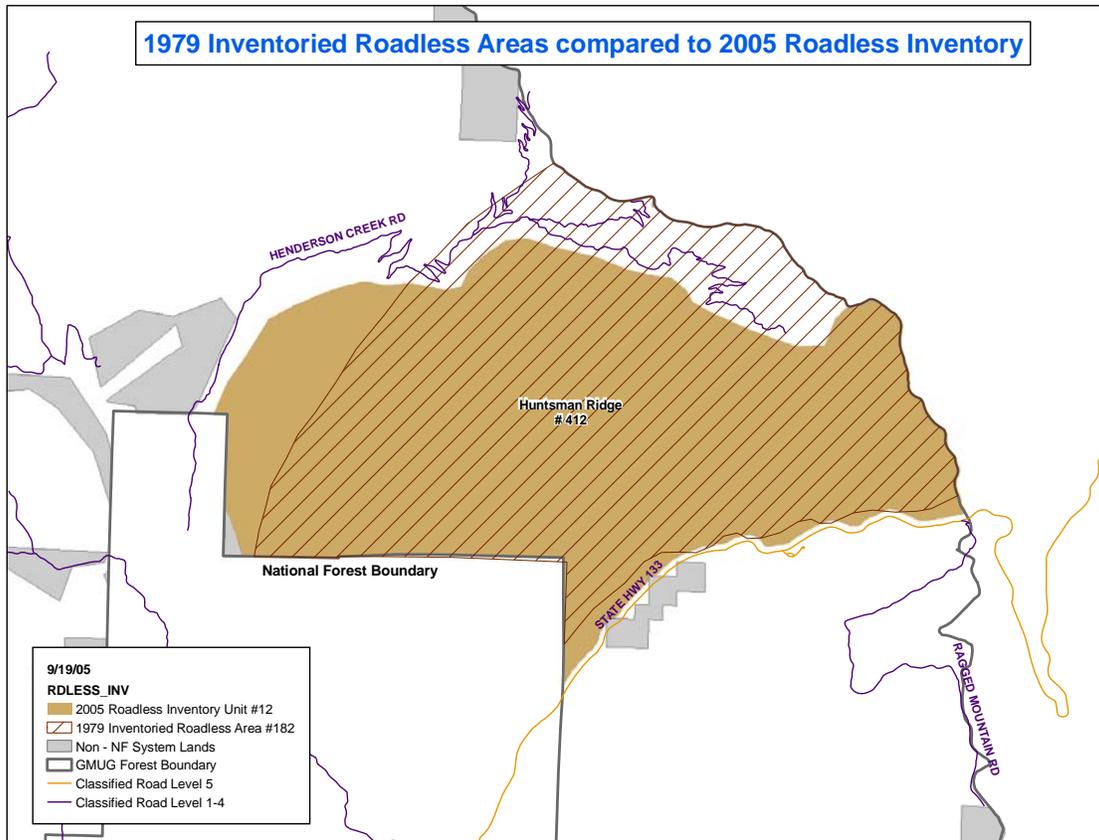
- Raggeds Wilderness – 5 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 15 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 40 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- Flattops Wilderness – 60 miles

RARE II #182 Drift Creek

RARE II History – RARE Unit #182 identified; 9,380 acres were identified as roadless yet the area was not recommended for wilderness in the RARE FEIS. Areas altered by road construction were removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Huntsman Ridge #20412**.

Resource Activities which removed lands of RARE 182 from 2005 inventory:

- Roding in the northern portion of the unit.

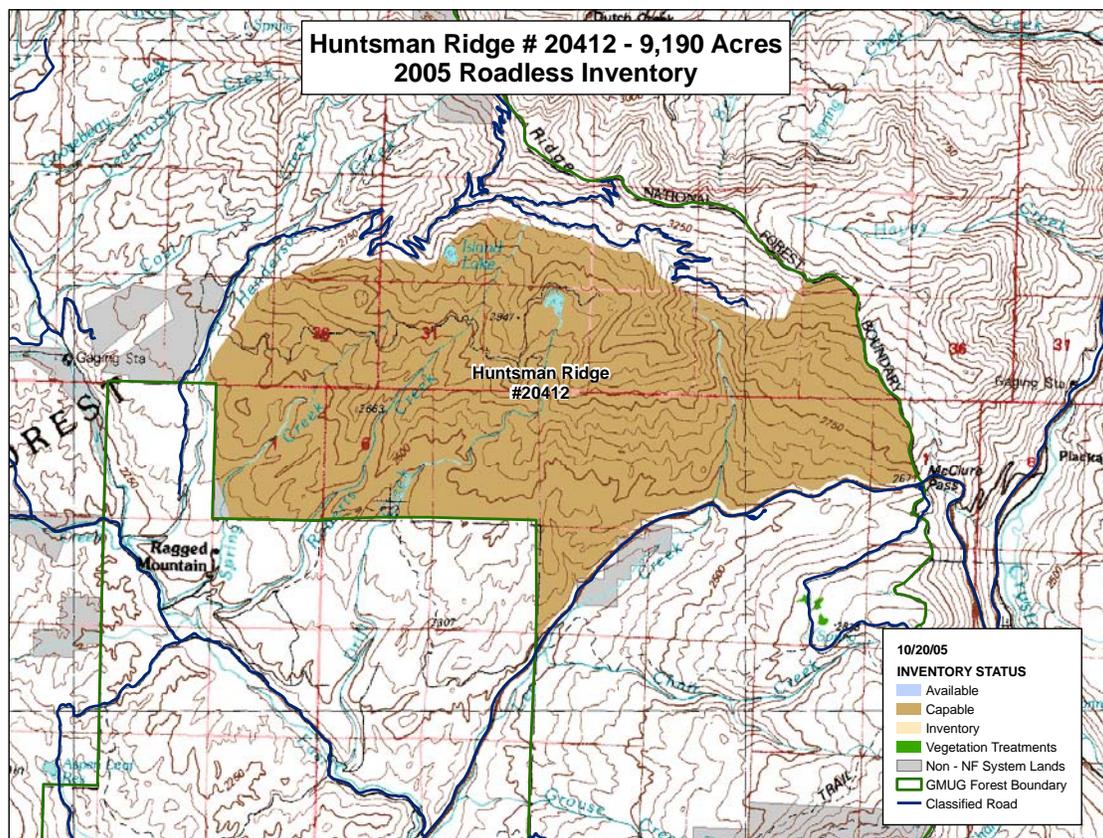


2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Huntsman Ridge #20412 – 9,190 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area is located within the North Fork Valley Geographic Area approximately six miles northwest of Marble, just north of Hwy 133 in the vicinity of McClure Pass. The hydrologic divide between Muddy Creek and the Crystal River marks the boundary with the White River and Gunnison National Forest and forms the eastern boundary of the area.

Management prescription 4.3, Dispersed Recreation and 4.23, Scenic Corridors, is the management emphasis for the lands on the White River National Forest immediately adjacent to the Huntsman Ridge unit. The western boundary is the GMUG Forest boundary which is adjacent to private land.



Elevation Range – 7,600' – 9,800'

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 9% spruce-fir, 43% spruce-fir-aspen, 35% aspen, and 10% oak-serviceberry.

Land Type –

36% 50IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

33% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

16% 70SX – Subalpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Huntsman sheep allotment is within this unit.
- There are existing (4,875 acres) and pending oil and gas leases. The area has a high potential for oil and gas.
- Coal exploration occurred north of the unit during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1980s. Most surface mine facilities are located on private land within the White River National Forest.
- Lost Cabin on Drift Creek diversion and ditch.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Although the area currently has existing or pending oil and gas leases, development of those leases has not yet occurred and the area retains a high level of naturalness.
- Solitude – The area nearest to the McClure Pass Highway is affected by the sight and sound of traffic, lessening the feeling of solitude. Access into the area remains difficult.

Challenge – The area has terrain and vegetation provides a degree of adventure and self-reliance.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is of sufficient size and shape to be managed for roadless qualities.
- Boundaries – The boundaries formed by the private land and the McClure Pass Highway are well defined.

Special Features/Activities –None Identified.

Evaluation: The potential for activities on existing oil and gas leases and on existing coal leases limits the potential to manage the area to maintain its roadless character. However, because development has not yet occurred, this area meets criteria for capability.

Availability:

Recreation – One non-motorized trail is within the unit.

Water – Several water facilities located adjacent to private lands on the western boundary.

Timber – There are approximately 1,400 acres of land unit that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas and has existing oil/gas leases.

Management Considerations – Existing and pending oil and gas leases.

Evaluation – This area is **not available** for wilderness consideration due to existing mineral leases.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

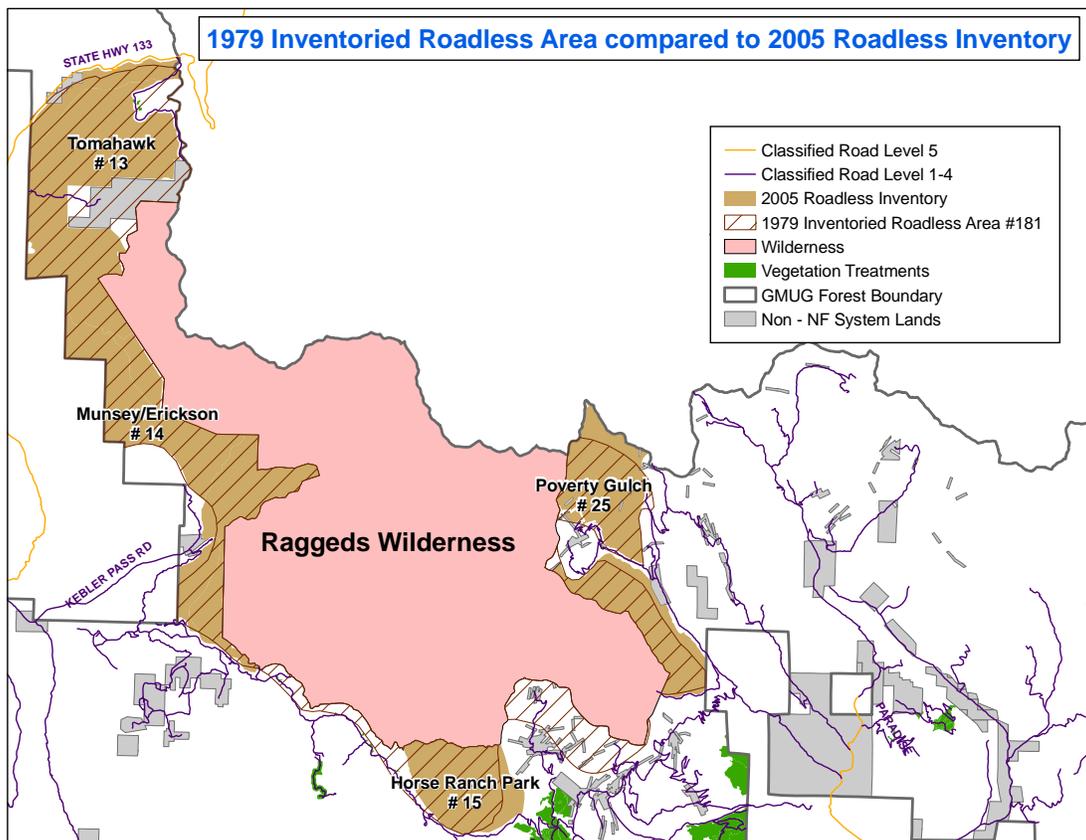
- Raggeds Wilderness – 1 mile
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles

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 FEIS and 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. An additional 5,500 acres were designated in 1993, under Public Law 103-77. 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:

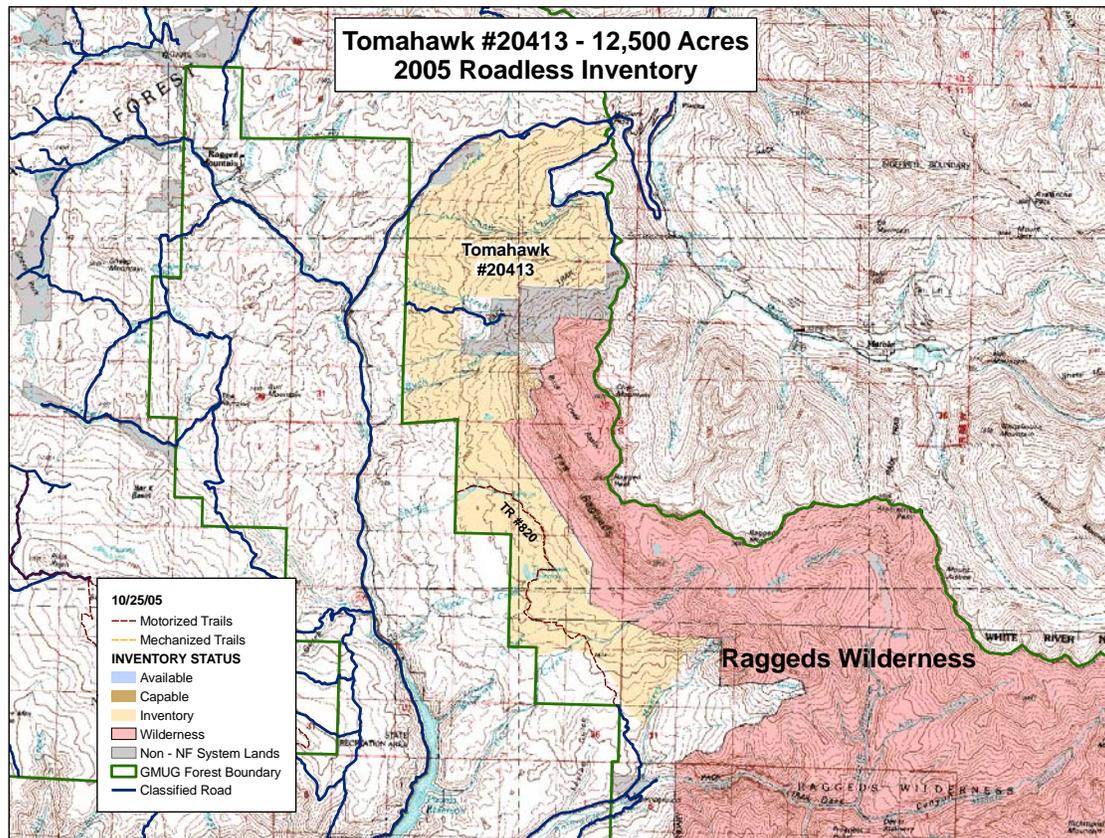
- The area contains 15 miles of road
- Non-National Forest System lands within RARE 181
- Ponderosa pine plantation



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Tomahawk #20413 – 12,500 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: Unit 20413 is located within the North Fork Valley Geographic Area approximately 16 miles northeast of Paonia. This area adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness to the east; it is south of McClure Pass and the National Forest boundary makes the western boundary which is bordered by private land.



Elevation Range – 6,800' – 13,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – Northern-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain

Vegetation – The Potential Natural Vegetation is predominately 46% spruce-fir, 23% aspen, 11% shrub, 4% riparian-willow/alder, and 7% bare ground.

Land Type:

28% 60SX – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

20% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

16% 50SX – Montane climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology

15% 80SX – Alpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Spring Creek, Buck Creek, and Chair Creek cattle allotment are within this unit.
- Pending oil and gas leases.
- Water diversion structures – there is a high proportion of water transmission structures within this unit, approximately 12 ditches within a two-mile² area.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Portions of the area retain a high degree of naturalness; however, the segment south of the Raggeds Trail has a high proportion of water transmission lines that affects the naturalness of the area.
- Solitude – The area is influenced by Hwy 133 and the private lands within and adjacent to the unit. The juxtaposition of this unit to private lands, both along the National Forest boundary and large in-holdings, limit a sense of remoteness and solitude.

Challenge – Opportunities for adventure and self-reliance are moderate within this area. The proximity to private land limits some opportunities.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is long and narrow along the Raggeds Wilderness and horseshoe-shaped in the northern segment due to the large private land in-holding.
- Boundaries – The boundaries being Hwy 133, the National Forest boundary, and trail #820 are identifiable, yet opportunities for trespass into the roadless area from private land would be of concern. Existing wilderness boundaries approximate the toe of the slope which is effective for boundary management. Adjusting the boundary would not improve manageability.

Special Features/Activities – There is a high proportion of water diversions and developments in this unit.

Evaluation: This area is determined to be **not capable** due to the unmanageability of its shape and the low degree of solitude and feeling of remoteness as a result of its proximity to Hwy 133 and adjacent private lands and the effect of water transmission lines on naturalness of the area.

Availability (lands are not capable):

Recreation – Summer and fall motorized use occurs on the Raggeds Trail #820.

Water – The area has a high proportion of water transmission lines south of trail #820.

Timber – There are approximately 5,300 acres of timber land that are tentatively suitable within the inventory portion of this unit.

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas. There are pending oil and gas leases. The area is covered by Timing Limitations and Controlled Surface Use stipulations.

Management Considerations –

- Adjacent to West Elk Scenic Byway.
- Private lands border this area on three sides.
- Maintenance needs of water transmission lines and Tomahawk Reservoir.
- The area is available for lease.

Evaluation – Area is **not available** for wilderness.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

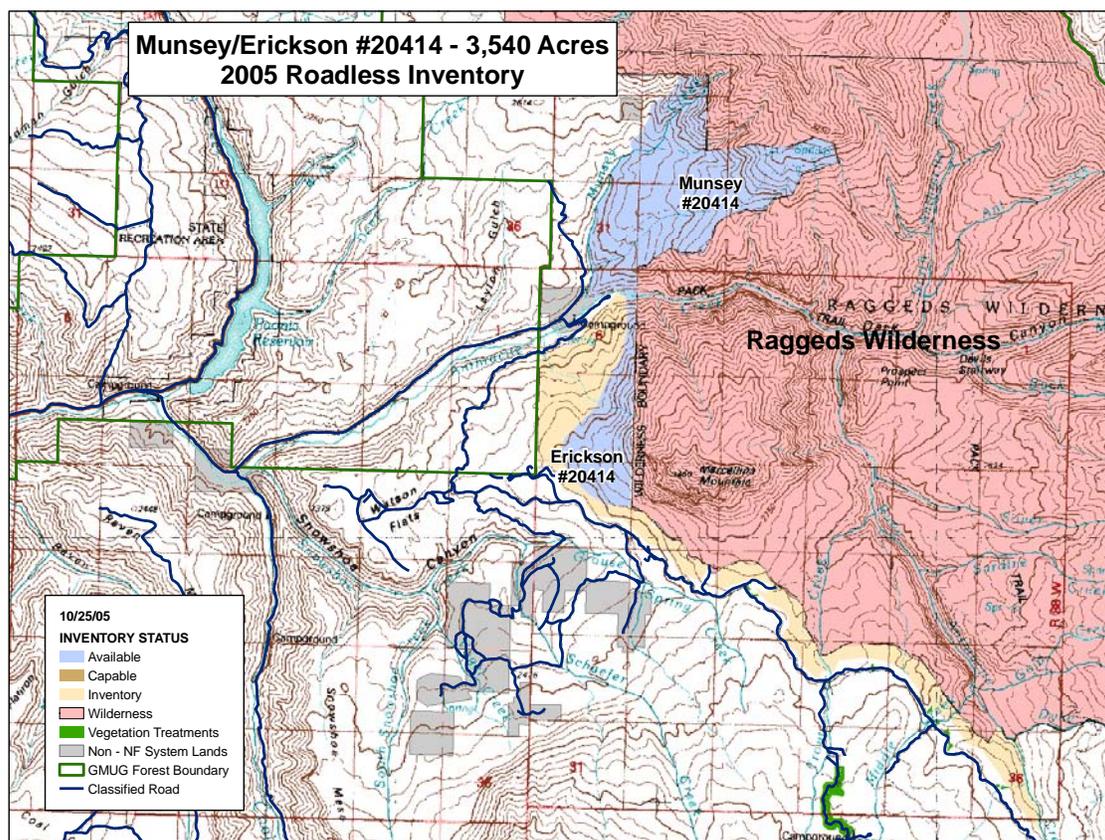
- Raggeds Wilderness – 1 mile
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 40 miles

Munsey Creek #20414 – 3,540 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: Unit 20414 is located within the North Fork Valley Geographic Area approximately 16 miles northeast of Paonia. This area adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness from Munsey Creek south to Marcellina Mountain. For evaluation purposes, this area is divided into two small segments:

Segment 1 – Munsey Creek – this area has Munsey Creek as its north and west border and the Raggeds Wilderness is its south and east border.

Segment 2 – Erickson Springs – this area has County Road 12 as its north and south borders, the Raggeds Wilderness as its east border, and the National Forest boundary as its west border.



Elevation Range – 6,800' – 13,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

28% 60SX – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

20% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

16% 50SX – Montane climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

15% 80SX – Alpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Munsey Creek and Snowshoe cattle allotment are within this unit.
- The Erickson Springs campground is immediately adjacent to the Erickson Springs segment.
- The area has a high potential for oil and gas. Currently there are no existing or pending leases.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area Munsey segment retains a high degree of naturalness. The core of the Erickson Springs segment also retains a high degree of naturalness; however, the perimeter of the area is influenced by developments such as the Erickson Springs campground and Kebler Pass road.
- Solitude – The Munsey segment is buffered by National Forest lands and adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness. This segment provides a sense of remoteness and solitude. The Erickson Springs segment, surrounded by major travel corridors and private lands, has opportunity for a sense of solitude and remoteness in places. The core of the area which adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness is less influenced.

Challenge – Opportunities for self-reliance and challenge exist in areas which adjoin the wilderness.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The Munsey Creek unit, adjacent to the Raggeds Wilderness, would be of sufficient size and shape for manageability.
- Boundaries – The Munsey Creek segment would provide a more manageable boundary to the Raggeds Wilderness. The core of the Erickson Springs segment could improve the existing wilderness boundary. By adjusting the existing boundary to approximate the toe of the slope, boundary management could be improved. The perimeter of the Erickson Springs segment's juxtaposition to private land, both to the north and west, would make boundary management and trespass enforcement difficult.

Special Features/Activities – County Road 12, Kebler Pass Road, is a part of the West Elk Scenic Byway.

Evaluation: The Munsey Creek segment meets criteria for capability and is **capable**. A portion of the Erickson Springs segment meets criteria for capability. The remainder of the segment is influenced by campground and road development.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – County Road 12 acts as the boundary of the area.

Water – No known water facilities.

Timber – There are approximately 300 acres within the capable portion that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 500 acres of suitable timber land are within the inventory portion.

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

Management Considerations –

- Addition of the Munsey segment to the Raggeds Wilderness will improve boundary management and reduce existing trespasses into the wilderness.
- Modification of the boundary in the Erickson Springs segment may improve boundary management of the existing wilderness.
- The existing wilderness boundary along the Kebler Pass road provides opportunities to manage the road corridor. Relocating the boundary closer to the road would not improve boundary management.

Evaluation – The Munsey segment is determined to meet the criteria for availability and is **available** for wilderness. A portion of the Erickson Springs segment meets criteria for availability.

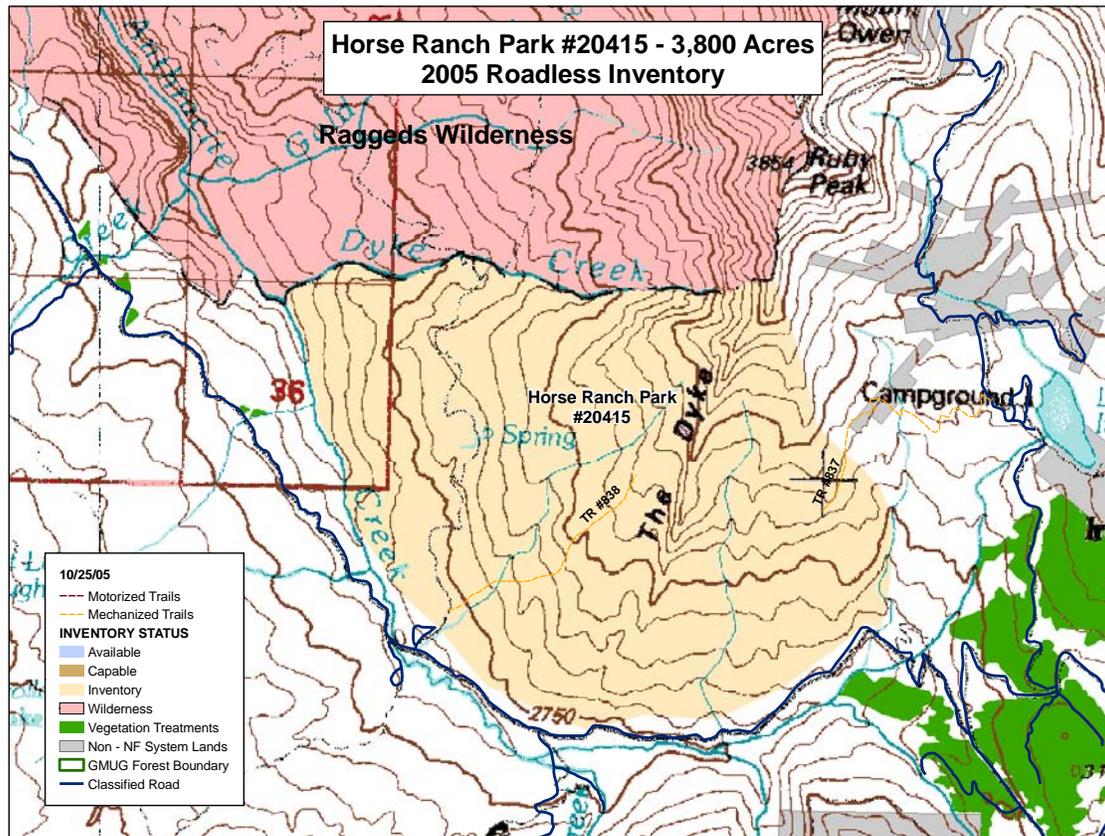
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- Raggeds Wilderness – 1 mile
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 40 miles

Horse Ranch Park #20415 – 3,800 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area is within the North Fork Valley Geographic Area and is located approximately 10 miles west of Crested Butte. The area adjoins the Raggeds Wilderness along Dyke Creek and is bounded by County Road 12 – Kebler Pass Road to the south.



Elevation Range – 6,800' – 13,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

28% 60SX – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

20% 60IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

16% 50SX – Montane climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

15% 80SX – Alpine climate zone; mixed sedimentary geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- County Road 12 – Kebler Pass Road is adjacent to the unit.
- The Ruby sheep allotment is within this unit.
- The area has a low potential for oil and gas. Currently there are no existing or pending leases.
- Mountain bike trail #837, the Dyke Trail, intrudes into the unit.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – This area has retained a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – The private and public developments at Lake Irwin and County Road 12 provide sights and sounds of development. Vehicle travel along the Kebler Pass road can be heard within the area. The subdivision on the private land near Floresta is visible from vantage points along The Dyke. Opportunities for a sense of remoteness and solitude are diminished in this area.

Challenge – Opportunities for self-reliance and challenge exist away from the private land developments and County Road 12.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – If attached to the Raggeds Wilderness, this small area would be of sufficient size and shape to be managed as wilderness.
- Boundaries – The existing boundary of Dyke Creek is a more manageable boundary than using County Road 12.

Special Features/Activities – A special use permit for entomological research is located near the roadless area. The 22 acre permit is issued to Oberlin College; this type of use has been allowed here since 1979.

Evaluation: This area does not meet the criteria for capability. Opportunities for unconfined recreation, solitude, and a sense of remoteness are limited due to the proximity of developments. Additionally, realigning the boundary of the Raggeds Wilderness would not be advantageous to management. Therefore, this area is considered to be **not capable**.

Availability (no capable lands in this unit):

Recreation – Mountain bike trail #838

Water – No water developments identified within this unit.

Timber – There are approximately, 1600 acres of tentatively suitable timber land within the inventory portion of this unit.

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

Management Considerations – The existing wilderness boundary along Dyke Creek is identifiable and manageable. Modifying the boundary would not increase the manageability of the wilderness.

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

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

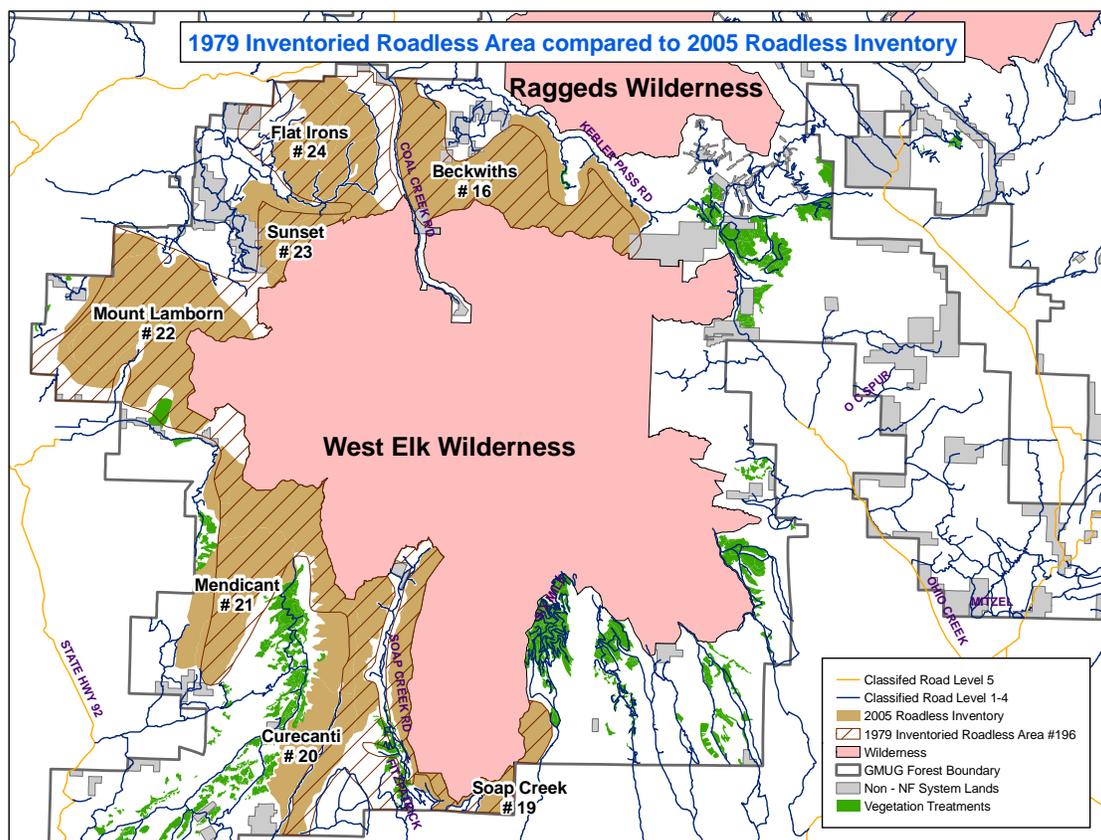
- Raggeds Wilderness – 1 mile
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 10 miles
- West Elk Wilderness – 10 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness – 40 miles

Rare II # 196 West Elk

RARE II History – This area was identified in 1979 as roadless area #196; 121,680 acres were recommended for Wilderness in RARE II and an additional 85,260 acres were identified as roadless yet not recommended. The 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-560, designated a portion of the area as part of the West Elk Wilderness. Lands altered by road construction and timber harvest along with non-National Forest System lands were removed from the inventory. The remaining acreage is carried forward in the **2005 inventory as Beckwiths #20416, Flatirons #20424, Sunset #20423, Mt Lamborn #20422, Mendicant #20421, Curecanti #20420 and Soap Creek #20419.**

Resource Activities which contributed to non-roadless status of RARE 196:

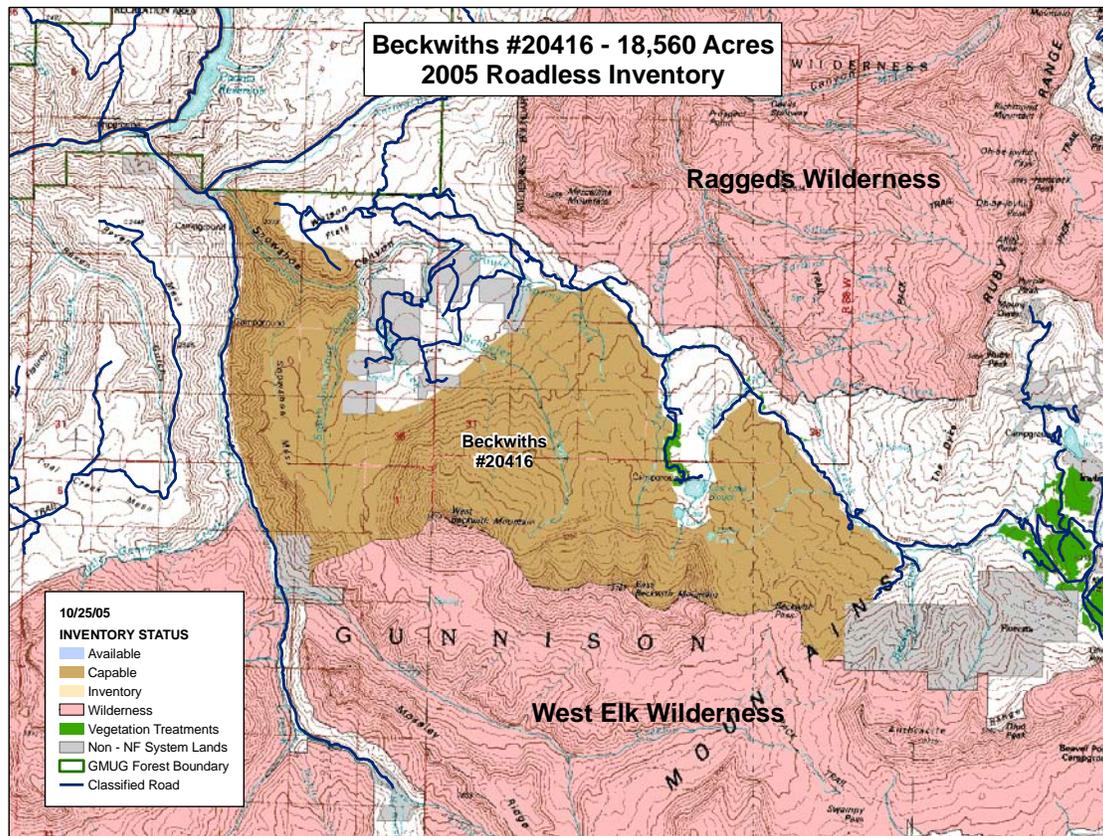
- 51 miles of roads
- 515 acres of vegetation harvest treatments
- Coal leases
- Private land inholdings



2005 Inventory Descriptions:

Beckwiths #20416 – 18,560 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The Beckwiths are located approximately 17 miles east of Paonia and 15 miles west of Crested Butte. The area is directly north of the West Elk Wilderness and south of Kebler Pass Road (County Road 12). The unit is bordered by private land developments and the Lost Lake campground and reservoir to the north, the town site of Floresta is to the east, and Coal Creek Road (#709) is to the west.



Elevation Range – 6,300' – 12,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

52% 50IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

24% 30IH – Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

14% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Snowshoe Cattle allotment is within this unit.
- The area is not available for oil and gas lease. There may be mineable coal reserves in the area, although there are no existing lease or lease applications or exploration applications.
- Winter snowmobiling.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area is rugged and retains a high degree of naturalness.
- Solitude – Being adjacent to private land developments to the north, Lost Lake campground and the Floresta town site limits the sense of solitude.

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

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area adjoins the West Elk wilderness.
- Boundaries – There is no identifiable feature along the northern boundary and management would be difficult. The existing boundary of the West Elk Wilderness follows the ridge along the Beckwith Mountains and is highly defensible; there would be little management advantage to altering the current boundary.

Special Features/Activities – The Kebler Pass Road is part of the West Elk Scenic Byway.

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

Availability:

Recreation – Winter motorized activities.

Water – Several water facilities.

Timber – There are approximately 5,600 acres of land that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production within this unit.

Minerals – Only a portion of the area has any potential for oil and gas and the area is covered with a No Lease stipulation. There may be mineable coal reserves in the area.

Management Considerations – Boundary management along the northern boundary would be difficult. The existing wilderness boundary is highly defensible.

Evaluation – The area is **not available** for wilderness due to boundary management concerns.

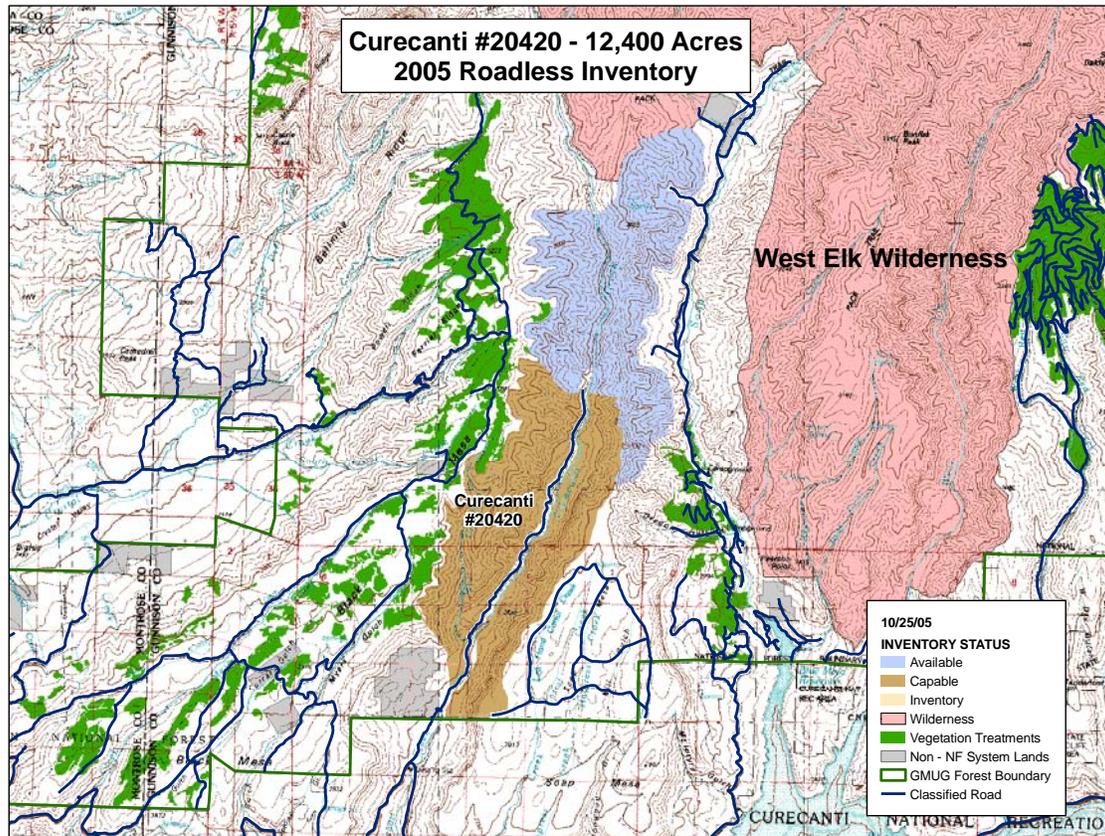
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness –1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 5 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 5 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 35 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness –30 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 30 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 50 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 50 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles

Curecanti #20420 – 12,400 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The Curecanti unit is approximately 16 miles southeast of Crawford and three miles north of Curecanti National Recreation Area and Blue Mesa Reservoir. The area adjoins the south end of the West Elk Wilderness.



Elevation Range – 8,100' – 12,200'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

80% 60VX – Montane and Subalpine climate zones with mixed extrusive volcanic geologic materials. Spruce/fir and aspen vegetation occurs on mesa tops, canyon sideslopes and ridges.

20% 50VX – Montane grasslands on dissected extrusive igneous plateaus and coniferous forest on canyon and drainage sideslopes.

Resource Activities:

Current & Ongoing:

- The Mesa and Soap Creek Cattle allotments are within the area.

- The area has no known potential for oil and gas.
- Recreation dispersed camping occurs along Road #720, Curecanti Creek Road and Soap Creek Road #721. The Curecanti Creek road is cherry-stemmed within the lower half of the unit.

Wilderness Potential:

Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness
- Solitude – The Curecanti Road #720 cherry stems into the middle of the area for approximately five miles diminishing the sense of remoteness and solitude. Once north of the road, the landscape takes on a more rugged character and heightened sense of remoteness.

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

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is long and narrow, only two miles wide in places. The road through the middle of the area further bisects it.
- Boundaries – The majority of the terrain is steep and rugged. As mapped, the unit would include a “cherry-stemmed” road. Due to the steep and rugged nature of the terrain, boundary management would not be a significant management concern.

Special Features/Activities – High quality recreational fisheries.

Evaluation: Even though the area has a cherry stem road through it, the nature and ruggedness of the terrain still provide for opportunities for a sense of remoteness; thus, the area meets the criteria for capability and is **capable** of being wilderness.

Availability:

Recreation – Vehicle traffic and dispersed camping occurs along road #720; this road is cherry-stemmed within the unit and parallels the creek that runs along the bottom of the drainage.

Water – No known water facilities.

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

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

Management Considerations – The landscape north of the termini of road #720 is more manageable as wilderness. The cherry-stem effect of the road would detract from a wilderness experience.

Evaluation – The area north of the road corridor (approximately 5,940 acres) meets criteria for wilderness and is **available** for wilderness. If added to the

West Elk Wilderness, it would provide an additional protection to the existing wilderness.

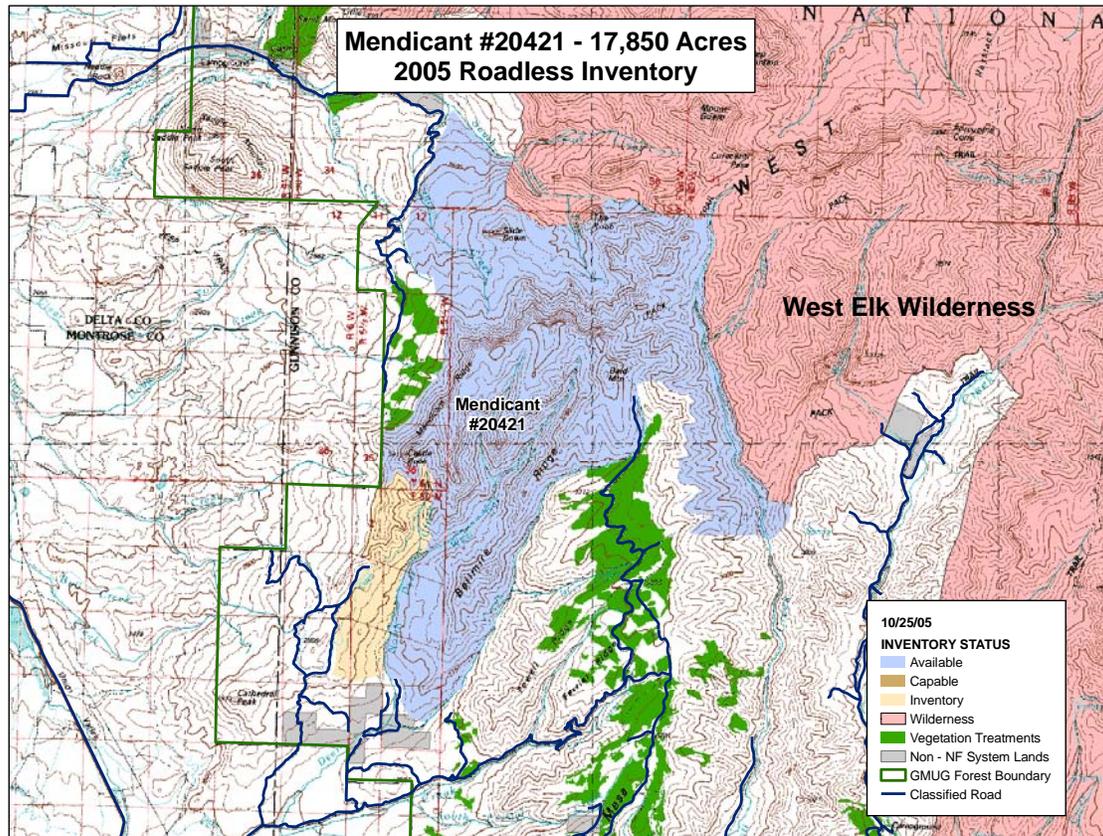
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – <1 mile
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 20 miles
- Raggeds Wilderness – 25 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 25 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 25 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 35 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- LaGarita Wilderness – 40 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 45 miles
- Mt Sneffels Wilderness – 45 miles

Mendicant/Bellmire #20421 – 17,850 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area is 10 miles southeast of Crawford and east of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The landscape follows the topography of Mendicant Ridge and Bellmire Ridge, both adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness.



Elevation Range – 7,760' – 12,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

52% 50IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

24% 30IH – Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

14% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The West Elk cattle allotment and the Dyer sheep allotment are within this unit.
- The area has no known potential for oil and gas.
- A water transmission line runs parallel and north of North Dyer Creek.
- Winter snowmobiling occurs along Bald Mountain.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – Away from the water transmission line, the area is in a pristine, unaltered natural state.
- Solitude – Opportunities for a sense of solitude and remoteness are vast.

Challenge – The ruggedness of the mountain allows for a high degree of challenge.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, this area is of sufficient size and shape to manage its roadless character.
- Boundaries – North Dyer Creek would provide a more defensible boundary and at the same time remove the water transmission line from within the roadless area.

Special Features/Activities –

- Elk security area.
- Cliff nesting habitat.

Evaluation: Most of the area meets the criteria as **capable** for wilderness (91%); however, boundary management needs and removal of lands accessing water transmission lines would cause a small segment to be removed as not capable.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – This area is heavily used during the fall hunting season. Winter snowmobile activities are heavy in the Bald Mountain area.

Timber – There are approximately 800 acres within the capable portion that are suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 700 acres of suitable timber land are within the inventory portion.

Water – No known water facilities.

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

Management Considerations – A radio repeater tower is located on Bald Mountain. Currently, ATV trespass is occurring along the southern tip of Bellmire Ridge.

Evaluation – The capable portion of this landscape meets the criteria for availability and is **available** for wilderness.

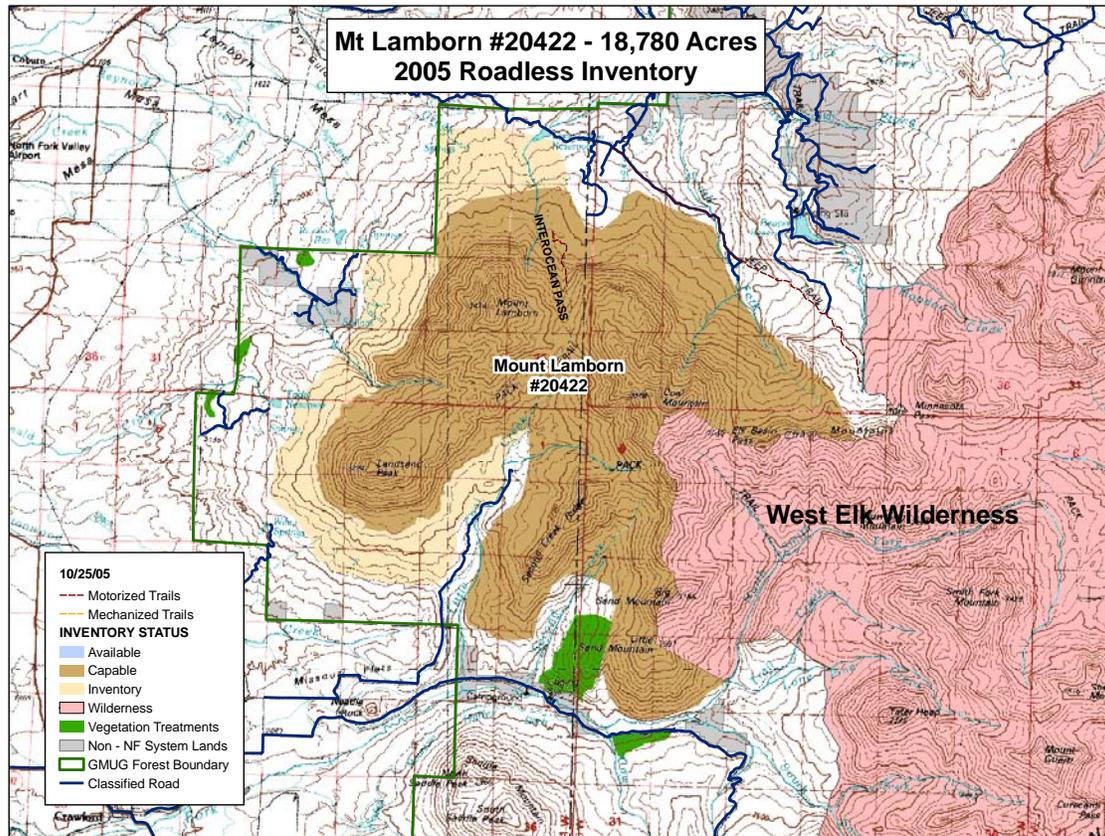
Need: Individual unit assessments of available lands begin on page 262.

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 20 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 30 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 40 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 45 miles
- Fossil Ridge – 45 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 50 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 65 miles

Mt Lamborn #20422 – 18,780 Acres – Gunnison & Delta County

General Description: This area is located approximately 10 miles east of Hotchkiss and adjoins the West Elk Wilderness. The area follows topography along the base of Mt Lamborn.



Elevation Range – 7,760' – 12,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

52% 50IH - Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

24% 30IH - Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

14% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The West Elk cattle allotment is within this unit.
- The area has a low potential for oil and gas.
- Water transmission lines are within the northern perimeter of the unit. Also some in southeastern portion, including Crawford.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area has a high degree of naturalness
- Solitude – The area provides opportunities for remoteness and solitude.

Challenge – The ruggedness of the mountain allows for a high degree of challenge.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – Adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness, this area is of sufficient size and shape to manage for its roadless character.
- Boundaries – Minor adjustments to the boundaries to eliminate water transmission lines and to provide for a more identifiable boundary using topographic features would be necessary.

Special Features/Activities –

- Big game winter range.
- Distinct landmark in Delta County

Evaluation: Most of the area meets the criteria for Capability; however, boundary management needs would cause a segment (2,900 acres) to be removed as not capable leaving approximately 15,880 acres **capable** of wilderness.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – This area is heavily used in hunting season.

Water – This landscape is a part of the watershed for the cities of Paonia and Crawford.

Timber – There is no suitable timber lands for wood production within this unit.

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

Management Considerations – Municipal watershed and management needs.

Evaluation – This landscape does not meet the criteria and is **not available** for wilderness because of its value as a municipal watershed.

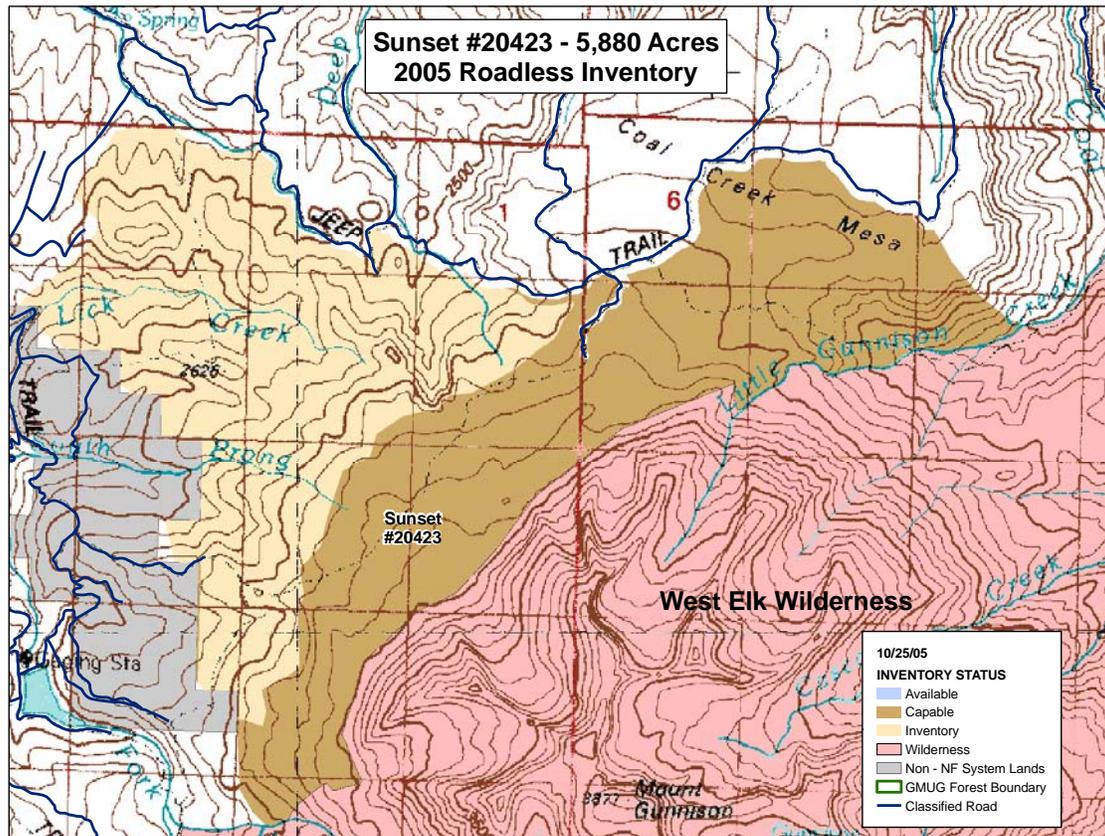
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 20 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 30 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 40 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 45 miles
- Fossil Ridge – 45 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 50 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 65 miles

Sunset #20423 – 5,880 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: The Sunset unit is located approximately nine miles east of Paonia. The area is north and contiguous to the West Elk Wilderness and is bounded by private land in-holdings to the west and roads to the north. It is separated from the Flatirons Unit #20424 by Road #711, Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek Road.



Elevation Range – 6,300' – 12,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

52% 50IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

24% 30IH – Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

14% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Dry Fork cattle allotment is within this unit and is currently vacant.
- Although the area was outside the area of analysis and not made available for oil and gas lease, there area currently has oil and gas leases pending.
- Application for coal exploration license.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The lands directly adjacent to the Wilderness boundary offer a high degree of naturalness
- Solitude – Opportunities for remoteness and solitude are present in the vicinity of the wilderness boundary.

Challenge – The area offers a moderate-high degree of challenge. The terrain is rugged; however, proximity to trails and roads diminishes opportunities of self-reliance and adventure.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is small, yet adjoins the West Elk Wilderness.
- Boundaries – The boundary would be more difficult to identify and manage than the existing boundary. The existing boundary follows the slope of the mountain and is highly defensible. Moving the boundary would not improve management of the wilderness.

Special Features/Activities – The Deep Creek Slide area exhibits a striking geologic feature.

Evaluation: The portion of the unit immediately adjacent to the wilderness retains the roadless qualities that make it **capable** of wilderness.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The area is heavily used during hunting season.

Water – No known water facilities.

Timber – There are approximately 1,500 acres within the capable portion that are tentatively suitable for producing timber for wood fiber production. Another 100 acres of suitable timber land are within the inventory portion.

Minerals – Under the 2004 RFD, the area was identified as high potential for oil and gas. There is currently an application for coal exploration license.

Management Considerations – Boundary management would not be improved; the existing boundary is highly defensible.

Evaluation – The capable lands are **not available** for wilderness due to mineral values. Additionally, boundary management of the area would be difficult.

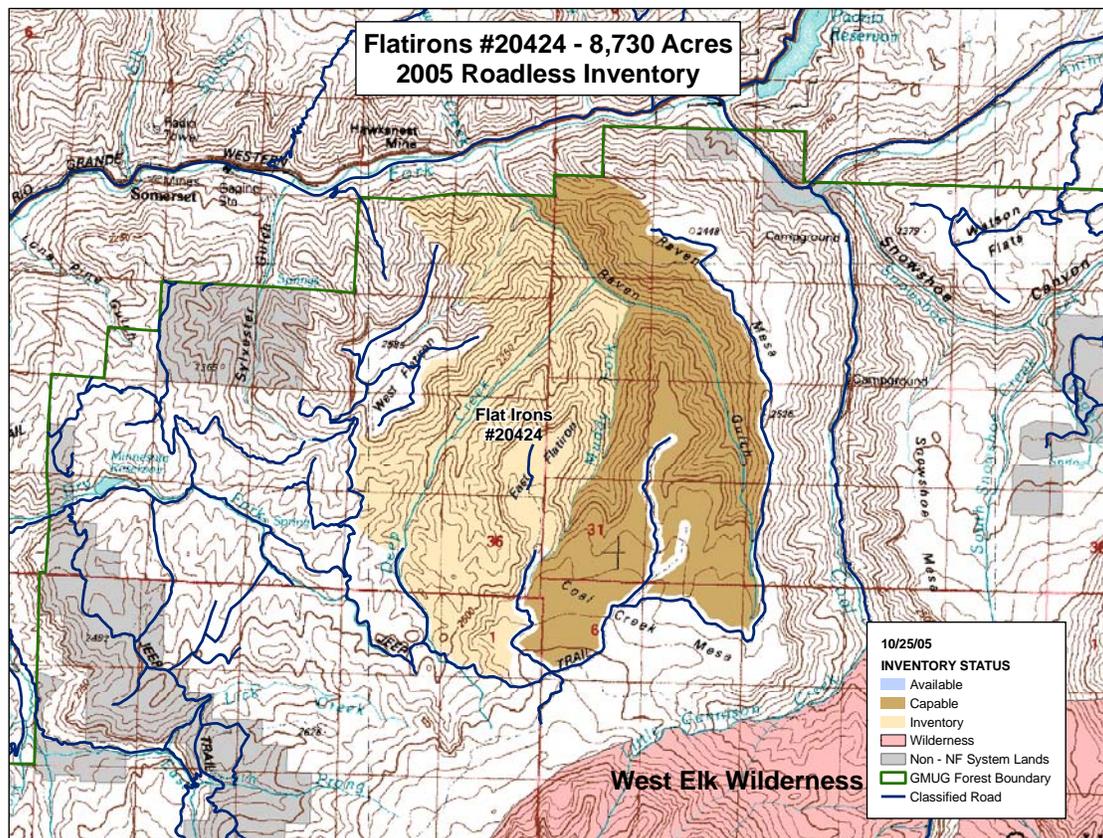
Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness –1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 40 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 55 miles

Flatirons #20424 – 8,730 Acres – Gunnison County

General Description: This area is located approximately nine miles east of Paonia, and north of, although not contiguous to, the West Elk Wilderness. The National Forest boundary is to the north which is checker-boarded ownership pattern of BLM and private lands. Road #711, Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek, borders the area to the east. The area between Road #711 and Road #709 was too narrow to be considered as part of the inventory.



Elevation Range – 6,300' – 12,000'

Eco-Section – M33IH – 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 –

52% 50IH – Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

24% 30IH – Lower Montane climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

14% 60IH – Montane and Subalpine climate zone; interbedded sandstone and shale geology.

Resource Activities:Current & Ongoing:

- The Dry Fork cattle allotment is within this unit and is currently vacant.
- The area currently has oil and gas leases pending and existing coal leases. The area is predominately covered by Controlled Surface Use stipulation for oil and gas.
- There is one water facility adjacent to the southern boundary of the unit.

Wilderness Potential:Capability:

Environment –

- Naturalness – The area is bounded by roads. The western portion of the area shows evidence of multiple temporary roads previously used for mineral exploration and development. The eastern portion retains its naturalness once away from Roads #711 and #711.3C.
- Solitude – Opportunities for remoteness and solitude are limited due to the motorized access into the area. The influence of State Hwy 133 can be seen and heard from within portions of the area.

Challenge – The area provides a moderate degree of challenge. The steep terrain provides opportunities for self-reliance, however, the close proximity to roads and sights and sounds of development detract from a sense of adventure.

Manageability/Boundaries –

- Size/Shape – The area is approximately 7,500 acres.
- Boundaries – The western boundary runs along a series of roads. Portions of this boundary would be difficult to identify and manage on the ground.

Special Features/Activities – None identified.

Evaluation: The portion of the area that retains a high degree of naturalness is located between the Muddy Fork Creek and Road #711, Dry Fork of Minnesota Creek Road. **The segment that meets criteria for capability is less than 5,000 acres.** The area west of Muddy Fork has been altered by temporary road construction; even though the roads have been closed, the remnants of those roads are of such a density that the area does not retain its naturalness nor a sense of remoteness.

Availability (of Capable Lands):

Recreation – The area is heavily used during the hunting season.

Water – There are no water facilities within the roadless unit, however, one facility is adjacent to the southern boundary.

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

Minerals – The area has a high potential for oil and gas and has existing and pending leases. The area has recoverable coal reserves.

Management Considerations – Boundary management of this area would be difficult. Oil and gas stipulations for this area is Controlled Surface Use.

Evaluation – The area mapped as capable is less than the 5,000 acre minimum for wilderness, therefore ,this area is **not available** for wilderness.

Need:

Nearby Wilderness – approximate distance away:

- West Elk Wilderness – 1 mile
- Raggeds Wilderness – 10 miles
- Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness – 20 miles
- Black Canyon of Gunnison Wilderness – 30 miles
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness – 40 miles
- Fossil Ridge Wilderness – 40 miles
- Uncompahgre Wilderness – 45 miles
- Powderhorn Wilderness – 50 miles
- Holy Cross Wilderness – 55 miles