Mineral Information: These evaluation forms lack mineral information. This will be included supplemental to these forms. Please check back and we will try to let you know when this information will be included – probably in the next month or so.

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

Pine Valley Ranger District (begins on page 2)
Cedar City Ranger District (begins on page 38)
Powell Ranger District (begins on page 65)
Escalante Ranger District (begins on page 88)
Teasdale Ranger District (begins on page 119)

UNROADED AND UNDEVELOPED AREAS
EVALUATION FORMS AND MAPS ARE FOUND ON PLAN REVISION WEBSITE

Links to Evaluations of Areas Surrounding Existing Wilderness
Areas Around Pine Valley Wilderness
Areas Around Ashdown Gorge Wilderness
Areas Around Box Death Hollow Wilderness

Link to Data Dictionary Used to Develop Evaluation Forms

Link to Region 4 Protocol for Developing Inventory Maps

PINE VALLEY
RANGER DISTRICT

UNDEVELOPED AND UNROADED AREAS
EVALUATION FORMS

A description of minerals for Sections 1 (Description) and Section 3 (Availability) is forthcoming.

Next District

NORTH HILLS
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[1]

Undeveloped Area Name:	North Hills	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	21,120
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	North Hills	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	24,858
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07001	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407101		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Pine Valley Ranger District and is near the Nevada state line. Access to the area is poor with low standard roads only, except for a small portion on the south edge of the area being served by the Shoal Creek Road FR300. There are no trails in the area.

The topography ranges from gently rolling to steep rocky slopes at about 6,000 feet elevation. Annual precipitation is about 12 inches, surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush also occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light. A band of wild horses use the area intermittently. Vegetation outside this area has been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage.

There are no particular attractions to the unit. Scenic values are low due to dominance of PJ covered slopes and lack of surface water. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper land common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability: -	Low	No recognizable boundaries, barriers, topography. Would be very difficult to keep conflicting uses out of the area
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Pinyon juniper areas large percentage of area due to fire suppression, grazing etc. Lots of ATV trails throughout the area
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Large size, low use, few sights and sounds of humans.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Lack of challenge, few recreational activities.
- Special Features:	Yes	Wild horse habitat

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Mostly associated with motorized recreation (ATVs)

[1] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- District values this area for its motorized opportunities in a semi-primitive setting
- Popular mule hunting area
- Area is being considered for routes associated with High Desert Trail
- Shed hunting during springtime, mostly on user created trails
- Winter trapping for pelts occurs

Wildlife habitat

- Wild horse habitat exists
- Winter range for mule deer
- Elk are now present in the area

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Not part of any allotment

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and poles, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- A lot of Indian archaeological sites and remains
- Old Forest Service salt grounds for livestock operations

Land use authorizations

- Area was designated by Congress as a wild horse and burro territory (1971)

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Wild horse grazing

- Forage treatments mostly associated with burning, mechanical treatments occurred in the past (chaining in Telegraph Draw)
- Some improvements (cattle guards, water catchments)
- Noxious weed treatments by motorized vehicles

Fire

- Fires are mostly not suppressed, fire doesn't carry easy
- Prescribed fire activities would be mostly by ATVs or some motorized access

Insect and disease

- Pinyon *Ips* is present, mostly associated with drought years

Private lands (adjacent)

- Southern portion is adjacent to several private ranches
- Concern is mostly associated with travel and access onto the National Forest land

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- High Desert Trail considerations would potentially increase the access to the area for people's use

- Access to the north, west, and east sides is readily available, access from the south is blocked by the private ranches

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximate 30 air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness (center to center)
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 40 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[2]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[2] National Wilderness Preservation System

WATER CANYON
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[3]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Water Canyon	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	22,230
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Headwaters/Pine Park Bench/Pine Park	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	31,542
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07002 and 07004	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407102		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Pine Valley Ranger District and close to the Nevada state line. Access to the area is poor with dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles only.

The topography ranges from gently rolling to steep rocky slopes at about 6,000 feet elevation. Portions of the area contain the Tuff, a geologic formation that forms unusual shapes after wind erosion. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon- juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Scattered ponderosa pine trees are also found. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting and hiking from Pine Park Campground visitors. Extensive areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage.

Other than the Tuff formations in Pine Park, there are no particular attractions to the unit. The Pine Park area also has a small stream, which is an attraction in the area. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper land common to the intermountain west. The BLM land contiguous to the area has identified wilderness potential. Both Nevada BLM Inventory Unit NV-050-0166 and Utah BLM Inventory Unit UT-040-123, Cougar Canyon (one area) have been identified for further study.

Section 2. Capability:

Manageability -	Low	No distinct management boundary. Pine Park drainage around basin could be boundary. Adjacent to BLM WSA.[4]
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Eastern boundary and middle portion burned in Hawkins Fire and Pine Park Fires2004.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Livestock impacts in localized areas.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Large size, low use, but regular sights and sounds of humans; military flight fly-overs continually occur over this area.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Horse back riding.
Special Features: -	Yes	Tuff formation near campground and throughout southern portion.

[3] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)
[4] Wilderness Study Area

		Bald eagle use around Enterprise Reservoir.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Southern and middle portions of areas are being looked at for High Desert Trail motorized routes
- Dispersed recreation associated with Pine Park campground (primitive setting)
- Dispersed camping around Enterprise Reservoir (including ATV use)
- The Enterprise Reservoir area is being looked at for an ATV-compatible campground to support the High Desert Trail
- A lot of deer and cougar hunting occurs in this area
- Reconstruction of South Boundary Trail will be completed with Hawkins Fire funding. This trail will be non-motorized.
- Honeycomb Campground (concessionaire) is adjacent to the area

Wildlife habitat

- Good habitat for mule deer, the western portion (Mud Flat) is a critical fawning area

Water/air quality

- Enterprise Reservoir exists adjacent to the eastern portion
- Past culinary source associated with Pine Park Campground

Livestock

- Area is part of two allotments, mainly one.
- Two miles of pipeline from Water Canyon spring that feeds the majority of the water source in this allotment.
- Stock pond maintenance by backhoes or bulldozers

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and pole, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- A lot of Indian archaeological sites are present
- Old Forest Service ranger camps still exist
- Stock corral remnants also exist

Land use authorizations

- Water right exists on Parker Spring (northern portion)

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- South Boundary Trail (non-motorized) would likely be maintained mechanically due to length.
- Any High Desert Trail route maintenance would be by mechanical means

Livestock grazing

- Stock ponds, pipelines, springs, and fences are currently using motorized access for maintenance

Fire

- Due to Hawkins Fire, the opportunity to regularly maintained conditions through prescribed fire increases. ATV and helicopter would be the preferred means, though the WUI treatments could be done by foot.

Insect and disease

- Pinyon *Ips* is scattered, not a large concern

Private lands (adjacent)

- 1,400 acres of private land is along the northeast boundary present access and wildfire potential concerns
- Private land adjacent to Enterprise Reservoir presents a dispersed recreation opportunity (flat area for camping)
- Veyo Shoal Creek Road north of the reservoir has private land along it

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is readily available
- High Desert Trail will likely present trail head considerations

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 30 air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 36 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[5]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[5] National Wilderness Preservation System

LOST PEAK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[6]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Lost Peak	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	5,000
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Lost Peak	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	6,051
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07003	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407103		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is in the west portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District about 25 air miles northwest of St. George, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles only. Forest Service Trail 001 crosses the west portion of the area.

The topography is generally steep and rocky with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Annual precipitation is about 16 inches, surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by mountain shrub, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is heavy.

The BLM land contiguous to the area has not been identified as having wilderness potential.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Small area. Difficult to keep prohibited activities (motorized use) out of area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Part of area burned in Hawkins Fire 2004.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Livestock impacts in localized areas.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Small area, difficult access.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Small area, non-system trails are present, but Hawkins Fire removed any scenic values. Military fly-overs are common.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- High Desert Trail route network will use the boundary roads
- South Boundary Trail is located in this area (reconstructed with Hawkins Fire funding)
- A lot of hunters use this area (foot, ATV, and horse)

Wildlife habitat

- Mule deer forage is high quality
- Water sources are plentiful

[6] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- Water from this area feeds Enterprise Reservoir

Livestock

- Part of two cattle allotments
- 26 spring developments for stock water

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- BLM mineral interests use this area's boundary roads for access

Cultural/historic interest

- Old mine located in the northern portion
- A lot of Indian archaeological sites
- A lot of sheep (trash piles) and hunting camp (large number of hunters) sites are present

Land use authorizations

- Sno-tel site established in 2004

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- South Boundary Trail will likely be mechanically maintained (mostly chainsaw with some possible trail cat work)

Livestock grazing

- Most of the spring developments are foot accessible only
- ATV use is mostly confined close to boundary roads

Fire

- Future opportunities for prescribed burning are now more available due to the Hawkins Fire
- Burning means will likely be by helicopter, but could also include ATV use

Insect and disease

- South slopes that have Pinyon pine may be susceptible to Pinyon *Ips* beetle (northern portion)

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Boundary is defined by roads

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 28 air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 33 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[7]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[7] National Wilderness Preservation System

CAVE CANYON
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[8]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Cave Canyon	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	5,120 (Dropped from 1983 inventory.)
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Cave Canyon	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	8,134
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07005	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407104		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is in the west portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District about 20 air miles northwest of St. George, Utah. Access to the area is good roads to the area, then within the area the routes are low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles only.

The topography is generally rolling with outcrops of rock ledges that give the area aesthetic beauty. Annual precipitation is about 16 inches, surface water is sparse however there are streams in the area, which are wet during the spring and fall portion of the year. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon juniper, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur.

Principle uses in the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is heavy. Evidence of hunting camps and ATV use is prevalent throughout the area.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Completely surrounded by F.S. classified roads, Level 2. Bisected by motorized trail and cherry-stem motorized trail. Small area with narrow corners.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Hawkins Fire 2004 burned about 2/3 of area.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Mosaic of burned and unburned area.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Narrow, heavy use from Enterprise.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	High	Many opporunities available, close to Enterprise Reservoir.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Close to Enterprise Reservoir
- Presents dispersed camping, hunting, loop rides for ATVs
- People seek this place to get away from the reservoir

Wildlife habitat

- North area has fenced out riparian area

[8] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Upland game bird habitat
- Mule deer mid-summer habitat

Water/air quality

- Area feeds the Enterprise Reservoir, through canal diversion

Livestock

- Area is one cattle allotment
- Many spring developments and a couple ponds and corrals

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and pole, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- BLM mineral interests use this area's boundary roads for access

Cultural/historic interest

- Indian cultural sites are likely present

Land use authorizations

- Sno-tel site present

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Motorized trails are located primarily on roads except for the northern portion where a trail connects two roads.

Livestock grazing

- Maintenance of water improvements would be jeopardized

Fire

- Hawkins Fire burned almost all of this area, future opportunities for prescribed fire are now more available

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- Private ranch occurs adjacent to eastern boundary, ranch is unfenced and not well maintained
- Area would present a social conflict with the ranch

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Area is surrounded by Forest Service system roads.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 31air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 25 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[9]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[9] National Wilderness Preservation System

BULL VALLEY
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[10]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Bull Valley	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	8,320 (Dropped from 1983 inventory.)
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Bull Valley	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	13,368
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07006	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407105		

Section 1. - Description of the Area

The area is in the west portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District about 15 air miles northwest of St. George, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles only. The topography is generally steep and rocky with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Annual precipitation is about 16 inches, surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by mountain shrub, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur.
Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is heavy. ATV use is prevalent.
The BLM land contiguous to the area has not been identified as having wilderness potential.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Bounded on N by F.S. roads, by S and W by agency boundaries with BLM. Narrow. Area bisected by motorized trail (travels onto BLM). Motorized use on motorized trail.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Mountain shrub – lack of fire disturbance.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Motorized use evident. Mining debris detracts from area – impacts of man in localized area.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Nowhere near anywhere; however, close to Veyo
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	High	Lots of recreation opportunities and recreation trails available.
Special Features: -	Yes	Historic mining site, tagging corrals

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Lots of hunters from Veyo
- A lot of ATVs using user created roads
- South Boundary Trail travels through the area
- High Desert Trail network will likely use the road network here

Wildlife habitat

- Mostly mule deer (summer) and cougar habitat
- Migration area towards Beaver Dam

[10] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Allotment ponds and spring developments, fences

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and poles, mostly personal use in southern portion

Mineral potential

- Disputed on whether any potential exists regardless of General Steam mine

Cultural/historic interest

- General Steam mine site (now a garbage dump from mining activities)
- 2 hunting cabins

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Associated with South Boundary Trail
- Motorized trails are old bulldozer roads, still accessible

Livestock grazing

- Ponds are adjacent to existing roads/bulldozer roads
- Springs don't have road access

Fire

- Suppression interests would be mostly "let burn"
- Prescribed burning interests are high for this area, would use the bulldozer roads for motorized access

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- Patented mining claims exist in northeast area

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available on the north and east from system roads.
- User created trails access the area's interior

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 22 air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 26 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[11]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[11] National Wilderness Preservation System

MOODY WASH
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[12]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Moody Wash	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	36,970
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Moody Wash and Mogotsu	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	58,977
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07007 and 07008	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407106		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is in the west portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District about 25 air miles north of St. George, Utah. Access to most of the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicle travel only. A small portion on the northwest corner is served by a paved road, FR900. Forest Trail 004 crosses a portion of the area.

The topography ranges from gently rolling to steep rocky slopes with an average elevation of about 6,000 feet. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage. Over 1,000 acres of private land is within the unit. The private land is mostly mining property - now inactive.

There are no particular attractions to the unit. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper land common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Two classified roads (some are also motorized trails) extend into the area. Off road motorized use occurring. Would be difficult with mining area in the middle.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Hawkings Fire in 2004, and Mogatsu Fire in 1990's beneficial; extensive motorized use and localised heavy grazing detracts from integrity.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Large size
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	
Special Features: -		None identified

[12] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Lots of hunting for mule deer and cougar
- ATVs are starting to access mining roads, but mostly for hunting interests

Wildlife habitat

- Incredible for mule deer forage, lots of browse types and highly diverse
- Elk are expected to move in soon

Water/air quality

- Two springs in the north end feed the town of Enterprise
- Private land to the east may also pull water off of this area
- Irrigation water rights exist for Mogatsu Draw for Gunlock community use

Livestock

- Entire area is used for cattle allotment
- One large pipeline feeds water troughs
- Several water guzzlers exist

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and pole, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- Mining sites in the middle of the area are played out (iron ore), only roads exist

Cultural/historic interest

- Mountain Meadows Massacre Site is on eastern edge
- Old Spanish Trail passes through the area
- Pilot Peak Trail

Land use authorizations

- Utility corridor window exists in southeast area (gas pipelines, high voltage power lines)
- Repeater sites exist on Big Mountain and Flat Top
- Special Use Permit for reservoir (Boler Pond)

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Maintenance associated with water development
- Cattleguard maintenance

Fire

- WUI exists the east side, high suppression activity for utility corridor and repeater site
- 1994 Mogatsu Fire burned southern portion, presents prescribed burning opportunities for ATV or helicopter

Insect and disease

- Mormon crickets are continuing to be a problem, but treatments are mostly on foot

Private lands (adjacent)

- Private land exists on east, north, and west sides, and in the middle.
- Private land in the middle hampers access to NFS land

- Wildfire concerns exists for private land on edges

Private land (inholding)

- Mostly associated with abandoned mine sites

Effects on transportation

- Available on all sides by roads.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 19 air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 27 air miles to St. George, Ut.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[13]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[13] National Wilderness Preservation System

COVE MOUNTAIN
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[14]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Cove Mountain	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	12,800
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Cove Mountain	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	15,674
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07011	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407107		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the north portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District, about 25 air miles southwest of Cedar City, Utah. Access to the area is good with both surfaced and unsurfaced roads on the perimeter. There are no trails in the area.

The topography ranges from gently rolling to steep rocky slopes with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage. Some geothermal energy activities have developed near the area and the potential for further development may exist.

There are no particular attractions to the unit. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper land common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability:

Manageability -	Medium	Bounded by roads, chainings and administrative boundaries
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Lack of disturbance (fire suppression), cheat grass prevalent
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	
Special Features: -		None Identified

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Area used for deer hunting
- ATVs are currently traveling cross-country in compliance with current travel plan, mostly local with St. George/Cedar City weekend influence

Wildlife habitat

- Critical winter range for big game (declared by DWR)

[14] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Area is part of one cattle allotment
- Springs, ponds, and fences occur within in the area. The features also occur in the adjacent chaining areas.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and pole, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- Gravel pit exists on the east side
- Some old mining claims exist in the southwest area

Cultural/historic interest

- Old Spanish Trail is located along the western edge

Land use authorizations

- Utility corridor window is adjacent to the west
- Gravel pit in northeast is permitted to Iron County for use

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Chainsaws are the prevalent mechanized tool to maintain trails

Livestock grazing

- Motorized access (backhoe/bulldozer) currently being used for maintaining ponds

Fire

- Fires are mostly not suppressed, fire doesn't carry easy
- Adjacent chainings are being considered for continued maintenance through prescribed fire

Insect and disease

- Pinyon pine has not been affected by Pinyon *Ips* (yet)

Private lands (adjacent)

- Located along northwest corner, WUI concerns associated with new construction or trailer placement close to administrative boundary

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available on all sides – access from the north exists through BLM land

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Appoximately16 air miles to Pine Valley Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 31 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[15]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[15] National Wilderness Preservation System

ATCHINSON
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[16]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Achinson	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	19,200
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Atchinson	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	24,298
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07009	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407108		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is in the central portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District about 24 miles north of St. George, Utah. Access to the area is good with high standard paved or surfaced roads approaching the perimeter on two sides. There are trails in the area.

The topography consists of steep rocky slopes, with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is heavy. Extensive areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage. Additional revegetation projects are planned.

There are no particular attractions to the unit. Scenic values are high.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Exclusion of fire, localized livestock grazing in riparian areas. Cheatgrass prevalent.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Seasonal in nature, hunting season provides lots of use
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Recreation use is predominantly hunting
Special Features:		None identified

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Mostly big game hunting
- ATV use on existing roads, though a closure on motorized use was established in 2004
- Lots of non-system trails exist in the area

[16] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Wildlife habitat

- High quality habitat for forage, cover, fawning area, and summer range. However, water availability is limiting.

Water/air quality

- One domestic source exists in the area (southern portion) and another source on the west side. Springs have associated pipelines

Livestock

- Area is part of four allotments
- Water developments are spring-related with pipelines and stock ponds (9)

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and pole, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Lithic scatters are in the area

Land use authorizations

- Single-pole power line exists in northeast area

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- No system trails present

Livestock grazing

- Mechanical maintenance currently being used for pipelines and ponds

Fire

- Wildfire frequency is low in the area
- The west (utility corridor) and northeast (private homes) sides are aggressive suppression areas due to WUI concerns

Insect and disease

- Pinyon *Ips* starting to increase in the Gray's Ranch and Pinto areas
- Grasshoppers in the chaining areas and private land are occasionally problematic

Private lands (adjacent)

- WUI concerns with private land on the east and west sides (no in-holdings)

Effects on transportation

- Access is available on all sides

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 10 air miles to Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 24 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[17]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[17] National Wilderness Preservation System

CEDAR BENCH
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[18]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Cedar Bench	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	5,760
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Cedar Bench	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	10,001
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07016	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407109		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Pine Valley Ranger District and is about 10 air miles north of St. George. Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for pickup travel only. There are trails in the southern part of this area.

The topography ranges from rolling to steep rocky slopes at about 4,000 feet elevation. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are removal of wood products - posts and poles.

There are no particular attractions to the unit. Scenic values are low due to dominance of PJ covered slopes and lack of surface water. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper land common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Bordered on three sides by level II roads (positive), several cherry-stemmed roads (negative) would be difficult enforce
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Invasive species (cheat grass)
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Residential development west and south of the area, but can get away from this influence quickly.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Lack of trails and destinations.
Special Features:		None identified

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- A lot of cougar hunting occurs in this area
- Popular ATV area in the winter season because it is open all year round

[18] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Wildlife habitat

- Used to be very good big game winter range, but lack of deer and fire disturbance have contributed to loss of quality

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Allotment was closed to grazing in the late 1960s
- Fences adjacent to Red Cliffs Preserve are still in place

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and poles, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Potential paleontological sites exist in this area
- Cultural use by Indians may be associated with Cottonwood area

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Trail head opportunity exists at Blake-Gubler point.

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- WUI concerns on the west due to subdivision development

Insect and disease

- A lot of dead Pinyon pine due to Pinyon *Ips*

Private lands (adjacent)

- Blake-Gubler ranch exists are north end
- District would like to acquire this property

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available to the entire perimeter

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 5 air miles to the Pine Valley Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 11 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[19]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[19] National Wilderness Preservation System

KANE MOUNTAIN
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[20]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Kane Mountain	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	7,680 **(dropped in 1983 evaluation)**
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Kane Mountain	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	9,633
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07012	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407110		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is in the north portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District about 35 air miles north of St. George, Utah. Access to the area is not bad, but with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles only.

The topography is generally rolling hills with some steep rocky hillsides. Annual precipitation is about 12 inches, surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon juniper, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is heavy. Evidence of ATV use is increasing in this area.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Adjacent private land ownership, user created motorized trails are conflicting uses
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Intrusions along the edge, but the central core is undisturbed by human use, lack of fire disturbance
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Common P/J landscape
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	On the mountain, opportunities are good, but poor along the edges
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Very few people use that areas not associated with roads, system or user created
Special Features: -	Yes	Old Irontown kiln in northeast corner

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- ATV route pioneering is popular in line with current travel plan
- Dispersed camping is popular along roads
- Fishing opportunities in Newcastle Reservoir are also an attraction

Wildlife habitat

- Habitat is mediocre for big game and cougars

[20] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- Little Pinto Creek feeds a pond that is currently claimed for ownership by a private individual

Livestock

- Area is part of two allotments
- Water developments are ponds and springs, but not as numerous as other areas

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and poles, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- Iron ore is prevalent, especially in adjacent areas (Iron Mountain)

Cultural/historic interest

- Old Iron Town

Land use authorizations

- Single pole power line along eastern boundary

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Backhoe/bulldozer maintenance work associated with ponds

Fire

- Shaded fuel break opportunity exists adjacent to Old Iron Town
- Old Iron Town presents aggressive suppression strategy

Insect and disease

- Kane Mountain is experiencing tree mortality associated with bugs as a result of drought

Private lands (adjacent)

- WUI concerns associated with Old Iron Town and private homes on northwest side and private ranch on east side
- Noxious weeds (Scotch thistle) and invasive species (tamarisk) are prevalent in the area and associated with private land

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available on all sides

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 14 air miles to Pine Valley Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 32 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[21]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[21] National Wilderness Preservation System

PINE VALLEY MOUNTAINS
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[22]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Pine Valley Mountains	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	111,395
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Pine Valley Mountains	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	154,478 *(~50,242 acres of this area in Pine Valley Wilderness)*
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07015	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407111		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Pine Valley Ranger District and is about 10 air miles north of St. George, Utah. Access to the area varies from good to poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for pickup travel only, serving some parts of the area and paved, all weather roads serving some parts.

This area includes most of the Pine Valley Mountain Range, with elevations from, 4,500 feet to the 10,365 foot top of Signal Peak.

There are many steep cliffs, which are part of the intrusive rock outcrop, which forms the Pine Valley Laccolith. It is within this area that a major source of water originates for the Ash Greek- Virgin River and Santa Clara River drainages. This is one of the valuable resources of this mountain range.

The higher elevations support stands of virgin Engelmann spruce. also found are stands of spruce-fir, Douglas-fir, limber pine, aspen, and young stands of bristlecone pine. Past logging has occurred for aspen and ponderosa pine. However, opportunities are limited due mainly to the inaccessibility and road construction difficulties. There is currently no dependence of the local communities on this timber. The timber management plan for the Forest places the timber in a deferred status because of the inaccessibility.

The high elevations contain numerous meadows from 1 to 50 acres in size. The majority of the meadows are less than 25 acres. The predominant vegetation is mat mubly, subalpine needlegrass, alpine timothy, dandelion, parry clover, shrubby cenquifail, yarrow, fleabane, snowberry, and serviceberry. The middle elevations have pockets of ponderosa pine. Other predominant species found within the area are: manzanita, serviceberry, mahogany, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, aspen, gamble's oak, and quinine bush.

The Pine Valley Mountain, being a mountain island surrounded by desert, is more or less isolated from the Wasatch Range. Because of this isolation, there may be some subspecies of mammals that are distinct to the Pine Valley Mountain.

The transportation system consists of roads and trails. There are about 106 trail miles in the system. The more popular trails are the Whipple Trail (which is a National Recreation Trail), originating in Pine Valley and connected with the Summit Trail, which goes the entire length of the Pine Valley Mountains. There are a number of other trails that also tie into Summit Trail. On the west side of the Pine Valley Mountain, the more popular trails are Forsyth, Mill Canyon, Brown's Point and Water Canyon.

[22] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

On the east side, the more popular trails are Oak Grove, Anderson Valley, and Comanche Canyon.

Livestock grazing only occurs on the north portion. No grazing is permitted on the south portion.

There are no camping or picnic facilities in the area, but there are several facilities near the boundary.

The heart of the area has important scenic attractions.

The 2003 bug flight mapped activity in this area. A wildland-urban interface is developing on the northeast side of this area (New Harmony).

Section 2. Capability
Ratings for this area refer to areas within the undeveloped and unroaded area that are not currently part of the existing wilderness.

The size and adjacency to population centers as well as the diversity of opportunities and experiences available in this undeveloped area make this a difficult area to evaluate comprehensively. (It should be noted that many of the wilderness characteristics found in the existing Pine Valley Wilderness could be found in the undeveloped areas adjacent to that wilderness to varying degrees. Since the area provides a variety of opportunities and experiences it is difficult to make comprehensive ratings for each of the wilderness criteria. For instance, there are likely areas that deserve a "high" rating for manageability and areas that deserve a very "low" rating.)

Furthermore, for this and the other existing wilderness areas on the Dixie, we are addressing the question of whether we should "add" to an existing wilderness and not talking about the "creation" of a new wilderness.

For these reasons, we have decided to break this area down into smaller chunks. We will evaluate these chunks for their wilderness character just as we have done with other undeveloped areas in the inventory.

> **Pine Valley North:** This area encompases the White Rocks, Timber Mountain, Comanche, and Pardise areas of the Pine Valley Mountain complex. It has unique features and a variety of vegetation and geographic areas. It lies directly North of the Pine Valley Wilderness, west of New Harmony and east of Pinto.
>
> **Pine Valley South:** This area is the Cottonwood/Danish Ranch area below the significant southern cliffs of the Pine Valley Mountain. The area is made up of rolling Pinyon/juniper covered hills with many roads and trails throughout the area. The area is a popular mining area in the summer and hunting area in the winter. Just north of the cottonwood road, east of Diamond Valley and west of Leeds.
>
> **Pine Valley East:** This large area is the deep canyons and benches just east of the significant eastern cliffs of the Pine Valley Mountain. Its eastern boundary is BLM land adjacent to I-15. The area includes the Oak Grove campground, the Browse Cabin and Sequoia Tree and the numerous canyons and benches that dissect this area.
>
> **Pine Valley West:** This large area varies upon where you are in it. Near Diamond Valley and Dameron Valley it is steep rugged foot hills just below the southwestern cliffs of the Pine Valley Mountain. Near Pine Valley and Grass Valley it is the more gentile hills that lead to the base of the Pine Valley Wilderness. This area gets a lot of encroachment by ATV's and others just looking for a short venture out of these small communities on the west side of Pine Valley Mountain.

Manageability		*North:* Medium – unauthorized ATVs and Jeeps are encroaching the area by old roads, boundary is bordered by some cliffs on the north side, but not as steep as the east side, there are three non-motorized trails into the area. *East:* Medium – remote with some roads and trails that access the area, the roads lead to stream diversions (would have to be cherry stemmed, ruggedness of area is a general barrier to access, bordered by I-15 corridor, there are also a couple of non-motorized trails that run north-south. *South:* Medium – there is a lot of motorized encroachment on roads and trails (lots of user-created), mostly for hunting, there are a lot of mining claims in this area as well, there are some cherry stems for roads used to access water facilities, boundary is defined by Cottonwood road, not as steep and rugged as east and north. *West:* Low – close to population centers (Pine Valley, Diamond Valley, Dameron Valley, Central, Pinto), lots of encroachment Administrative boundary not distinct, cherry stemmed roads, private lands, very rugged but lots of access.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):		*North:* High – this area shows much of the same natural integrity found in the existing wilderness. *East:* High – Fire has been prevalent, not a lot of invasive species. Browse RNA. *South:* Low – PJ is out of natural, cheat grass is prevalent, soils are movable, signs of mining everywhere. Not a lot of fire. Spotted knapweed in St. George Municipal Water area. *West:* Medium – cheat grass, PJ encroachment, old seedings, chainings, not a lot of fire because of suppression and climatic patterns.
Natural Appearance:		*North:* High – this area is pristine and has a lot of variety in vegetation. This area has meadows and ponds. Area shows much of same character as in existing wilderness. Great views of Kolob from this area. Comanche Cabin is located in this area and is frequented by many groups. This might detract from natural appearance. *East:* Medium – old fire activity with scars and private land on edges pushes this area down, but it is pretty remote, rugged, and unique for the region when you get into the high country, views in this area are not as good as in the north. *South:* Low – lots of mining evidence, private lands (Danish Ranch right in middle), roads, vegetation is dominated by PJ with some open sage lands, some nice views into steep canyons in

		cottonwood area to south. *West:* Low – lots of private lands (Blake & Gubler, powerlines, chainings, roads, PJ is dominant, cliffrose and sagebrush in some areas.
Opportunities for Solitude:		*North:* High – rugged, many opportunities to get away, adjacent views are excellent, lots of coves and rock outcroppings that contain experience and provide solitude. Solitude in hunting season can be lower. *East:* Medium – area looks down on I-15 corridor and towns, experience once you get onto the bench is remote with lots of nice canyons and basins, non-motorized trails go through some real nice areas providing solitude. *South:* Low – can't get away from user created roads and views of population center, high use by sightseers, rockhounds, and hunters. *West:* Low – Communities adjacent, noise, private lands, roads detract from solitude.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:		*North:* High – non-motorized trails access the existing wilderness, water features provide some fishing opportunities, primitive hunting and camping are popular activities for the area. Comanche Cabin is used by many groups in the summer. *East:* High – excellent non-motorized trail system, possiblity for rock-climing on cliffs, horseback riding is very common, primitive hunting. Mountain biking is a desired activity here for many. *South:* Low – motorized hunting and other recreation detract from experience, lots of rockhunting, lots of vehicles. *West:* Low – while non-motorized trails extend into communities, experience is hampered by access, ATVs, and adjacent communities, lots of group camping, mountain biking.
Special Features: -	Yes	Sensitive plant species, Browse RNA

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Non-mechanized recreation associated with the wilderness
- ATV use on roads in eastern and southern areas, but the eastern portion is closed to off-road motorized travel (except for snowmobiles)
- Non-motorized recreation opportunities exist in the northern, administratively closed to motorized travel.

Wildlife habitat

- A wide variety of habitat types exist within this area, from brush species to alpine timber.

Water/air quality

- St. George is pulling culinary water off the southwest portion
- Diversions exist in Leap Creek, Wet Sandy Creek, Leeds Creek, Comanche Creek, Goat Springs, White Hollow and Grass Valley (mostly associated with the east and southwest portions)
- Pine Valley is storing water from the mountain in a water tank

Livestock

- Five cattle allotments are in the north and west portions. Both areas have a number of ponds and springs developed for water.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Only commercial opportunity would be adjacent to the Pine Valley Recreation Area
- Cedar post and pole opportunities in the north and south portions along existing roads

Mineral potential

- Potential opportunity for alabaster and sandstone quarries in the southern portion (associated with Cottonwood area)

Cultural/historic interest

- Historic sawmills
- Historic keg factory
- Browse Guard Station
- Sequoia tree at Browse Guard Station
- Kiln on Oak Grove Road
- Archaeological sites all along the east side of the area

Land use authorizations

- Designated Wilderness area
- Existing Research Natural Area (Browse)

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Currently using mechanical equipment to maintain areas outside the wilderness

Livestock grazing

- Mechanical equipment needed to maintain ponds, especially in the north end

Fire

- Shaded fuel breaks exist for New Harmony and Pine Valley
- Suppression strategies are aggressive for adjacent communities, especially on the east side

Insect and disease

- Spruce bark beetle becoming more frequent within the wilderness
- Ponderosa pine has bark beetles
- Grasshoppers and Mormon crickets are prevalent in the lower elevations

Private lands (adjacent)

- WUI concerns on the east (New Harmony) and west (Pine Valley) sides.

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is by cherry stem roads on the east side, perimeter roads on the north, south and west sides

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to the Pine Valley Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 21 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[23]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[23] National Wilderness Preservation System

COTTONWOOD
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[24]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Cottonwood	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	6,400
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Cottonwood	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	8,848
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07017	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407112		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Pine Valley Ranger District and is about 10 air miles northwest of St. George, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads only. There are no trails in the area.

The unit is extremely narrow and is being identified only because it is contiguous to other Federal land identified as having wilderness potential. That area is known as BLM UT 040-046.

The topography is generally sloped and rocky, but dissected by steep walled rocky canyons and is at about 6,000 feet elevation. Surface water is generally sparse. Some of the larger canyons contain small perennial streams. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principal uses on the area are dispersed recreation, ATV riding, and big game hunting. The annual recreation use is moderate.

The area is scenic. The town of Leeds is considering this area for possible trail development. Most of the unit is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper lands common to the intermountain west. The contiguous BLM area is larger and has been identified as having wilderness potential.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Bordered on north by a level II road and a WSA to the south. Eastern side has red cliff campground, town of Harrisburg, Silver Reef, and Leeds residential areas.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Limited human disturbance, very rugged area, invasive species (cheat grass)
Natural Appearance:	High	Rugged geology appears natural.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Diversity of narrow canyons provide excellent opportunity.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Hiking and backcountry horse opportunities. Challenge of desert climate, non-motorized trails
Special Features:	Yes	Adjacent to the desert tortoise reserve

[24] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Mountain biking along roads
- Rock climbing in springtime when the weather warms up
- Wildflower/browse species viewing
- ATV use on the east end and west end
- Cougar hunting along northern road

Wildlife habitat

- Mule deer habitat (mostly forage)

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- NA

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and poles, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- Alabaster mines
- Landscape rock quarry
- "Picture" rock opportunities

Cultural/historic interest

- A lot of cultural sites are present
- Old ranger station (Cottonwood) is present (the foundation only remains)

Land use authorizations

- Commercial quarries are under permit
- Right-of-way associated with St. George water pipeline crossing the western portion

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- Area is mostly a "let burn" opportunity

Insect and disease

- Pinyon *Ips* is starting to show up in the Pinyon pine

Private lands (adjacent)

- Private home development is starting to establish along the eastern end
- Concerns are associated with access from private onto NFS land

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Vehicle access is only along the northern and western edges via roads

County considerations

Section 4. - Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 8 air miles to the Pine Valley Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 9 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[25]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[25] National Wilderness Preservation System

STODDARD MOUNTAIN
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[26]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Stoddard Mountain	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	12,500
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Stoddard Mountain	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	14,212
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07013	District:	Pine Valley
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407113		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is in the northeast corner of the Pine Valley Ranger District, about 15 miles southwest of Cedar City, Utah. Access to the area is good with surfaced roads on the north and south boundaries. The edge of the area is being served by the New Harmony road to Page Ranch. The Duncan (No. 3009) and Dry Lakes (No. 32111) trails traverse through this area.

The topography generally is steep and rocky, with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms. Ponderosa pine and other conifer species, aspen, and oak brush are also dominant vegetation species.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting, and ATV riding. The annual recreation use is moderate to high. Small areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage. The lower elevations are near Old Irontown, which is a historic site.

Bumblebee is a scenic area. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper lands common to the intermountain west. Higher elevations include aspen, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer species. A wild land urban interface is developing as the community of New Harmony expands. Far west Comstock and Kanarraville

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Motorized trails, private land inholdings, agency boundary is mid-slope, high volume road nearby (Pinto and New Harmony), WUI on eastern boundary
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Lack of disturbance (fire suppression), cheat grass prevalent, ATV use from private land starting to increase from east and north sides
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Shape of area, access from motorized trails, private inholdings. Western half of area does present good solitude opportunities
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Largest uses are hunting and ATVs
Special Features: -	Yes	Tuff formations

[26] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- ATV riding and hunting
- Several system trails (non-motorized) traverse the area (north to south)
- Hunting opportunities (cougar and big game)
- Horseback riding

Wildlife habitat

- Quality summer habitat for big game

Water/air quality

- Private subdivision in northwest corner is pulling water from NFS land

Livestock

- Area is part of three allotments
- Ponds and springs have been developed for water sources

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Cedar post and poles, mostly personal use

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Lithic scatters

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Non-motorized trails are being maintained by trails with chainsaws

Livestock grazing

- Springs and ponds are using mechanical means for maintenance (dredging)

Fire

- Prescribed burning opportunities associated with chainings adjacent to the north and northwest edges
- Southern tip is being considered to tie in with BLM shaded fuel break

Insect and disease

- Pinyon *Ips* in the Pinyon pine
- Some spruce bark beetle occurring in the spruce on the mountain

Private lands (adjacent)

- Access concerns from private land onto NFS lands on east and north sides

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available from all sides

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Approximately 12 air miles to Pine Valley

	Wilderness
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 33 air miles to St. George, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[27]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

Top of the Document

[27] National Wilderness Preservation System

Top of the Document

CEDAR CITY RANGER DISTRICT

UNDEVELOPED AND UNROADED AREAS EVALUATION FORMS

A description of minerals for Sections 1 (Description) and Section 3 (Availability) is forthcoming.

Next District

ASHDOWN GORGE
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[28]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Ashdown Gorge	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	7,024
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Ashdown Gorge	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	12,150
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07018	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407201		

Inventory boundary is missing a powerline in the southern portion, takes off Hwy 14 by Cedar Canyon campground, connects to the FAA site south of the Monument along Hwy 143, and crosses Hwy 143. Road into private land inholding is a deeded ROW, needs to be excluded from area.

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Ashdown Gorge Area is located within the Cedar City Ranger District and located approximately 10 miles east of Cedar City, Utah. Access to the area varies from good to poor, with low standard, dry weather roads predominating. State Highway No. 143 provides access to a small portion on the east. Forest trails 051 and 052 bisect the area.

This area is contiguous to Cedar Breaks National Monument. The National Park Service has proposed as Wilderness the portion of Cedar Breaks National Monument contiguous to this area. Cedar Breaks is a large amphitheater of approximately 5,000 acres, which has been formed by erosion of steep limestone cliffs. Ashdown Gorge is a continuation of this landform characterized by steep canyons and sheer cliffs.

The average elevation is about 9,000 feet. Annual precipitation is mostly snow. Vegetation within the gorge area is sparse. Beyond the gorge, vegetation is predominated by Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, spruce, fir and aspen forests. Other vegetative types also occur.

Principal uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly hiking and sight seeing. These uses are considered very light in numbers.

There is a 320-acre parcel of private land located in the lower part of the area. A small sawmill was once located on Ashdown Creek where private and accessible Forest lands were logged. There are about 5,000 acres of commercial timber within the area, but it is scattered and virtually inaccessible.

The unit is scenic because of its timbered slopes and live streams, and having nationally acclaimed Cedar Breaks National Monument as a background.

Section 2. Capability

Ratings for this area refer to areas within the undeveloped and unroaded area that are not currently part of the existing wilderness.

The diversity of opportunities and experiences available in this undeveloped area make this a difficult area to evaluate comprehensively. (It should be noted that many of the wilderness characteristics found in the existing Ashdown Gorge Wilderness could be found in the undeveloped areas adjacent to that wilderness to varying

[28] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

degrees. Since the area provides a variety of opportunities and experiences it is difficult to make comprehensive ratings for each of the wilderness criteria. For instance, there are likely areas that deserve a "high" rating for manageability and areas that deserve a very "low" rating.)

Furthermore, for this and the other existing wilderness areas on the Dixie, we are addressing the question of whether we should "add" to an existing wilderness and not talking about the "creation" of a new wilderness. **For these reasons, we have decided to break this area down into smaller chunks. We will evaluate these chunks for their wilderness character just as we have done with other undeveloped areas in the inventory.**

Southwest: Refers to Crystal Spring area adjacent to existing wilderness.
Southeast: Includes electronic special use site adjacent to the existing wilderness.
North: Area around what is commonly referred to as "High Mountain." Northeast area may be different in than the "High Mountain" area. Ratings may be adjusted in the future to acknowledge these differences.

Manageability		*Southwest:* Low – area is very narrow and is bissect by a mechanized mountain bikiing route. There is also a cherry stem that provides access to the area. This is a heavily used dispersed recreation area (ATV hunting and car camping). Area is bound by highway to the south, but there is private land to the west from which extend several user created routes into the area. *Southeast:* Medium – area is very rugged and primitive, however, not very large, geography is a barrier to use, but the proximity of roads provides access to area that would be difficult to limit. Mountain bike route goes through this area as well. *North:* High – area is remote, there are multiple access routes (primitive roads) on the parameter, but generally do not extend into the undeveloped areas, private lands is not an issue here. West corner has a lot of ATV activity. *There is a definable rim that could be used as a boundary to improve manageability for this area.*
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):		*Southwest:* High – natural processes are running their historic course in there area. *Southeast:* High – natural processes are running their historic course in there area. Bug kill is most prominent in this area – it is the dominant feature in the ecosystem in the short-term. *North:* High – natural processes are running their historic course in there area, except area in northeast corner, which would rate lower.
Natural Appearance:		*Southwest:* Medium – there is some bug kill, but aspen and other conifer stands are healthy and natural apppearing, roads and mechanized trails into area detract from natural appearance. *Southeast:* Low – areas is dominated by bug

		killed spruce, currently may not appear natural to lay person, but will regenerate aspen in near future, electronic site nearby, heavily trafficed roads adjacent to area. *North:* High – not as much bug kill, area appears very natural with healthy aspen, ponderosa, and fir stands, area has some excellent views. *There is some terracing in this area on the western boundary that may need to be excluded in future inventory maps.* There is also some unauthorized ATV use on the boundaries of this area.
Opportunities for Solitude:		*Southwest:* Medium – there are many opportunities to find solitude here, but the highway is very close and detracts from this character. *Southeast:* Medium – there are many opportunities to find solitude here, but the highway and access road to electronic site are very close and detract from this character. *North:* High – for the most part the opportunities for solitude are not effected by ATVs and travelways. There are some canyons that provide unique solitude like the existing wilderness. Northeast corner has low opportunities for solitude due to proximity to Brian Head Town and Resort.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:		*Southwest:* Medium – non-motorized trails extend from this area into the existing wilderness network of primitive recration opportunities, mountain biking trail which bissects the area detracts from these opportunities. *Southeast:* Medium – non-motorized trails extend from this area into the existing wilderness network of primitive recration opportunities, mountain biking trail which bissects the area detracts from these opportunities. *North:* High – there are many primitive recreation opportunities in this area for hikers, camping, hunting, and horseback riding in this area, many of these opportunities extend into the existing wilderness.
Special Features: -	Yes	Adjoins Cedar Breaks NM, is part of the unique erosion features.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Well established mountain bike routes
- Getting some bike use in the wilderness now
- Crystal Springs road is open to ATV, but district is looking to close it since it's a dead end to the trailhead

Wildlife habitat

- Habitat would be enhanced by wilderness designation (deer, elk, turkey, peregrine falcon)

Water/air quality

- No effect

Livestock

- Traditional sheep camp established on Crystal Springs road and at north end along High Mountain road, mostly located around springs

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Opportunities exist around the Radar Ridge area (SE portion), but do have timing constraints with peregrine falcon

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Close to archaeological district around the Monument
- Paleontological areas can be prolific (fossil beds)

Land use authorizations

- Deeded ROW to private land
- Mountain bike outfitter/guide operations off Blowhard Trail (south portion – from FAA site down to Moots Hollow)

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Chainsaw use along trails outside wilderness for mountain bike trails

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- Wildland fire use is part of the Fire Management Plan
- No road access exists for mechanized fire suppression
- Helicopter use would be precluded and not available to protect FAA site (reference Big Wash Fire (2002))

Insect and disease

- Regarding spruce bark beetle, no opportunity exists because infestation has passed
- Other opportunities associated with degrading timber would be lost

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- Already surrounded by wilderness
- Deeded ROW would be unaffected
- If parcel is developed (not known at this time), transmission line corridors could be an issue if crossing NF land

Effects on transportation

- Cut off Crystal Spring road if not "cherry stemmed" – major access to trails
- Access roads currently used for livestock operations would be lost if not "cherry stemmed"
- Access is provided by Hwy 14 and 143, along with other system roads

County Considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 10 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[29]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[29] National Wilderness Preservation System

HANCOCK
Wilderness Area Evaluation[30]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Hancock	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	7,200
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Hancock	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	10,140
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07019	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407202		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Hancock Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located in the central portion of the Markagaunt Plateau, 20 miles east of Cedar City. Access to the perimeter of the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads. Forest Trail No. 053 transacts the area.

The topography varies from gentle plateau lands to steep rocky slopes, with elevations ranging from to 9,000 - 10,600 feet. The area includes several large cinder cones and lava bed areas extending outward for several miles. Annual precipitation is mostly snow. The area not covered with lava is vegetated predominantly by spruce, fir and aspen trees.

Principle uses on the area are timber harvesting, livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly big game hunting and hiking. The annual recreation use is low. Areas of timber on the south and west edges of the area have been harvested. Additional areas are planned for harvest on the north portions of the area.

While the unit is scenic, with its cinder cones, lava beds and timber stands, it is not uniquely scenic. Nationally acclaimed Cedar Breaks National Monument is within one mile to the west. There are no particular attractions to the unit other than the volcanic formations. Otherwise the area is typical high elevation spruce-fir timberlands common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Permeter is defined by activities. Boundaries are somewhat artifiical and not definable. Private develpments on north boundary.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Lots of beetle kill, lots of aspen is regenerating.
Natural Appearance:	Low	Beetle-kill disturbance is very evident. This contrasts with timber harvest areas to the southwest.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Area is flat with little intrusions or human development. Area is well vegetated.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Hiking on Hancock Peak non-motorized trail. Little topograghic relief is offered.
Special Features:		None idendified.

[30] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Hancock Peak trail is non-motorized
- Trail is used some by mountain bikes

Wildlife habitat

- Habitat quality is lower because of impacted travel ways
- Part of high priority elk summer range (north of Hwy 14) – lacking habitat diversity, though forage areas are small

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Livestock concentrations occurring because forage opportunities are limited
- Dispersement opportunities would improve by removing dead spruce

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Substantial timber values associated with dead spruce (20-50 MMBF)
- Building roads for summer operations is not practical; however, winter operations would be an effective method (operating on snow layers)
- Establish diverse species mix (aspen, spruce, mixed conifer)

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Western edge abuts archaeological district

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Can still do with non-motorized means (crosscut saw)

Livestock grazing

- Opportunity for vegetation type conversion and increasing available rangeland (VSS 1)

Timber management

- Opportunity to salvage dead spruce

Fire

- Currently no road access, walk in fire suppression techniques
- Loss of helicopter use

Insect and disease

- See "timber management" above
- Spruce bark beetle has mostly run through its cycle

Private lands (adjacent)

- Meadow Lake subdivision has substantial Wildland Urban Interface concerns (NW corner)

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is plentiful through either existing roads or past timber sales

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 6 miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 17 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[31]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[31] National Wilderness Preservation System

LAVA BEDS #1
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[32]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Lava Beds #1	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	8,800
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Lava Beds	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	7,058
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07020	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407203		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Lava Beds #1 Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located in the central portion of the Markagaunt Plateau, 20 miles east of Cedar City, Utah. Access to the area ranges from good to poor with low standard, dry weather roads serving the north portion and State Highway 14 serving the southern portion. There are no Forest Service trails in the area.

The topography is generally level with several small volcanic cones . The lava beds are a continuous surface of broken lava, the result of volcanic activity approximately 5,000 years ago. The lava has pockets of spruce and fir trees. The elevation ranges from 8,800 – 9,300 feet. Annual precipitation is mostly snow. Surface water is very sparse.

Principle uses on the area, which are located only in the lava free pockets, are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation (primarily big game hunting). The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of timber on the south and center portions are planned for harvest. Some harvesting has occurred on the edges of the area.

While the unit is scenic with its timber pockets and vast lava flows, it is inhospitable. Due to the expanse of lava and the hazards associated with climbing over sharp, broken lava rock, few people venture beyond the edges of the area.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	High	Permeter is defined by lava. Access is very limited.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Lava. Timbered cinder cone RNA in middle (aspen)
Natural Appearance:	High	Lava.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	No one goes there.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Few recreation opportunities.
Special Features: -	Yes	Timbered Cone RNA.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Any recreation values are precluded by large investment needed to build access trails
- Dry Camp road (eastern boundary) is important access (esp. ATV) from Hwy 148 to Duck Creek (albeit, it's a rough road)
- Bulk of area is very rugged and precludes any recreational interest

[32] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Snowmobile use occurs in eastern portion (play areas), Dry Camp road is a key link between Duck Creek and Brian Head

Wildlife habitat

- Rugged terrain is also limiting to wildlife use

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Operations would be compatible as long as Dry Camp road is kept open
- Allotment use is in eastern portion

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Little timber values, though some aspen regeneration opportunities occur in NE portion

Mineral potential

- Cinder pit is outside the area along south edge
- Some interest in decorative rock, but district has not acted on this yet

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Anderson Spring area has water pipeline currently. Also, has potential for expanding water distribution to the allotment, which is water limited

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- Outbreaks would be limited due to lack of vegetation continuity

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access to area is available
- Additional access facilities not needed (not well used to begin with)

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 9 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 20 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[33]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[33] National Wilderness Preservation System

LAVA BEDS #2
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[34]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Lava Beds #2	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	8,800 (included in Lava Beds #1)
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Lava Beds	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	8,643
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07020	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407204		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Lava Beds #2 Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located in the central portion of the Markagaunt Plateau, 20 miles east of Cedar City, Utah. This area lies to the east of Lava Beds #1 and has many of the same characteristics. Access to the area ranges from good to poor with low standard, dry weather roads serving the north portion and State Highway 14 serving the southern portion. There are no Forest Service trails in the area.

The topography is generally level with several small volcanic cones, the most prominant being Henrie Knolls. The lava beds are a continuous surface of broken lava, the result of volcanic activity approximately 5,000 years ago. The lava has pockets of spruce and fir trees. The elevation ranges from 8,800 – 9,300 feet. Annual precipitation is about 30 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. Surface water is very sparse.

Principle uses on the area, which are located only in the lava free pockets, are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation (primarily big game hunting). The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of timber on the south and center portions are planned for harvest. Some harvesting has occurred on the edges of the area.

While the unit is scenic with its timber pockets and vast lava flows, it is inhospitable. Due to the expanse of lava and the hazards associated with climbing over sharp, broken lava rock, few people venture beyond the edges of the area.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	High	East perimeter is defined by activities. Development on south boundary. Timber activity areas are bounded by large boulders and lava beds
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	
Natural Appearance:	High	Lava and rock intersperse with mixed conifer.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Lots of roads and development on eastern perimeter, but don't influence solitude in the interior because limited by lava beds.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Few recreation opportunities.
Special Features: -		None identified.

[34] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Any recreation values are precluded by large investment needed to build access trails
- Dry Camp road (western boundary) is important access (esp. ATV) from Hwy 148 to Duck Creek (albeit, it's a rough road)
- Bulk of area is very rugged and precludes any recreational interest
- Snowmobile use occurs in eastern portion (play areas), Dry Camp road is a key link between Duck Creek and Brian Head

Wildlife habitat

- Rugged terrain is also limiting to wildlife use

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Operations would be compatible as long as Dry Camp road is kept open
- Allotment use is in area

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Little timber values
- Past activities have exhausted timber opportunities

Mineral potential

- Some interest in decorative rock, but district has not acted on this yet

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Area has potential for expanding water distribution to the allotment, which is water limited
- Fencing opportunities needed to help unit definition

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- Outbreaks would be limited due to lack of vegetation continuity

Private lands (adjacent)

- Wildland Urban Interface/Defensible Fire Space concerns with SW portion of area (NW of Duck Creek)

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access to area is available
- Additional access facilities not needed (not well used to begin with)

County Considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 12 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 23 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[35]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[35] National Wilderness Preservation System

BUNKER CREEK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[36]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Bunker Creek	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	5,100
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Bunker Creek	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	12,346
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07021	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407205		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Bunker Creek Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located in the central portion of the Markagunt Plateau. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads. Forest Trails 040 and 043 bisect the area.

The area is bounded primarily by National Forest lands, but several private parcels are along the east edge. The north west edge is bounded by Utah State lands and private property. Yankee Meadows Reservoir (Utah State lands) is along the west edge.

The topography varies from gentle plateau lands to steep rocky slopes, with elevations ranging from 8,200 – 10,000 feet. Annual precipitation is mostly snow. The area is predominantly spruce, fir and aspen forests with large grass/forb meadows and high elevation openings.

Principle uses on the area are timber harvesting, livestock grazing and dispersed recreation (mostly big game hunting). The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of timber on the south and west portions of the area have been harvested.

While the unit is scenic, with its timbered slopes and live streams, it is not uniquely scenic. Nationally acclaimed scenery in Cedar Breaks National Monument is 5 miles to the south. There are no outstanding features or attractions in the area. The area is typical high elevation, spruce-fir timber lands common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Bi-sected by motorized trail. Many user created trails coming off system trail system. Several blocks of private land on edge. Many dispersed camping site on perimeter. Shape is characterized by fingers more than a contiguous area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Recreation use pressure from sides.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Scenery is popular with users.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Lots of use along perimeter, opportunities are limited to just a few areas
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Hiking, (ATV, Mountain biking (mechanized uses perdomiant)).
Special Features:		None identified.

[36] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Values include trails (non-motorized and motorized)
- Accommodates a wide diversity of activities (foot, bike, horse, ATV)
- Use is mostly local, not well publicized
- Motorized use is mostly tied to Panguitch Lake and is a key connector from Hwy 89 (Stout Canyon) to Hwy 20
- Mountain bike use is tied to Brian Head
- West side has a lot of dispersed camping; however, a person can get away from these areas (uphill) relatively quickly

Wildlife habitat

- Low value on west side below the rim
- Habitat improvement opportunities (i.e., treating dense stands) on west side through prescribed fire are numerous
- Mainly a big game area
- Some goshawk areas are present

Water/air quality

- Irrigation pipeline carries water to Yankee Reservoir
- Part of Parowan's municipal watershed

Livestock

- Four allotments (2 sheep and 2 cattle)
- Sheep operation camps are located throughout area
- Major sheep driving route
- Not much development in infrastructure

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Mostly tied to dead spruce in southern end and along ridgeline
- Species composition is intermixed, the southern portion higher value

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- SERP agreement with SUWA and Sierra Club in place to not harvest trees (mostly in southern portion) in exchange to pursue timber harvest opportunities in other areas

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Addressing fallen dead spruce by hand would be limiting to keep trails open (esp. Spruce Trail, which is 6 miles through the area)

Livestock grazing

- Limited opportunity for sheep camp, which affects management and distribution of sheep
- If cherry stemmed roads are lost for use, then management would become very difficult

Fire

- Fuel loads are quite high, ability to treat fuels prior to using prescribed fire would be eliminated
- Adjacency to high use areas (western edge) would require more mechanized treatments

Insect and disease

- Treatment opportunities are mostly tied to prescribed fire except in southern portion where timber values and existing roads make the opportunity a higher value

Private lands (adjacent)

- Private land interface along SE portion can present significant fire risks to nearby cabins

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Adequate access is present on three sides
- Trailhead modification to separate uses are in line with other management considerations

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 12 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 20 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[37]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[37] National Wilderness Preservation System

WAGON BOX
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[38]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Wagon Box	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	N/A
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	N/A	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	5,769
1983 Roadless Area Number:	N/A	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407206		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Wagon Box Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located on the northeastern edge of the Markagunt Plateau. Access to the area is generally good with gravel or low standard, dry weather roads. Several ATV routes bisect the area.

The area is bounded primarily by National Forest lands, but several private parcels are along the southeast and northwest edges.

The topography is generally gentle plateau lands, with elevations ranging from 7,700 – 8,800 feet. Annual precipitation is about 25 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. The area is predominantly large grass/forb meadows and high elevation openings with interspersed mixed conifer (ponderosa pine-spruce-fir) and aspen forests.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation. The recreation use is ATV riding and big game hunting. The annual recreation use is moderate.

While the unit is scenic, with its large expanses of open area and live streams, it is not uniquely scenic. There are no outstanding features or attractions in the area. The area is typical high elevation openings with mixed conifer or aspen forests common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Long cherry-stemmed road. Area is readily accessable. Private land on perimeter.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Vegetation is comensurate with location (sagebrush). Some level of invasive species (cheat grass in previous burn areas).
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Mostly sagebrush with aspen pockets
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Private land on perimeter. Roads access into interior. Area is small.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Horse back riding, hunting.
Special Features: -		None identified.

[38] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- A lot of hunting in the area
- Dispersed camping and lots of motorized travel on the perimeter
- Good horseback riding area
- Some fishing in Butler Creek

Wildlife habitat

- High value big game habitat (elk and deer), transition range
- Sagebrush grouse habitat, especially leks
- Antelope habitat
- Pygmy rabbit habitat possibility

Water/air quality

- Butler Creek used for agriculture (irrigation)
- Ranch in SE corner is using water for culinary purpose
- Water diversions present culinary use

Livestock

- Area has two cattle allotments
- Highly productive rangeland, capable for sustained use
- Development is relatively high (fences, water sources)

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Scattered along ridgeline
- Some American Indian sites, but not highly valued

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA
- Pole Hollow Road is part of Markagunt trail system

Livestock grazing

- Limit opportunity to maintain/improve fenceline and water improvements (no use of mechanized equipment to transport materials)
- Dixie harrow opportunities would be eliminated – have used this tool previously

Fire

- Use of machinery to hold/manage prescribed fire, flat terrain provides opportunity to drive throughout the area
- Precludes use of bulldozers for fire suppression

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- Wildfire risk associated with ranches at north and south ends

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Well accessed by road system
- Flat topography provides cross-country travel opportunities

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 19 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 28 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[39]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[39] National Wilderness Preservation System

LITTLE CREEK PEAK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[40]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Little Creek Peak	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	N/A
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	N/A	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	19,348
1983 Roadless Area Number:	N/A	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407207		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Little Creek Peak Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located on the northern edge of the Markagunt Plateau.

The area is bounded primarily by National Forest lands, but several private parcels are along the southeast and northwest edges. Access is limited. Forest Roads 077, 076 and 396 bound the north, west and southern edges, respectively. These roads are gravel or low-standard dry-weather roads. Access along the remaining edges and interior is limited to a few 4-wheel-drive primitive roads and motorized trails.

The topography is generally gentle plateau lands, with elevations ranging from 7,600 – 10,140 feet. The dominant feature is Little Creek Peak (10,140 feet), rising near the center of the area. The area is predominantly large grass/forb meadows and high elevation openings with interspersed mixed conifer (ponderosa pine-spruce-fir) and aspen forests.

Annual precipitation is about 25 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. Minor live streams, springs and a few small natural ponds occur in the major hollows.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation. The recreation use is ATV riding and big game hunting. The annual recreation use is moderate.

The scenic nature of Little Creek Peak surrounded by large expanses of open area and live streams provide an attractive natural setting. The area is typical high elevation openings with mixed conifer or aspen forests common to the intermountain west.

Pinyon *Ips* activities identified in the 2003 survey.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Several cherry-stemmed roads affect contiguous area. Lots of dispersed camping along north edge. Trails in the interior are not well used.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Vegetation is comensurate with location (Pinyon/juniper and sagebrush). Higher elevation has mixture of conifers. Some level of invasive species.
Natural Appearance:	High	
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Looks nice. Mostly unused by people – good

[40] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

		place to go to get away from people. Northern area has more opportunity, but south end has less opportunity
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Horse back riding, hunting. North and south boundaries are ATV routes. Hiking and mountain biking are possibilities – pursuing the solitude opportunity.
Special Features:	Yes	Little Creek Peak (10,140 feet elevation)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Untapped potential for hiking and mountain biking
- ATV use occurs on the north and south perimeter
- Good opportunity for solitude
- Shed hunting opportunities are excellent

Wildlife habitat

- Lower elevations are elk winter range
- Upper elevations are elk summer range
- Habitat quality for other species is "common place", but not "out of whack" either

Water/air quality

- Municipal watershed for Panguitch, 2 spring developments along eastern edge

Livestock

- Two cattle allotments (two of the biggest on the district)
- Lots of fence and water developments, reflects the extensive investment

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Whatever values that exist are limited by access
- Values are isolated in location

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Old Spanish Trail runs along a portion of the western edge

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Activity limited mostly to chainsaws to cut out downfall (limited)

Livestock grazing

- Due to development investment, loss of mechanized access would limit maintenance/improvement opportunities

Fire

- Area is mostly in wildland fire use area, human values are not as prevalent to require motorized access
- Maintaining pine stands (unique to the area) to keep them viable and at low risk for I&D infestations

Insect and disease

- Dispersed camping areas that are popular can be affected by continual infestations, help protect stands that are a draw for campers

Private lands (adjacent)

- Along the northwest edge, some cabins are present

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- South end is accessible due to cherry stem roads, north end is limited by private land and high clearance roads

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 22 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 29 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[41]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[41] National Wilderness Preservation System

MINERAL CANYON
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[42]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Mineral Canyon	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	7,520
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Mineral Canyon	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	13,409
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07022	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407208		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Mineral Canyon Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located approximately 10 miles northeast of Parowan, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads. Forest Service Trails 047, 036 and 031 provide access to the south and east perimeter.

The topography is generally steep and rocky with elevations ranging from 6,200 – 9,100 feet. Annual precipitation is about 18 inches. Live streams and springs are sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is moderate. Some areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage.

There are no particular attractions to the unit. Scenic values are low due to dominance of PJ covered slopes and lack of surface water. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper lands common to the intermountain west. The contiguous Federal lands (BLM) to the west and north have not been identified as having wilderness potential. Pinyon *Ips* activities identified in the 2003 survey.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Area boundary is not well defined. Area is accessed in several places
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Dominated by PJ due to lack of fire.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Area is well vegetated. Chained areas outside of area is readily evident, Upper Cottonwood Troughs road cut is visible from I-15
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Area is little used. Cottonwood Mountain is very remote.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Mountain climbing, hunting. Shed hunting
Special Features: -		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Hiking, mountain bike (illegal), horseback riding occur for solitude reasons

[42] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Shed hunting in chained areas is an interest mostly for Paragonah and Parowan residents

Wildlife habitat

- Excellent habitat for deer/elk and turkey

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Biggest cattle allotment on district with a lot of improvements (fences, water troughs)

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Most Pinyon/juniper, not much commercial

Mineral potential

- Green rock quarry is adjacent to NE edge

Cultural/historic interest

- Old Spanish Trail is the eastern boundary, interpretive signs are present
- Quilt Walk travel way between Panguitch and Parowan

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Trails are non-mechanized now

Livestock grazing

- Maintaining improvements (fence, water ponds) would be limited with no mechanical assistance
- Mechanically treating Pinyon/juniper stands (currently occurring with Bobcat tractor) would be lost

Fire

- Area is in a wildland fire use area

Insect and disease

- *Ips* occurrence in Pinyon pine is increasing. Although, this tree has no commercial lumber value.

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- North, east, south boundaries are roads, part of the west side is also a road.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 24 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 29 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[43]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[43] National Wilderness Preservation System

BEAR VALLEY PEAK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[44]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Bear Valley Peak	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	5,000
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Bear Valley Peak	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	11,385
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07023	District:	Cedar City
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407209		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The Bear Valley Peak Area is within the Cedar City Ranger District and located approximately 10 miles northwest of Panguitch, Utah. Access to the area is generally poor with low standard, dry weather roads. Forest Road 077 bounds the northwest edge and provides somewhat better access . There are no trails in the area.
The topography ranges from gently rolling to steep rocky slopes with elevations ranging from 7,200 – 9,600. Sandy Peak is the highest point and most dominant feature. Annual precipitation is about 16 inches, surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur and patches of mixed fir/aspen grow on some north slopes. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms. The ecosystem type is Douglas-Fir Forest. Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of vegetation have been chained and revegetated to increase livestock forage.
There are no unique or prominent attractions to the area. Scenic values are low due to dominance of PJ covered slopes and lack of surface water. The area is typically dry, Pinyon-juniper lanes common to the intermountain west. Contiguous Federal lands (BLM) to the north and east have not been identified as having wilderness potential.
Pinyon *Ips* activities identified in the 2003 survey.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Area is bounded on three sides by roads. The north end is an administraive boundar. There are two cherry-stemmed roads. There is some private land adjacent on north.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	This area has had some recent fires. PJ is present due to lack of fire and disturbance. Grazing on all sides.
Natural Appearance:	High	Area is well vegetated.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Area is little used.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Hunting, shed hunting, no system trails present
Special Features:	Yes	Limestone (?) canyons in southern portion

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Jeep road along southern edge is part of the Markagunt Trail system for ATVs

[44] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Area is a draw for hunting/shed hunting

Wildlife habitat

- High quality winter range for elk/deer, antelope, and turkey

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Two cattle allotments with fences, water pipelines, ponds, and troughs

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- Green rock quarries are present along edges (mostly north end)

Cultural/historic interest

- NW boundary is part of Old Spanish Trail
- Quilt Walk travel way is also along that boundary

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Access would be limited to mechanically treat forage opportunities, existing noxious weed infestations (muck and Canada thistle), fences, pipelines

Fire

- Area is wildland fire use

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access to the boundaries is sufficient
- Access from the east is the easiest compared to the other sides

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 28 air miles to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 35 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[45]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[45] National Wilderness Preservation System

Top of the Document

POWELL
RANGER DISTRICT

UNDEVELOPED AND UNROADED AREAS
EVALUATION FORMS

A description of minerals for Sections 1 (Description) and Section 3 (Availability) is forthcoming.

Next District

FISHHOOK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[46]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Fish Hook	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	8,900
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Fish Hook	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	11,441
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07029	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407301		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Powell Ranger District and is about 20 miles southeast of Panguitch, Utah. Access to the area is generally poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles. However, access to the contiguous Bryce Canyon National Park is good with a paved road. Forest Service Trail 066 is a non-motorized trail bisecting the area.

The area is extremely narrow and is divided by old logging roads, which are presently not passable.

The topography is generally steep and rocky and dissected by canyons and washes. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by ponderosa pine and Pinyon- juniper (PJ) trees, although areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover allows for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation, mostly hiking and big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light. Extensive areas of timber have been harvested on adjacent National Forest land to the southwest.

Scenic values are high due the proximity of the colorful Bryce Canyon cliffs as a background. The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument is located to the East. Adjacent BLM lands (i.e., GSENM) and Bryce Canyon National Park currently have wilderness potential.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	East side is bounded by Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument; West side is boundary with Bryce Canyon National Park, North by road, and south by private land and BLM agency boundary. Narrow, but adjacency to lands managed to enhance manageability. Depends on adjacent management.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Red rock, hoodoos, scattered pine. North end has high livestock grazing.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Looks like the monument. Old logging roads in the area.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Narrow area. Some parts are only .5 miles wide.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	High	Hiking and hunting, backpacking opportunities. Grand View Trail along southern edges of area

[46] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

		and Park. Under the Rim Trail in Bryce Canyon NP also comes into this area.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- All trails are designated non-motorized except the three short cherry stems. Problem with unauthorized use. Kane County would like the Grand View Trail as a motorized access. There is an "active" RS2477 claim on Lower Podunk Road. Park Service is open to non-motorized, non-mechanized, non-horse (strict restrictions – but it is possible) for access onto the Bryce Canyon National Park. Small parts of the Under the Rim Trail (Bryce) are located in this area.

Wildlife habitat

- Habitat is marginal quality in comparison with the areas on plateau to the west. Generally, not applicable

Water/air quality

- Special use permit exists for one pipeline adjacent to the area. Private land juts into the area on the North -- might have some small spring uses.

Livestock

- Most of the northern part has authorized livestock grazing.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Primarily, ponderosa pine forest opportunities and forest health maintenance opportunities.

Mineral potential

- Not applicable

Cultural/historic interest

- RS2477 historical routes on northeast boundary (Old Route to Tropic from Plateau). Old sawmill site in south portion on boundary.

Land use authorizations

- Ditch Bill easement in north.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- None

Livestock grazing

- Would be a problem to clean out a couple ponds. Currently using mechanized equipment to do so.

Fire

- Park is proposing some FMU – Forest is requesting a change for consistency. Forest to change this area to a "green"(i.e., let burn) burn area. Currently, "red" (i.e., Condition Class 3). Potential need to protect the private property in the north if there was a threat.

Insect and disease

- Southwest of area (Crawford, Cougar, Birch) existing insect populations could spread.

Private lands (adjacent)

- Private land on Northeast. There are WUI issues on the South (near Deer Springs).

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Only one unobstructed access route to the area.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 34 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 48 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[47]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[47] National Wilderness Preservation System

BIG HOLLOW
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[48]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Big Hollow	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	7,793
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407302		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is part of the Powell Ranger District 15 miles southeast of Panguitch. Access to the area is limited.
There is a non-motorized trail that bisects the area.
The area has flat ridges alternating with steep canyons that flow to the west. Topography is steep and rocky.
Extends from lower elevation forest boundary to the pink cliffs.
Vegetation ranges from sagebrush to PJ to mountain mahogany to spruce and aspen.
The area is used for recreation (hunting, hiking, and horseback riding) and livestock grazing.
Private land is located to the west. Some of this private land to the southwest is developed. Areas to the east are highly roaded because of past timber sale activities.
Scenic attractions are canyons and Sunset Cliffs (red rock/pink cliffs background).

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	East side is the rim, West side is administrative boundary. Area is narrow, steep and rocky.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Steep, rocky terrain. Limited human disturbance. Old logging, pipeline and ATV use.
Natural Appearance:	High	Combination of rock and ponderosa pine.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Can view valley and Hwy. 89 from much of the area.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	No known attraction. Hiking, horseback riding. Narrow area, day use opportunities.
Special Features: -	Yes	Rare endemic plants in Claron formation.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Not heavily used by people.

Wildlife habitat

- Good summer range for mule deer.

Water/air quality

- France Canyon water source is used for livestock watering through pipeline. There are also several springs in the mouths of each canyon. Proctor Canyon is used for livestock. Authorized guzzler to be constructed in the area. Old water developments at Camp Eli (not currently active).

[48] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Livestock

- Not applicable

Ecological systems

- Not applicable

Timber opportunities

- None active.

Mineral potential

- Not applicable

Cultural/historic interest

- Camp Eli – not sure of history.

Land use authorizations

- Not applicable

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Trails are maintained by chainsaws. If Grand View Trail were relocated, may need to use a trail cat for trail construction.

Livestock grazing

- No mechanized access needed to maintain.

Fire

- Part of Sunset Cliffs analysis area. WUI might develop at southern boundary. May soon create fuel breaks, etc.

Insect and disease

- Problems on plateau could migrate onto this area.

Private lands (adjacent)

- Private lands adjacent to boundary are being developed.

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Several different points of access. Future trailhead development may need to be constructed for Camp Eli loop. If Grand View Trail is relocated, the Forest Service may want to use a trail cat. May want to utilize Camp Eli as part of the Grand View Trail (drop it off the rim).

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 28 air miles from Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 38 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[49]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[49] National Wilderness Preservation System

RED CANYON SOUTH
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[50]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Red Canyon South	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	4,555
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Red Canyon South	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	5,597 (Acreage may shift north if powerline is moved south.)
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07025	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407304		

Proposal to move the power line would dictate a different boundary for this area.
Need to reflect the utility corridor changes in the Southeast portion of this area. Refer to the Management Area map.

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Powell Ranger District and is about 10 miles southeast of Panguitch, Utah. Access to the area varies from good to poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles, serving the south and east portions.

Thunder Mountain Trail is located in this area. It is heavily used by hikers, bikers, and horsemen. Outfitter and guides (horseback riding) utilize the Thunder Mountain Trail.

The pink and white limestone cliffs of the Claron Formation characterize the topography. Surface water is extremely sparse. The vegetation is very scattered and sparse. The dominant tree is ponderosa pine and Pinyon-juniper with lesser amounts of Douglas-fir, spruce, Bristlecone and limber pine are found in the area. Sparse ground cover allows for considerable soil erosion during storms.

The principle use on the area is dispersed recreation, mostly - viewing scenery. The annual recreation use is heavy due to the popularity of the Thunder Mountain Trail. Small amounts of logging have occurred. The scattered stands of commercial timber are limited and have precluded harvesting over most of the area. A permitted power line defines the north boundary. The southeast corner is designated as a utility corridor in the current forest plan.

Scenic values are high due to the colorful rock formations and highly dissected topography. Viewing the scenery is the principal attraction to the area. The area contains several threatened and endangered plant species. A designated botanical area exists for rare endemic plants.

Pinyon *Ips* was detected in 2003 bug flight.

Section 2. Capability :

Manageability -	Medium	Bounded by power line on north, Level 3 road on southeast, foothills on the east and south, and management activities on the northeast. No motorized trails or cherry-stem roads. Small area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Red rock and scattered ponderosa pine.

[50] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Natural Appearance:	High	Major draw – very scenic.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Small, narrow area, traffic on highway is high but can escape sights and sounds quickly on trails. Popularity and use of the area detracts from solitude.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Popular non-motorized trails. Hiking, scenery viewing, horseback riding (outfitter guides).
Special Features:	Yes	Red Canyon Botanical Area. Very scenic.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Thunder Mountain trail is a popular destination for biking, hiking, and horseback riding. It is not accessible to motorized vehicles.

Wildlife habitat

- Goshawk nests present- Elk are present.

Water/air quality

- Culinary water on lands near the southwest edge (not on Forest).

Livestock

- Some marginal livestock use in northeast portion.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Some ponderosa in northeast. Mostly non-suitable for timber production.

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- Designated utility corridor.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Chain saw use.

Livestock grazing

- None.

Fire

- "Red" area FMU currently. Currently protecting scenic values of corridor and the communications site. Active suppression is current policy. Would want to use aerial suppression to protect sites at Wilson Peak.

Insect and disease

- No significant levels to address

Private lands (adjacent)

- West and south, but no significant private land issues.

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Lots of access to the area exists.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 32 air mile to Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 41 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[51]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[51] National Wilderness Preservation System

RED CANYON NORTH
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[52]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Red Canyon North	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	9,100
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Red Canyon North	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	15,131
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07024	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407305		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Powell Ranger District and is about 5 miles east of Panguitch, Utah. Access to the area varies from good to poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles, serving the north and east portions. State Highway 12 provides all weather, year-round access to the south boundary.

There is a large network of non-motorized and motorized trails in this area that draw heavy use.

The topography is characterized by the pink and white limestone cliffs of the Claron Formation. Surface water is extremely sparse. The vegetation is very scattered and sparse. The dominant tree species are ponderosa pine and Pinyon-juniper with lesser amounts of Douglas-fir, spruce, Bristlecone pine. Sparse ground cover allows for considerable soil erosion during storms.

The principle uses on the area are livestock trailing, hiking, horseback riding, ATV use, and mountain biking. Some logging has occurred in the past and evidence of roads and stumps are obvious. Outfitters and guides utilize this area for ATV, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Scattered stands of commercial timber are limited, hence timber harvesting has not occurred recently.

Scenic values are high due to the colorful rock formations and highly dissected topography. Viewing the scenery is the principal attraction to the area. The BLM land, contiguous to the area, has not been identified as having wilderness potential. The area contains habitat for rare and endemic plants. A research natural area exists within the area.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	East side is bound mostly by the rim, and partly by a management activity (timber sale) that intrudes into the area. South is bounded by Hwy. 12. Agency boundary on the West. The North is bounded by road. Cherry-stem road on south; motorized trail in Casto Canyon bisects the area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Red rock and scattered ponderosa pine. Presence of human activities.
Natural Appearance:	High	Major draw – very scenic.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Small, narrow area, traffic on highway is high but can escape sights and sounds quickly on trails. Popularity and use of the area detracts from

[52] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

		solitude.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	A number of popular non-motorized trails. Hiking, scenery viewing, horseback riding.
Special Features: -	Yes	Red Canyon RNA (endemic plants). Paleontological features.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Many trails used for both motorized and non-motorized uses. Use into area by motorized off the ends of each of the cherry stem roads. Outfitter and Guides use these trails for horse/bike/ATV activities.

Wildlife habitat

- Nothing significant.

Water/air quality

- None.

Livestock

- Stock driveway bisects the area. Grazing permits are active and in use. Stock driveway is also an ATV trail.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Limited. Not significant.

Mineral potential

- None.

Cultural/historic interest

- Might be some significance with Butch Cassidy, but nothing definite. Several historic sites are located in the area.

Land use authorizations

- Outfitters and guides use this area.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Motorized trail designated for use in Casto Canyon.

Livestock grazing

- No infrastructure.

Fire

- Have used ATVs and helicopters for suppression.

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Multiple access into the area.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 40 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 43 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[53]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[53] National Wilderness Preservation System

BLIND SPRINGS
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	Blind Springs	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	9,915
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407306		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is located about 5 miles northeast of Panguitch. Access to the area on the north, south, and east sides is the Fremont ATV Trail. Access from the west is by poor quality two-track roads. These are best used only in dry seasons.

This area is a transition from the Claron Formation to a more volcanic geology. Area is full of rough terrain. The area is steep with a few flat areas around the boundaries on the west and north.

Vegetation is primarily PJ mixed with sage and mixed conifer/aspen (only on northeast).

Area is primarily used for grazing and hunting.

The BLM lands to the west are not identified to have wilderness potential.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	North, east and south sides bounded by Level 2 roads. West side is bounded by agency boundary with BLM. One short cherry-stem road. (A lot of motorized access – mostly along the west boundary)
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Vegetation transitions from sagebrush, PJ, ponderosa pine to spruce-fir; rock also. Grazing activities. Stock pond with road to it.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Evidence of man (stock pond, road, grazing) in NE corner of area.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	View to Panguitch, narrow area.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Few primitive opportunities, low challenge due to size, and access.
Special Features: -		Possibility for rare endemic plants. Potential for paleontological interest.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Low use area.

Wildlife habitat

- Winter range for big game. Managing through prescribed fire to keep this area vibrant. This is one of the few spots that big game winter on the west side. (Most winter range is on east side of mountain.)

Water/air quality

- More water than other areas. No municipal interests.

Livestock

- Some fencing and ponds on east side and north side. Mechanical maintenance is used to keep ponds.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Timber on northeast corner. Maybe 20% of this area was impacted by 2002 Sanford fire.

Mineral potential

- None.

Cultural/historic interest

- Old sawmill.

Land use authorizations

- Not applicable

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Fremont ATV trail is maintained on the boundary.

Livestock grazing

- Some springs, ponds, fencing. Mostly located on northeast.

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- Some *Ips* beetle in PJ on lower lands.

Private lands (adjacent)

- Some private land adjacent on the west. Mostly included in BLM lands (no in-holdings).

Effects on transportation

- Fremont Trail from east, north, and south sides. Many other access points from BLM on west side.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 39 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 44 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[54]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[54] National Wilderness Preservation System

HORSE VALLEY
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[55]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Horse Valley	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	13,420
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Horse Valley	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	14,588
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07026	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407307		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Powell Ranger District and is about 10 miles northeast of Panguitch, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable only for high clearance vehicles

The topography ranges from gentle-foothill lands to steep rocky hillsides. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees, although extensive areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. There is some ATV use on the east side boundary. The southwest portion has been developed through range revegetation and road construction.

Smith Canyon is a scenic drive along the border of this area. The area is typical of dry, Pinyon-juniper mountain slopes common to the intermountain west. The contiguous BLM land has not been identified as having wilderness potential. *(Check with Richfield BLM on this one.)*

Fairly good-sized *Ips* pocket identified in 2003 bug flight.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	North and West is agency boundary, adjacent to BLM - being evaluated for Wilderness. Motorized trail bisects area into north-south areas. Cherry-stem road from west side. Bounded on east by Mtc. Level 2 road and motorized trail.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	PJ – fire lacking, so likely overstocked.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Dry rugged terrain.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Sights and sounds of Hwy. 89 and Circleville.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Hunting up top mostly. Steep in some areas.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Fremont ATV trail on boundary. District is proposing a designated ATV route through the middle.

Wildlife habitat

- This area is critical and high quality big game winter range.

[55] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- Pipeline goes into a pond on northeast corner.

Livestock

- Pipelines, ponds for livestock. Guzzlers for wildlife.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- None

Mineral potential

- None

Cultural/historic interest

- Archeological sites on south boundary area.

Land use authorizations

- Not applicable

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Want to maintain designated ATV trail in middle of area with a trail cat.

Livestock grazing

- For cleaning ponds, would like to use mechanized equipment.

Fire

- A large portion of this area has been treated with prescribed fire – would like to continue doing so in the future.

Insect and disease

- Current insect activity is not a concern presently

Private lands (adjacent)

- Some trespass from private lands, but no structures.

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Access on north and northwest corners is limited, but other areas have access.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 40 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 48 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[56]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[56] National Wilderness Preservation System

CASTO BLUFF
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[57]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Casto Bluff	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	93,440
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Casto Bluff	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	86,406
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07028	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407308		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Powell Ranger District and is about 10 miles northeast of Panguitch, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles . There are many non-motorized trails in the south portion of this area. North portion is bisected by a motorized trail. Outfitters and guides use this area for hunting and horseback trips.

The topography varies from gentle plateau lands to steep rocky canyons and slopes. Surface water is sparse, but the larger canyons have intermittent and/or perennial streams. The vegetation in the high elevations is predominantly spruce, fir, and aspen trees, with Pinyon-juniper (PJ) trees and sagebrush in the lower elevations. Vegetation is regenerating from the 2002 Sanford Fire.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly big game hunting and associated camping. The annual recreation use is light except during hunting season. The low quality and scattered nature of the timber has discouraged timber harvest in the past.

Portions of the area have high scenic values. The contiguous BLM land along the north end has been identified as having wilderness potential.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	A number of cherry-stemmed roads, and motorized trails bisect the area. Motorized use occurring on non-motorized trails.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Sanford Fire in this area; regenerating aspen, ground cover. Large area with mixed conditions for integrity.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Fire, large area with mixed conditions.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Narrow, motorized uses, but also has rugged terrain.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Southern portion has trails, but not likely used for primitive recreation. Hiking, hunting, horseback riding.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Popular area associated with dispersed camping, hunting, and shed hunting.

[57] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Wildlife habitat

- Excellent wildlife habitat. Landscape wide improvements to habitat are resulting from impacts of Sanford fire.

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Cattle and sheep are authorized with associated infrastructure.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Limited opportunities.

Mineral potential

- None

Cultural/historic interest

- None

Land use authorizations

- Some outfitter and guides use this area for hunting.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Trail maintenance in this area is planned for the future. Concern to maintain without chainsaws because of size and miles of trail. Aspen regeneration presents challenge.

Livestock grazing

- Pond maintenance.

Fire

- Limits wildfire suppression opportunities

Insect and disease

- Spruce beetle has affected this area heavily.

Private lands (adjacent)

- BLM/Private/State along northwest boundaries. Some other private along western boundaries.

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Access is available by trails.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 36 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 49 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[58]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[58] National Wilderness Preservation System

DEEP CREEK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[59]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Deep Creek	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	44,285
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Deep Creek	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	41,983
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07027	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407309		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Powell Ranger District and is about 15 miles northeast of Panguitch. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry-weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles. Area is bisected by a non-motorized trail system.

Topography is rough and steep with rock outcrops. Surface water is sparse, but the larger canyons run intermittent streams. The vegetation is predominantly spruce, fir, and aspen trees in the higher elevations with Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush in the lower elevations.

The principal uses are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation (mostly big game hunting). The annual recreation use is light except during hunting season.

Mount Dutton borders the west boundary. Scenic values are high. People drive roads along the boundary for the fall colors.

Sanford Fire burned through this area in 2002.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Bounded on S by Cottonwood Creek Road, on E by agency boundary with BLM, on N by Willow Spring Creek Road, W by management activities and Level 2 road (Cottonwood Loop Road). Cherry-stem road (Deep Creek & Pine Creek). More access from East after the burn. Difficult to contain this access.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	A number of fires, (including Sanford) prompting regeneration of aspen and ground cover in many areas. Streams taking longer to recover from fire combined with high flow events. Unauthorized ATV use.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Fire impacts (dead, black trees), aspen regeneration, and evidence of high flows in streams.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Few trails, far from sights and sounds of humans.
Opportunities for Primitive	High	Non-motorized trails.

[59] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Recreation/Challenging Experiences:		
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- People come here to hike/horseback to unique areas. Most heavily used for hunting. People like this area because of its solitude for hunting.

Wildlife habitat

- 80% burned by Sanford fire. Sage grouse lek and Bonneville cutthroat habitat in this area. Lots of sediment coming down streams.

Water/air quality

- No diversions on Forest. No culinary sources.

Livestock

- Cattle and sheep are authorized to graze. Ponds have been developed near the east boundary.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- None

Mineral potential

- None

Cultural/historic interest

- Old Administrative site on south border. Petroglyphs and lithic scatters throughout area. Box canyon on south end is geologically unique.

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Need aggressive trail maintenance. Have a backlog of 2-3 years of maintenance. Without this maintenance, this area is less accessible.

Livestock grazing

- Ponds, fencing (on north end).

Fire

- Recent large wildfire, likely not many fire management opportunities in the near future

Insect and disease

- *Ips* beetle in the P/J.

Private lands (adjacent)

- BLM and State lands on East side. Sediment is impacting state and private lands downstream.

Private land (inholding)

- Not applicable

Effects on transportation

- Many access points are available.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 31 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.

Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 56 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[60]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[60] National Wilderness Preservation System

LOWER HOODLE
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[61]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Lower Hoodle	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Lower Hoodle	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	10,253
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Powell
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407310		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is located on the Powell Ranger District, 22 miles northeast of Panguitch. Access from the east is limited, but available with several access points along the north, west, and south boundaries.

Open ridges are common, transitioning into canyons to the east. Pole Canyon bisect the area into two halves. Flat ridges along the western edge offer easy access to the area's interior.

Aspen exists in the western portion, with open sage in the middle, and Pinyon-juniper to the east.

Current uses include livestock grazing, hunting, ATV use and dispersed camping.

BLM land to the east has been determined suitable for wilderness.

Antimony has a municipal water source out of Pole Canyon.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Very difficult to limit ATV access from West. Many cherry stem roads into the area on the west side. Eastern boundary is not easily identified.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Functioning properly, but lots of motorized access, culinary water source for Antimony is in this area.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Prevalent intrusions by motorized noise. Encounters with humans are regular and likely.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Some opportunities exist for dispersed camping.
Special Features:	None	Historically sage grouse habitat.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Unauthorized ATV use occurring in this area. Many of the closed roads are still being used. Primary value for the area is hunting and ATV riding on the open ridges.

Wildlife habitat

- Historic sage grouse habitat. Critical winter range for big game.

Water/air quality

[61] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Antimony's municipal water source comes out of Pole Canyon.

Livestock

- Sheep and cattle grazing with associated improvements.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

-

Cultural/historic interest

- None.

Land use authorizations

- Not applicable

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Not much concern.

Livestock grazing

- Mechanized equipment needed to maintain improvements.

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- None.

Private lands (adjacent)

- Mostly BLM and some State. Undeveloped (no in-holdings).

Effects on transportation

- Limited access.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Next to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	About 83 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[62]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

Top of the Document

[62] National Wilderness Preservation System

Top of the Document

ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT

UNDEVELOPED AND UNROADED AREAS EVALUATION FORMS

A description of minerals for Sections 1 (Description) and Section 3 (Availability) is forthcoming.

Next District

CANAAN MOUNTAIN
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[63]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Little Creek	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	5,851
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407401		

Section 1. Description of the Area

This area is south of Highway 12 about 15 miles west of Escalante. High clearance, rough roads access the area. Best access can be obtained in dry weather.

Elevations in the area range from about 8,000 to 9,500 feet. Geology is typical for the area with some red and pink cliffs.

Area includes Canaan Mountain loop trail that is lightly used, but considered very scenic. Hunters use the area for bear and deer hunting.

There is a mix of vegetation including oak, spruce/fir, and ponderosa pine in the area. There are some goshawk nests in the area.

Area borders some private land and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to the south.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Surrounded by Grand Staircase Escalante NM. Adjacent to road and management activities on the east. Irregular shape doesn't follow any pattern or topography.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	PJ, mixed conifer.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Some evidence of human activities. Area has been active timber management in the past – although on borders of the area this impacts the character of the undeveloped area.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Rough country. Probably can't see Hwy. 12 many places. Views are of Powell Point primarily.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Hunting.
Special Features: -		None identified.

[63] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Canaan Loop Trail is a nice trail.

Wildlife habitat

- NA

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- One of the primary value for this area.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Some commercial stands mixed conifer/ponderosa pine

Mineral potential

- NE side is adjacent to oil fields.

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Canaan loop trail is currently maintained with chainsaws. Looking at proposal to reroute this trail to fix some grade issues.

Livestock grazing

- 2 allotments with improvements. There are physical water lines and ponds in this area.

Fire

- Wildland Urban Interface on south end near private lands.

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 16 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 68 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[64]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[64] National Wilderness Preservation System

HENDERSON CANYON
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[65]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Henderson Canyon	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	19,620
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Table Cliffs - Henderson Canyon	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	19,614
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07030	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407402		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Escalante Ranger District and is about 20 miles west of Escalante, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for pickup travel only. The Burro Canyon Trail, Henderson Canyon Trail, and the Under the Point Trail are present in the area.

This area lies just north and east of Bryce Canyon National Park. The Table Cliff Plateau is approximately 10,000 feet in elevation and is nearly flat on top. Because of its elevation and topography, it supports a mixed stand of spruce, subalpine fir, aspen, and bristlecone pine. Some of the bristlecone pine is estimated to be 3,000 years old. The south tip, known as Powell Point, provides an excellent view of the Southern Utah Desert, along with prominent land features. Most noticeable of the land features are Bryce Canyon National Park, Navajo Mountain - just east of Lake Powell, and Henry Mountains. On either side of the plateau are nearly vertical cliffs that drop approximately 2,000 feet.

The cliff faces are colored with shades of pink, red, white, and purple.

Ponderosa pine is the dominant tree in the upper end of Henderson Canyon. It also contains some spruce and Douglas-fir. At the lower elevations near the Forest boundary, the dominant trees are Pinyon pine and juniper.

The area to the west of the Table Cliff Plateau forms part of the headwaters of the Paria River that drains into the Colorado River. This area has been carved by erosion leaving flat mesas from 2 to 10 acres in size, and long flat ridges divided by steep, rough canyons with nearly vertical rock walls. These rough canyons are covered with sagebrush, grass, Pinyon, and juniper.

In the early 1900s, a small sawmill was set up in Henderson Canyon and a part of the pine stands were logged. An electronic site and power line corridor are located in the west portion of the area.

The area is contiguous to the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM – The Blues WSA.

2003 bug flight shows subalpine fir complex of insects.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	High	Adjacent to GSENM. Rim provides good boundary. BLM WSA (The Blues) is adjacent. Access is very limited, especially below the rim.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Some PJ, ponderosa pine, mostly rock.

[65] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Natural Appearance:	High	Cliffs of pink, red, white, and purple. Excellent and unique views.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Limited access, rim keeps folks out, not many trails. Small distance with prohibited ATV use (to Powell Point).
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Scenic viewing, hiking. Great Western Trail. Burro Canyon Trail, Henderson Canyon Trail, and the Under the Point Trail all provide good views.
Special Features: -	Yes	Powell Point, Table Cliff RNA, Mexican spotted owl PAC. There are some arches in the area. There are significant views of the Monument lands and beyond.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Recreation use is light and is associated with deer hunting and site-seeing from Powell Point. There are also three hiking trails.
- Trails currently being used by mountain bikes (Under the Point).
- Garfield County would like an ATV trail from Panguitch to Tropic and this area would likely be needed to accomplish this goal.

Wildlife habitat

- The wildlife in the area-consists of deer, birds, and small fur-bearing animals.
- The area has designated, critical Mexican Spotted Owl habitat.

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Three allotments are in the area. There are some range improvements (waterlines, fences) that would be hard to maintain without mechanical means.
- Cattle trailing from Tropic up Burro Canyon to Cameron Wash are an important historic activity.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Stands of commercial mixed conifer and spruce/fir occur in the northern part of the area. These stands are some of the most productive on the District. Don't want to lose the harvest tool in this area.

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Powell Point is a place of historical interest. Might lose an interpretive opportunity.

Land use authorizations

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Currently using chain saws to maintain trails.
- Trails could be managed without mechanical tools. Dynamite would be a good thing to use. Road to Powell Point Trail would be a loss.

Livestock grazing

- Mechanical means to maintain improvements would be lost. Maintenance would be lost without these tools.

Fire

- Would lose the use of mechanized tools, and aerial support for prescribed fires and retardant drops. Could use wider buffers.

Insect and disease

- Outbreaks of spruce bark beetle exist and are increasing

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available primarily on the north side through existing roads.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 26 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 59 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[66]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[66] National Wilderness Preservation System

HEAPS CANYON
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[67]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Heaps Canyon	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	6,693
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407403		

Section 1. Description of the Area

This area is located north of Highway 12 about 10 miles west of Escalante. Area can be accessed by a gravel road from the north.

Elevation ranges from about 6,500 to about 8,000 feet. Area is full of broken canyons and is pretty rugged country. There are some old mines that are closed in the area.

There is not a lot of recreation activity in the area.

There is a mix of vegetation including Pinyon and juniper, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir.

There is private land on the south and BLM land to the east.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	East boundary is adjacent to BLM. South is bounded by classified road, West is bounded by activities and road. Level I (closed) cherry-stem road.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Rock, PJ, ponderosa pine transition areas. Lack of disturbance (fire).
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Old mine and small timber sale. Road network on south end for oil drilling detracts from natural appearance.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Roads and activities visible, not far from roads.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Rugged country for hiking.
Special Features: -		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- NA

[67] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Wildlife habitat

- Winter range.

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- NA

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- Used to be coal/oil and gas. No recent development.

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- There are some minor range improvements – fenceline and troughs.

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 10 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 70 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[68]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[68] National Wilderness Preservation System

BIRCH CREEK
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[69]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Birch Creek	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	5,956
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407404		

Section 1. Description of the Area

Area is about 15 miles west of Escalante. There is limited access into the area because of the topography.

Elevation ranges from about 7,500 feet to 10,500 feet. Area is the uplift to the Barney Top and very steep rugged country.

Area to used by hunters and some hiking, but there is no significant recreational activities going on.

There is a wide mix of vegetation. Spruce/fir and aspen is found in the high country. In the low country, there is Pinyon, juniper and ponderosa pine.

There is a small strip of private land inholding on the east.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium Low	Boundary close to the rim on W. Bound by maintenance level 3 roads, and activities to east (not as definable as other sides). Really irregular, indiscriminate shape.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Rock, PJ and ponderosa pine.
Natural Appearance:	High	Scattered trees, rock. Timber sale is proposed for area.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	View into it from the west.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Not much to draw you to the area.
Special Features: -		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- NA

Wildlife habitat

- Good big game habitat

[69] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- NA

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- There are some commercial timber stands on east end. A proposed sale exists in pine belt in this area.

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 10 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 66 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[70]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[70] National Wilderness Preservation System

PACER LAKE
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[71]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Pacer Lake	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	16,085
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407405		

Section 1. Description of the Area

This area is located about 7 miles southeast of Antimony. Access to area is by ATV trails and high-clearance dry weather roads. Area is heavily roaded.

Elevation ranges from about 8,500 feet to 10,000 feet. West side includes some of the Escalante Mountains on east drops of Escalante Mountains on west.

Area is a motorized dispersed recreation area: principle uses are ATV trails, hunting, fishing, cattle grazing, and commercial timber harvest. Area includes proposed "Pockets" timber sale and the Grass Lake (mostly old road) and Pacer ATV trails. Otter Lake and Pacer Lake and associated motorized trails are attractions to the area.

Ranch Creek contains Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Area is dominated by spruce/fir.

Area is surrounded by national forest lands.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Roads and activities bound the area. Long and extremely narrow on the north with motorized trail bisecting it at narrowest point. Use on timber sale roads that were not closed. Southern half bisected by motorized trail.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Prime timber harvest areas in past (or adjacent to it). Carved by old roads and motorized trails.
Natural Appearance:	Low	Trails and past uses evident.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Narrow, motorized trails, flat.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Impacted by motorized trails, snowmobile use in winter.
Special Features:	Yes	Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- ATV and semi-primitive motorized recreation.

[71] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Wildlife habitat

- NA

Water/air quality

- Culinary and agricultural water diversions.

Livestock

- NA

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Commercial timber stands in the area. Current "Pockets" timber sale is in the area.

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- Pacer Lake is under permit.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Use of mechanized to maintain trail.

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- Mechanical treatments would be desirable for fire and bugs.

Insect and disease

- Hot pockets of spruce bark beetle.

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 12 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 67 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[72]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[72] National Wilderness Preservation System

ANTIMONY
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[73]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Antimony	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	21,211
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407406		

Section 1. Description of the Area

This area is located several miles out of Antimony. There are many roads accessing the area; however, most are not maintained for passenger car use.

Elevation ranges from about 8,500 feet to 10,000 feet. This is a volcanic area.

There are two major ATV trails traversing the area (Poison Creek ATV Trail and Antimony ATV Trail). It is a popular dispersed camping area for hunters, fishers, and ATV enthusiasts.

There are numerous mining claims (patented and unpatented).

Antimony Creek (Antimony Lake) is a significant fishery for the area. The area contains the municipal watershed for Antimony town.

There is a Utah prairie dog colony in the area. It is also an elk calving area.

There is a mix of vegetation including some scattered stands of commercial timber.

BLM and State lands border the area to the west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Two motorized trails in southern half. Patented mining claim in the middle. Water source for Antimony. Forest boundary on the west.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low	Grazing, dispersed camping, motorized use.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Edges influence by human activities. Area is a mixed bag of impacts.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Low	Areas accessible are used fairly heavily.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Area's attraction is mining area for dispersed camping.
Special Features: -	Yes	Utah prairie dog, sage grouse, plus some rare plant habitat. Antimony Lake is a special feature as well.

[73] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Two important and popular ATV trails. There are also multiple dispersed camping opportunities associated with ATVs, hunting, and fishing.
- Antimony Creek is a class II B fishing stream (only one in Southern Utah).

Wildlife habitat

- Currently treating vegetation mechanically for wildlife (fisheries, sage grouse).
- There is a lot of potential for more improvement for sage grouse and prairie dogs.

Water/air quality

- Antimony's municipal water source.
- Antimony Creek is not impounded or diverted on the Forest.

Livestock

- Allotments have water lines, troughs, fence lines and other range improvements that are currently using mechanical maintenance

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Mechanical treatment has been used in the area in the past.
- Areas have a large need for restoration.

Mineral potential

- Existing mining claims currently have motorized access.
- Need to maintain access to existing claims.

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- Irrigation company access to Antimony municipal water source.
- Polliwog Dam
- Water gauging station.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Currently being maintained with mechanical tools. It would very difficult to maintain the ATV trails without these tools.

Wildlife

- Guzzlers in the area would be difficult to manage without mechanical assistance.

Livestock grazing

- Very difficult to maintain range improvements without mechanical tools (water lines, troughs, fence lines)

Fire

- Need larger buffers to control fires.
- Would lose mechanical and prescribed burning opportunities.

Insect and disease

- Some pockets of spruce bark beetle on the edges.

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- Mineral claims have existing motorized access.

Effects on transportation

- Adequate access to the area.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 21 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 71 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[74]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[74] National Wilderness Preservation System

DRY LAKE
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[75]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Dry Lake	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	5,963
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407407		

Section 1. Description of the Area

This area is located about 7 miles southeast of Antimony. Area can be accessed by gravel/dirt road and is bordered by Poison Creek ATV trail.
Elevation ranges from about 9,500 feet to 10,000 feet. Terrain is located on Aquarius Plateau and is flat except the Antimony Creek drainage.
There are two major ATV trails bordering the area (Poison Creek ATV Trail and Antimony ATV Trail). There is a lot of associated ATV motorized use in the area. Antimony Creek is an excellent fishing stream. Dispersed camping, fishing, and hunting are popular activities.
There is a mix of vegetation including spruce/fir and aspen along with open meadows. Proposed "Pockets" timber sale extends into this area. 2003 bug flight shows subalpine fir complex of insects.
Surrounded by national forest lands.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Low	Bounded by roads and activities. Dry Lakes in the middle is popular and accessed by maintenance level 2 road. Timber activity in and around this area (spruce). Motorized trail northwest travels through west half.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Cattle grazing and the suppression of fire have limited the proper function of this area.Functioning better than described.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	ATV trails border area and so encroachment from these uses is coming into this area. Old homestead ruins.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Motorized uses, small area. ATV tracks everywhere, but little used.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Close proximity of road, motorized trail, and access into Dry Lake, unclassified road. Terrain not challenging.
Special Features: -	Yes	Utah prairie dog, sage grouse habitat. Plus some sensitive plant habitat. Antimony Creek is a potential significant feature.

[75] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Antimony Creek on upper edge

Wildlife habitat

- Nice aspen clones for wildlife

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- Lots of grazing.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Opportunities for commercial spruce and aspen harvest. Would miss out on this opportunity. Would like to manage the aspen. Proposed "Pockets" timber sale is located in this area.

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Old homestead and cabins.

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- Substantial portion of aspen is in need of treatment.

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 12 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 72 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[76]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[76] National Wilderness Preservation System

JAKE HOLLOW
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[77]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Jake Hollow	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	3,200 (Dropped from 1983 review)
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Jake Hollow	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	30,829
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07031	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407408		

Section 1. Description of the Area

This area is approximately ten miles northwest of Escalante. Forest Service Road 149 bounds the area on the east, Forest Highway 17 on the west and Forest Service Road 151 on the north. Each of these roads provides access. In addition, Forest Service Road 1450 provides access to Marts Pasture, which lies at the heart of this area. Elevations in the area range from approximately 6,800 feet to 8,200 feet. The topography is broken and rocky with numerous small canyons, buttes, and washes scattered through the area. The vegetation is primarily Pinyon/juniper at the lower elevations with some areas of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer to the north. In 2003, an aerial survey detected insect infestations in some of the mixed conifer stands.

There is one grazing allotment that covers this area—the North Creek Allotment—but much of the area is not "suitable" for grazing. In the portions of the area where grazing occurs, there has been some water development including ponds and waterlines.

No Forest Service system trails exist in the area. The primary recreation activity is hunting.

North Creek Reservoir, which is owned by the Escalante Irrigation Company, is located on the northeast boundary of this area.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Narrow, activities on boundaries. Northern boundary is rim of Aquarius Plateau.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Low.	A lot of area is rock, especially along rim. Spruce-fir aspen to PJ transitions. PJ is really thick. There is little species diversity.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Rugged, well vegetated. Elevation transition evident. Some timber sale activity.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Narrow, no trails, management activities access on boundaries.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Nothing to draw someone to the area.
Special Features: -		None identified

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Hunting, but not a lot of value.

[77] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Some dispersed camping along roads

Wildlife habitat

- Winter range – but not high quality

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- One allotment in the area. Waterline and pond are in the area
- Mort's pasture area is used. .

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- Used to be explored for oil and coal, but nothing current.

Cultural/historic interest

- Fremont House
- Pictographs.

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Currently using mechanical means to maintain improvements (ponds and pipeline).

Fire

- Would likely use mechanical techniques for prescribed fire opportunities
- WUI issues along area's perimeter

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- North Creek Reservoir is adjacent to the area.

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is available along south and eastern edges. North and west edges abut against the rim.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 4 air miles from Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 70 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[78]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[78] National Wilderness Preservation System

SKULL SPRINGS
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[79]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Hog Ranch	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	12,800
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Hog Ranch	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	5,731
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07032	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407409		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Escalante Ranger District and is about 10 miles northwest of Escalante, Utah. Access to the area is fair with surfaced all weather roads, but suitable for pickup travel only. Forest trails 097, 102 and 327 bisect the area.

The topography is generally step and rocky, with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Annual precipitation is about 16 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. The area is vegetated predominantly by ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, aspen, Pinyon, and juniper.

Principle uses on the area are timber harvesting, livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light.

While the unit is scenic, with its timbered slopes, it is not uniquely scenic. There are no particular attractions to the unit.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Boundary is almost entirely by management activities, but no motorized trails and much of area is rocky, rough, and steep. BLM on south.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Fire exclusion and grazing limit integrity.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Vegetation is common and monotonous.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Canyons and south end provide solitude. Road not traveled a lot, no other influences. Rugged terrain.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Few trails/access. High challenge, but not much other opportunity.
Special Features:		None identified. .

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- NA

Wildlife habitat

- NA

[79] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Water/air quality

- Escalante water system pipeline bisects the area

Livestock

- Grazing allotment in this area.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Small possibilities on north end in ponderosa.

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- NA

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Range improvements

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- Pinyon Ips might need treatment.

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	About 77 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[80]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[80] National Wilderness Preservation System

BOX-DEATH HOLLOW
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[81]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Box-Death Hollow	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	31,600
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	New Home Bench	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	32,998 (26,000 is Wilderness)
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07033	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407410		

Section 1. - Description of the Area

The area is on the Escalante Ranger District and is about 5 miles north of Escalante, Utah. Access to the area is good during the summer, but limited to the lower portions in other times of the year. . There are few trails in the area. Within the area are two distinct topographic areas - The Box and Death Hollow.

The Box portion contains approximately 10,000 acres. It is bounded on the west by Hells Backbone loop road and Death Hollow on the east. Elevations range from 6,000 feet at the mouth of the Box to over 8,500 feet on the upper benches. The Box is approximately seven miles long. Vertical sandstone ledges tower above the Box for over 1,500 feet in many places. Once the Box is entered, the only way out is at the ends, or through Deep Creek.

Soils are derived from the sandstone formation in most areas. Soils are very sandy and poorly developed. Igneous boulders can be found scattered over the upper one-half of the slopes.

Scattered ponderosa pine stands extend for the full 7-mile length. Douglas-fir is also found in the upper section. Near the south end the benches are primarily covered with Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush

The Box was used as a stock driveway since the first livestock were brought into the Escalante area until 1974. At the present time, the area is again becoming established with grasses and other palatable plants. In many places along the bottom there was barely enough room for cattle to walk single file.

The Death Hollow portion of the area is approximately 8 miles long and ranges in width up to 6 miles. It contains approximately 21,600 acres. Elevations range from 6,500 feet -in the canyon bottom to 9,200 feet at the Hells Backbone Bridge. Death Hollow is a rugged canyon lying at the base of the Aquarius Plateau. The west and north walls and a portion of the east wall are very steep. Vertical displacement from the benches to the canyon bottom exceeds 1,500 feet in many places.

Ponderosa pine is scattered the entire length of Death Hollow where adequate soil has accumulated. Sparse growing manzanita and grass are found on the floor of the upper portion.

The floor of Death Hollow is highly dissected by a network of drainage channels. There is no live water in the canyon within the National Forest. There is one road on the north end of the area approximately 1 1/2 miles in length.

The contiguous BLM land, known as the Phipps-Death Hollow Wilderness Study Area, has been identified as having wilderness potential.

[81] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

There are many attractions to the unit. Scenic values are high due to the colorful rock formations and canyons. The area's remoteness, ruggedness, and its close proximity to the Escalante Canyons Recreation Area contribute to its attraction.

Section 2. Capability

Ratings for this area refer to areas within the undeveloped and unroaded area that are not currently part of the existing wilderness.

The diversity of opportunities and experiences available in this undeveloped area make this a difficult area to evaluate comprehensively. (It should be noted that many of the wilderness characteristics found in the existing Box-Death Hollow Wilderness can be found in the undeveloped areas adjacent to that wilderness to varying degrees. Since the area provides a variety of opportunities and experiences it is difficult to make comprehensive ratings for each of the wilderness criteria. For instance, there are likely areas that deserve a "high" rating for manageability and areas that deserve a very "low" rating.)

Furthermore, for this and the other existing wilderness areas on the Dixie, we are addressing the question of whether we should "add" to an existing wilderness and not talking about the "creation" of a new wilderness.

For these reasons, we have decided to break this area down into smaller chunks. We will evaluate these chunks for their wilderness character just as we have done with other undeveloped areas in the inventory.

Salt Gulch Area: Area is on east side of existing wilderness west of Hells Backbone Road. There are some inholdings adjacent to this area.
Sand Creek RNA Area: Located in finger on north side of existing wilderness.
Antone Bench Area: Finger on north side splitting western half of existing wilderness. High table above canyons of wilderness. Splits Death Hollow and Box Hollow drainages. Contains Carbon Dioxide leases.
West Area: Two small fingers protruding from existing wilderness.

Manageability		*Salt Gulch:* Low – private land, access is abundant, powerline corridor, narrow, cherry stems, borders WSA on south. *Sand Creek:* High – surrounded by wilderness, not roads extend into this area. *Antone:* High – no roads into the area, boundary is identifiable because it is a very narrow neck. *West:* Medium – there are some cherry stems into this area, topographical features could be used to created manageable area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):		*Salt Gulch:* Medium – fire suppression, largely Pinyon and juniper country. *Sand Creek:* High – contains RNA. *Antone:* High – functioning ecosystem. *West:* Medium – Pinyon and juniper is a bit out whack.
Natural Appearance:		*Salt Gulch:* Medium – road and private lands detract from appearance in this area, however, there are many places that appear very natural when you get off Hell's Backbone road.

		Sand Creek: High – remote and pristine. *Antone:* High – nothing to detract. *West:* High – rock and trees.
Opportunities for Solitude:		*Salt Gulch:* Medium – there are places to find solitude in canyons, but not along road and near private development. *Sand Creek:* High – remote and surrounded by wilderness. *Antone:* High – remote and surrounded by wilderness. *West:* Medium – once you get away from roads the opportunities improve.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:		*Salt Gulch:* Medium – Southern end of Salt Gulch area there is dispersed camping. Car camping along Hell's Backbone Road. Coleman Trail access the wilderness. *Sand Creek:* Medium – there are many challenging opportunities, but little recreation use in this area. RNA could be a possible attraction. *Antone:* Medium – there are many challenging opportunities, but little recreation use in this area. *West:* Medium – some dispersed camping, but not a real popular area for primitive experiences.
Special Features: -	Yes	Mexican Spotted Owl habitat (and sensitive plants). Lower Sand Creek Research Natural Area

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- The principal use is dispersed recreation (mostly hiking).
- Dispersed camping along the Salt Gulch Road is popular (especially after the Monument designation).

Wildlife habitat

- Salt Gulch area has been mechanically treated for wildlife habitat. Would be beneficial to do prescribed burning.

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- The Box is part of the Pine Creek allotment, but is generally not grazed. It is not a well-used livestock area.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- There has been timber harvest in the more accessible areas.
- Opportunities are limited here already.
- Loss of mechanical tools would make this value difficult to manage for.

Mineral potential

- There are a few gas (CO_2) leases on Antone Bench. Existing oil and gas that are in suspension.

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- ***Lake Creek Irrigation Ditch is a permitted use and it is not showing up on our map. ROW permit to old gas lease.***

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- One trail: Not a problem under current management, unless a chain saw was needed to maintain.

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- WUI problems possible at south end.
- Prescribed fire problems exist since the existing wilderness boundaries are a bit close to the road. It would be better utilize slope breaks.
- Prescribed fire would be likely difficult to manage within the Wilderness

Insect and disease

- No problems.

Private lands (adjacent)

- Yes, Salt Gulch area. Mixed ownership and intrusion of property boundaries are a problem here.

Private land (inholding)

- Roundy Ranch is an inholding in the existing wilderness.

Effects on transportation

- Adequate access exists. Boundaries so close to the road are problematic for manageability.
- The only access to the Death Hollow drainage is from the Hells Backbone Loop Road, which crosses the head of the drainage.

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Ranger District Input: There are boundary issues with the existing wilderness that would make more sense if adjustments were made. These adjustments would be very minor: western boundary (located 300 feet from existing road) could be moved to a topographical feature and there is a popular trailhead located very near the existing wilderness boundary. If additions to this wilderness were considered, it might make sense to reconsider these minor boundary adjustments.

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 83 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[82]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[82] National Wilderness Preservation System

PRETTY TREE BENCH
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[83]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Pretty Tree Bench	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	10,240
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	New Home Bench	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	11,534
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07035	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407411		

Need to update the map. There is an existing power plant in this area. The power lines are not mapped correctly either.

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Escalante Ranger District and is about 15 miles northeast of Escalante, Utah. Access to the area is poor with low standard, dry weather roads. There are no Forest Service trails on the area.
The topography varies from gentle, rolling lands to steep rocky slopes, with an average elevation of about 7,000 feet. Annual precipitation occurs mostly as snow. Area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon, and juniper and grass/sage. There are pockets of Douglas fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine.
Little recreational use occurs in this area.
There are no particular attractions to the unit. The area is typical mid-elevation, timbered land common to the intermountain west.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Low	Private land adjacent on several sides. Not much road access in middle. Commercial harvest on the north side present irregular boundary.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Lower elevations is Pinyon-juniper, higher is ponderosa pine and mixed conifer. Fire/disturbance lacking. (Pretty Tree Bench project may influence this in the near future)
Natural Appearance:	High	
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Not much access, blocky shape. Vegetation screening.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	No destinations, few/no trails. Hunting. Boulder Creek sees a fair amount of interest.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- No trails in the area.

Wildlife habitat

- Winter range for elk and deer

[83] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

- Boulder Creek is a high-quality fishery.

Water/air quality

- Portions of this area make up the municipal watershed for Boulder Town.

Livestock

- Currently being grazed on two allotments.

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- Not many opportunities exist

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Area has cultural sites, but nothing specific.

Land use authorizations

- Special use well for Boulder Town.
- Redwing Ranch special permit.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- Maintenance would be difficult without mechanized means (fences, troughs, waterlines, ponds).

Fire

- WUI issues would require mechanical considerations to treat fuels on almost entire eastern and western boundaries
- Would lose mechanized techniques to suppress fire and manage prescribed fires.

Insect and disease

- Not a problem at this time

Private lands (adjacent)

- Salt Gulch and Boulder Town and Garkane all present concerns for WUI.

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

- Access is only available along the western edge

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 89 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[84]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[84] National Wilderness Preservation System

SHAKESPEARE POINT
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[85]

Undeveloped Area Name:	Shakespeare Point	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	1,280
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Shakespeare Point	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	1,280
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07036	District:	Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407412		

Need to update maps for unclassified roads accessing powerline on border of this area and Henderson Canyon.

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Escalante Ranger District and is about 30 miles west of Escalante, Utah. Access roads to the area are poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for pickup travel only.

By itself, the unit has no wilderness potential, but it is contiguous to a recommended wilderness area in Bryce Canyon National Park.

The topography is generally steep and rocky. The elevation averages about 9,000 feet. Surface water is sparse. The area is vegetated, predominantly by Pinyon- juniper (PJ) trees, although areas of sagebrush and mountain brush occur. Sparse ground cover in the PJ areas allow for considerable soil erosion during storms.

Principle use on the area is dispersed recreation, mostly big game hunting. The annual recreation use is light. The area is adjacent to the National Park.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	High	Adjacent to Park, BLM, part of Henderson Canyon complex. Power line could be a problem for managing the boundary
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Some PJ, ponderosa pine, mostly rock. No grazing.
Natural Appearance:	High	Cliffs of pink, red, and white. Excellent and unique views.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	Power line present through area. Limited access, rim keeps folks out, not many trails.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Scenic viewing, hunting. Not a high draw area.
Special Features:	Yes	Critical habitat designated for the Mexican Spotted Owl

[85] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Section 3. Availability

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- No trails

Wildlife habitat

- Critical habitat for Mexican Spotted Owl

Water/air quality

- NA

Livestock

- NA

Ecological systems

-

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- NA

Land use authorizations

- There is a large power line on the east side adjacent to Henderson Canyon. A right-of-way exists and is being maintained

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- NA

Livestock grazing

- NA

Fire

- Would use mechanized, aerial application for suppression (especially with the communications site).

Insect and disease

- NA

Private lands (adjacent)

- Along northwest corner, no threats known (no in-holdings)

Effects on transportation

- Access to the area is limited, people would have to walk to the area

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	About 89 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[86]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[86] National Wilderness Preservation System

BARKER
Wilderness Suitability Evaluation[87]

Instructions: Describe the unique characteristics and Wilderness features for each roadless area.

Roadless Area Name:		Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	NA
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	NA	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	?????
1983 Roadless Area Number:	NA	District:	Escalante
2004 Roadless Area Number:	0407413		

Section 1. Description of the Area

Area is located approximately 12 miles northwest of Escalante. Area is accessed by gravel roads.

Located mostly below the rim of the Aquarius Plateau.

Area is managed as semi-primitive non-motorized except areas adjacent to road 149, the campground, and Upper/Lower Barker Reservoirs. Area contains a large section of the Great Western Trail and numerous other trails that connect with the GWT. There is a lot of hunting for big game and contains many back lakes that are popular for fishing.

There is a major aspen belt in the area. There is also a mix of other vegetation types including spruce/fir, ponderosa pine, and Pinyon/juniper.

Surrounded by national forest lands.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability - Mitigation by boundary change	Low	Long and sinuous shape, not very wide in any places. Lots of encroachment from motorized/mechanized uses into the area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Lots of aspen that is out of historic range.
Natural Appearance:	High	Well vegetated, aspen belt
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	There are opportunities to get off the path, but destinations are well-travelled. Area is also very narrow. Back Lakes are very popular.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Great Western Trail traverses this area but is open to mountain bikes.
Special Features: - Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species and other Wildlife - Historical and Scientific Study	Yes	Escalante Municipal Water Spring is found in this area.

Section 3. Availability

[87] Source: Intermountain Region Planning Desk Guide - A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness (Updated 10/28/2004)

Value offsets/Demands

Recreation

- Fishing and hiking and hunting

Wildlife habitat

- Big game habitat

Water/air quality

- Escalante municipal water spring source.

Livestock

- Lots of grazing

Ecological systems

- NA

Timber opportunities

- NA

Mineral potential

- NA

Cultural/historic interest

- Homesteads in Barker area.

Land use authorizations

- Lakes under special use permit by DNR and some water improvements for irrigation.

Management opportunity preclusion

Trail maintenance

- Use chainsaws for GWT and all associated hiking trails.

Livestock grazing

- Need to maintain livestock improvements

Fire

- NA

Insect and disease

- Aspen stands need treatment.

Private lands (adjacent)

- NA

Private land (inholding)

- NA

Effects on transportation

County considerations

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	Adjacent to Box Death Hollow Wilderness Area.
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 89 air miles from Cedar City, Utah.
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[88]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

Top of the Document

[88] National Wilderness Preservation System

Top of the Document

TEASDALE
RANGER DISTRICT

UNDEVELOPED AND UNROADED AREAS
EVALUATION FORMS

A description of minerals for Sections 1 (Description) and Section 3 (Availability) is forthcoming.

NORTH BOULDER TOP
Undeveloped Area Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	North Boulder Top	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	N/A
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Part of Boulder Mountain /Boulder Top /Deer Lake	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	53,505
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07040	District:	Fremont River
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407502		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Fremont River Ranger District and is south of Teasdale, Utah. This unit includes the northern portion of the Boulder Top plateau and the north aspect slopes immediately below the Boulder Rim. Access to the area is mostly poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance vehicles only, except for Hwy. 12, an all weather road, which just touches the eastern side of the unit. The motorized portion of the GWT and the foot & horse sections bisect the area. Wildcat foot and horse trail goes through most of the area (east to west).

The topography varies from flat plateau top lands to steep rocky cliffs. Annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 30 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. The area is vegetated with a variety of tree species with extensive, intermingled areas of sagebrush and grass.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly deer and elk hunting and fishing. The annual recreation use is moderate. Large areas of the unit (on the plateau) have been managed through past timber harvesting and road construction. Extensive evidence of past timber harvest is evident throughout the plateau area. Much of this area is now being managed for non-motorized values (roads closed in plan amendment in 1998?).

The plateau and rim area is valued for its scenery and views of the Capital Reef National Park. The area is the highest plateau (in the nation?) with Engelmann Spruce.

Some spruce mortality has been detected in the 2003 insect survey.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	Bounded on south and west by roads. Nouthеast boundary is formed by timber sales. North boundary is forest edge. A number of closed roads are within interior of area. Some ATV use. Extensive ATV use to access lakes and reservoirs on North slope
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Impacted by old timber harvest. Moderate summer grazing. Lots of ATV use.
Natural Appearance:	Moderate	Old roads are evident.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	ATV use and dispersed recreation.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	High	Low challenge, lots of opportunity. Hiking, hunting, fishing. Wildcat trail across area.
Special Features:		None identified

Section 3. Availability

No future change in the type of recreation use is expected. Difficult to exclude motorized recreation to reservoirs. Use is largely confined to existing trails.

The area provides summer habitat for deer, elk, and numerous other wild animals. No major change is expected. Need for enhanced forage opportunities.

Surface water is available for both livestock and wildlife. Area supplies irrigation water and culinary water for Teasdale and Grover. Water quality or quantity enhancement projects are planned for Middle Donkey and Coleman reservoir. Teasdale system will need periodic maintenance and possible upgrade in the future.

There are potential areas to increase livestock forage by vegetative manipulation.

Commercial stands of timber occur on the area. There is a need to address forest health, possibly through stand thinning and aspen regeneration projects. Need to address insect and disease problems.

Area is used for livestock grazing. There are several range facilities present on the allotments such as water troughs, fences, and water ponds. No future change in this condition is anticipated.

The fire hazard is moderate to high. Concern for WUI in northern areas. Insects and disease risk is moderate to high. Vegetation manipulation (prescribed burn and thinning) is being considered in the Wide Hollow and Sand Flat area.

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 14 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 89 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[89]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[89] National Wilderness Preservation System

WEST BOULDER
Undeveloped Area Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	West Boulder	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	N/A
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Part of Boulder Mountain /Boulder Top /Deer Lake	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	17,185
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07040	District:	Fremont River
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407503		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Fremont River Ranger District and is about 15 miles south of Teasdale, Utah. This unit includes the western part of the Boulder Top plateau and the west aspect slopes immediately below the Boulder Rim on the western edge. Access to the area is with FS road 178, a level 3 road, as far as the Boulder Top. From there the road is managed as a level 2.

The topography is glacial till and varies from flat plateau top lands with a few steep rocky cliffs. Annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 30 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. The area is vegetated with a variety of tree species (Sub Alpine fir and Englemann spruce and some aspen and Douglas-fir) with extensive, intermingled areas of sagebrush and grass.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly big game hunting and fishing. The annual recreation use is moderate. Large areas of the unit (on the plateau) have been managed through past timber harvesting and road construction. Extensive evidence of past timber harvest is evident throughout the plateau area. Much of this area is now being managed for non-motorized values.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	Surrounded on most sides by roads. A number of closed roads are within interior of area. Some ATV use occurs in the area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Impacted by old timber harvest and access roads. Extensive summer grazing.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Old roads and timber harvest are evident.
Opportunities for Solitude:	Medium	ATV use, hunting season.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Low challenge, lots of opportunity. Hunting
Special Features:		None identified

Section 3. Availability

No future change in the type of recreation use is expected.

The area provides summer habitat for deer, elk, and numerous other wild animals. No major change is expected. Surface water is available for both livestock and wildlife.

There are potential areas to increase livestock forage by vegetative manipulation.

Commercial stands of timber occur on the area. Dark valley timber sale in adjacent area is proposed for 2005.

Area is used for livestock grazing. There are several range facilities present on the allotments such as water troughs, fences, and water ponds. No future change in this condition is anticipated.

The fire hazard is low. Insects and disease are endemic throughout the area.

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 14 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness area
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 89 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[90]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[90] National Wilderness Preservation System

BOULDER TOP
Undeveloped Area Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	Boulder Top	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	57,440 and 7040
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Part of Boulder Top and McGath Lake	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	69,200
1983 Roadless Area Number:	Part of 07040 and 07034	District:	Fremont River / Escalante
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407504		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Fremont River and Escalante Ranger Districts and is south of Teasdale, Utah. This unit includes the southern portion of the Boulder Top plateau and most of the slopes immediately south of the Boulder Rim. Access to the area is mostly poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for high clearance travel only. An exception is Hwy 12, an all American road, which serves the east side of the area. Numerous Forest trails bisect the area (including the Great Western Trail and many of its connecting trails[91]). There are a number of roads on the plateau that were closed around 1998. The Boulder Swale ATV trail bisects the area.

The topography varies from flat plateau top lands to steep rocky cliffs, with an average elevation of about 9,000 feet. Annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 30 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. The area is vegetated with a variety of tree species with extensive, intermingled areas of sagebrush and grass. Area contains extensive aspen belt at the base of the cliffs.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and primitive dispersed recreation - mostly big game hunting and fishing. The annual recreation use level is moderate. Large areas of the unit (on the plateau) have been managed through past timber harvesting and road construction. Extensive evidence of past timber harvest is obvious throughout the plateau area. Much of this area is now being managed for non-motorized values.

The area is valued for its scenery and views of the Capital Reef National Park and the Grand Staircase Escalante Monument. The area is the highest plateau (in the nation?) with Engelmann Spruce.

There are three inholdings adjacent to the area with numerous cabin developments.

Some spruce mortality has been detected in the 2003 insect survey.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	The Boulder rim passes through the area effectively dividing the area. Level 2 roads form the north and west boundaries. There are a number of closed roads. The southern boundary is mostly defined by management activities. There are several cherry stems extend into the area.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Impacts of old timber harvest are evident.

[91] Numerous trails connect with the GWT. West Fork Trail, Auger Hole Trail, Jubilee Trail, Burr Top Trail, Rogers Peak, Trail Point, East Boulder Creek Loop, Criss Lake, and Deer Creek Lake.

		Extensive summer grazing. Below the rim, integrity is probably higher.
Natural Appearance:	Medium	Old (closed) roads are evident, road bed recovery is occurring.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Large size, ATV use, experience below the rim is isolated.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	High	Low challenge, lots of opportunity. Hiking, hunting, fishing. About 21 miles of Great Western Trail traverses area (non-motorized) mostly below the rim.
Special Features:	Yes	Lots of lakes, unusual high density of fishable lakes. Blue Bell Knoll is the highest point on Dixie NF. The plateau ecosystem is very different than the desert a few miles to the east. Jubilee Guard Station is one of the oldest guard stations in the nation.

Section 3. Availability

The area provides summer habitat for deer, elk, and numerous other animals. No major change is expected. Use of the plateau area was changed by the Boulder Top travel manage plan in 1998.

Great Western Trail allows mechanical uses (mountain bikes) and is very popular for this use.

Surface water is available for both livestock and wildlife. No water quality or quantity enhancement projects are planned. Escalante Town has developed some springs and pipelines for water that cut off about 200 feet of far western edge of the area.

There are two cattle allotments on the Fremont side and two sheep allotments. There are allotments on the Escalante side. There are numerous fences, water troughs, ponds and other grazing related developments.

A commercial timber sale has been proposed for South Point for 2009.

The fire hazard is moderate and there are several areas of wildland urban interface adjacent to private lands and cabin developments. Insects and disease risk is high throughout the area.

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 0-20 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness area (re-measure as two areas)
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 95 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[92]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[92] National Wilderness Preservation System

LONG NECK
Undeveloped Area Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	Long Neck	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	45,960
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Long Neck /Steep Creek /Oak Creek-Steep Creek /Oak Creek	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	33,123
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07038	District:	Fremont River
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407505		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Escalante and Fremont River Ranger Districts and is about 15 to 20 miles northeast of Escalante, Utah. Access to the area is mostly poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for four-wheel-drive travel only. However, Hwy. 12, an all American road, serves the west side of the area. Forest Trails 113 and 126 bisect the area (Long Neck and Stair canyon pack trails).

Eastern portions - The topography varies, but in general, it is extremely rough, sharply dissected and is made up of high cliffs and deep canyons. Annual precipitation is about 14 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. Vegetation is sparse. The dominant vegetation is non-commercial stands of trees including Pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and aspen. Closer to Hwy 12 (western portions), human uses are more evident and the area is much less remote. The higher elevations, closer to the highway, have commercial stands of timber.

Principle uses of the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly deer and elk hunting. The annual recreation use is light. There are commercial trees and aspen in the higher elevation western areas.

The unit is scenic, with colorful cliffs and rock outcrops.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	High	Adjacent to a Wilderness Study Area on east. North and west bounded by Hwy. 12 and activities off Highway 12. South is agency boundary.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Slickrock interspersed with PJ and Scrub. Integrity is higher in southeastern portions
Natural Appearance:	High	Slickrock interspersed with PJ and Scrub.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Canyons are steep and remote. There is little motorized use.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Medium	Highway 12 is All-American Road. Moderate challenge, moderate opportunity. Hiking, hunting.
Special Features:	Yes	Spotted owl critical habitat. Highway 12 and viewshed (scenic byway, All-American Road).

Section 3. Availability

No future change in the type of recreation use is expected. Escalante District is considering a motorized trail proposal that would connect the Town of Boulder to the Garkane Road.

The area provides summer habitat for elk, deer and numerous other wild animals. No major change is expected.

Surface water is limited for both livestock and wildlife. No water quality or quantity enhancement projects are planned

Commercial stands of timber occur in the higher elevations. There may be opportunities for aspen restoration and commercial conifer sales. There are no projects currently planned.

Area is used for livestock grazing. There are several range facilities present on the allotments such as water troughs, fences, and water ponds. No future change in this condition is anticipated.

Area has a lot of cultural and historical sites. Many of these sites have been vandalized.

The fire hazard is low. There is a wildland urban interface on south end adjacent to Boulder Town. May want to retain mechanical treatments for managing this area. Insects and disease risk is moderate throughout the area.

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 15 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness area (re-measure as two areas)
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 98 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[93]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[93] National Wilderness Preservation System

OAK CREEK
Undeveloped Area Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	Oak Creek	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	45,960 part of Long Neck
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Long Neck /Steep Creek /Oak Creek-Steep Creek /Oak Creek	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	18,474
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07038	District:	Fremont River
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407506		

Section 1. Description of the Area
The area is on the Fremont River Ranger District and is about 23 miles northeast of Escalante, Utah. Access to the area is mostly poor with low standard, dry weather roads suitable for four-wheel-drive travel only.

The topography varies, but in general, it is extremely rough, sharply dissected and is made up of high cliffs and deep canyons. Annual precipitation is about 14 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. Vegetation is sparse. The dominant vegetation is non-commercial stands of trees including Pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and aspen sagebrush and grass.

Principle uses of the area are livestock grazing and dispersed recreation - mostly deer and elk hunting. The annual recreation use is light.

The unit is scenic, with colorful cliffs and rock outcrops.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability -	Medium	Adjacent to Capital Reef NP on east. Forest roads to the south and north. Management activities (timber sales and chainings) on the west.
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	High	Slickrock interspersed with PJ and mountain brush.
Natural Appearance:	High	Slickrock interspersed with PJ and mountain brush.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Canyons are steep and remote. There is little motorized use.
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	High challenge, low opportunity. Only one major trail into Park. Hiking, hunting.
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability
No future change in the type of recreation use is expected. Lower Bowns campground/day use area (near area) is planned for expansion.

The area provides winter habitat for elk, deer and numerous other wild animals. No major change is expected.

Surface water is limited for both livestock and wildlife. No water quality or quantity enhancement projects are planned

Area is used for livestock grazing. There are several range facilities present on the allotments such as water troughs, fences, and water ponds. No future change in this condition is anticipated.

The fire hazard is low. Insects and disease risk is moderate throughout the area.

Section 4. - Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 23 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness area (re-measure as two areas)
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 106 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[94]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[94] National Wilderness Preservation System

HAPPY VALLEY
Undeveloped Area Evaluation

Undeveloped Area Name:	Happy Valley	Number of Acres in 1983 Appendix C:	9,600
1983 Appendix C Name(s):	Happy Valley	Number of acres in 2004 inventory:	11,245
1983 Roadless Area Number:	07039	District:	Fremont River
2004 Undeveloped Area Number:	0407507		

Section 1. Description of the Area

The area is on the Fremont River Ranger District and is about 15 miles southeast of Teasdale, Utah. Access to the area is provided by Hwy 12 and low standard roads. Forest Trail 123 (Slickrock trail) bisects the area (north portion is motorized).

The topography varies, but in general, it is steep with sharply dissected canyons, rock cliffs and several Pinyon-juniper benches. Annual precipitation is about 14 inches, which occurs mostly as snow. The vegetation is sparse. The dominant vegetation is ponderosa pine and Pinyon-juniper trees. Red rock and Navajo sandstone geologic formations dominate the area.

Principle uses on the area are livestock grazing and limited semi-primitive dispersed recreation - mostly elk and deer hunting. There is some commercial timber in northwestern corner. The annual recreation use is considered light.

The area is scenic, with its PJ and ponderosa pine forested slopes, colorful cliffs, rock outcrops, and riparian drainages. The area is mid-slope on the Forest, highly dissected with cliffs.

Section 2. Capability

Manageability	Medium	Bounded by administrative boundary and management activities. Some WUI concern on Pvt. Land (Happy Valley). Access to the area is limited. Managebility is higher below the slickrock trail
Natural Integrity (ecosystem function):	Medium	Dominated by PJ and rock, with more PJ than historic levels. Little has changed for many years. The integrity is higher below the Slickrock trail.
Natural Appearance:	High	PJ and Rock especially below trail.
Opportunities for Solitude:	High	Little use and access
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation/Challenging Experiences:	Low	Little use and access
Special Features:		None identified.

Section 3. Availability

No future change in the type of recreation use is planned. Motorized use from private land could change recreation use.

The area provides winter habitat for elk, deer and numerous other wild animals. No major change is expected.

Surface water is limited for both livestock and wildlife. No water quality or quantity enhancement projects are planned. Additional water source for private land is projected (headbox in Chokecherry creek).

Adjacent to private land (Happy Valley) with homes and residences (about ½ dozen). Additional lots have been sold.

Area is used for livestock grazing. There are several range facilities present on the allotments such as water troughs, fences, and water ponds. No future change in this condition is anticipated.

The fire hazard is low to moderate in places. Insects and disease risk is moderate.

Section 4. Need

Nearby Wilderness and their use:	About 24 air miles to Box Death Hollow Wilderness area (re-measure as two areas)
Distance from Population Centers:	Approximately 103 air miles to Cedar City, Utah
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional	
Public Input	
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS[95]	
Other Public involvement/scoping results	

[95] National Wilderness Preservation System

Questions and Data Dictionary for Roadless Area Evaluation of Wilderness Suitability

I. Introduction

The wilderness suitability evaluation helps determine whether an area identified in the roadless area inventory should be recommended for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The evaluation is categorized by "capability", "availability", and "need" (see FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7 for more information). These three categories are the primary framework to evaluate whether an undeveloped area has opportunities and experiences that are dependent upon or enhanced by a wilderness environment. The following questions and rating definitions specifically help evaluate these inventoried areas. Each area identified in the recently updated roadless area inventory will be subject to all the considerations and questions listed below.

Each of the evaluation categories contains some contextual discussion from the Forest Service Handbook Wilderness Evaluation chapter. Additional information from other sources (letters, workshops, Topical Working Groups) has broadened the handbook's questions to account for specific considerations on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests in southern Utah.

The capability rating definitions help determine whether an undeveloped area is capable of providing wilderness values. The ultimate decision, made by the Forest Supervisor, will consist of an evaluation of all three categories as a single package rather than a collection of individual ratings.

Capability

Manageability

"In determining capability, consider the ability to manage an area as wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act. Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act gives some direction toward this end by defining Wilderness as an area that "...(3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition...." Forest Service ability to manage an area as an enduring resource of wilderness, untrammeled by man, retaining its primeval character, and to protect and manage its natural character are all factors to consider. Also consider such factors as size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences." [96]

Questions

- ❑ Do the boundary locations avoid conflict with important existing or potential public uses?
- ❑ Does the boundary provide the ability to control the area, which already has a lot of use?
- ❑ Is the boundary readily and accurately described, established, and recognizable on the ground?
- ❑ Do the boundaries, where possible, conform to terrain or other features?
- ❑ Do the boundaries, to the extent practicable, act as a shield to the sights and sounds of civilization outside the wilderness?
- ❑ Do the boundaries provide adequate opportunity for access into the area?

Ratings

- **Low**
  - Area does not have distinct topographic boundaries or is bounded by administrative boundaries that do not distinguish from adjacent ownership
  - Area has several "cherry stem" roads accessing the area's interior
  - Motorized access is present throughout the interior of the area
  - Adjacent ownership and uses present conflicting uses
- **Medium**

[96] FSH 1909.12, 7.21(5)

- Area boundary is partially tied to roads or distinct topographic features
- "Cherry stem" roads are present, but leave large portion(s) of the area intact
- Motorized access is infrequent, but present

- **High**
  - Areas has distinct topographic or road boundaries and is not dissected/bisected by motorized use
  - "Cherry stem" roads are non-existent or infrequent
  - Motorized access is not present in the area
  - Adjacent ownership and uses are consistent with the area's manageability

Natural Integrity

"Determine the degree to which an area is natural or appears to be natural and free from disturbance so that the normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting the area continues."[97]

Note: this evaluation relies mostly on whether a person with a scientific or professional land management background determines that the area exhibits proper natural process function. These processes can include fire, insects and disease activity, and natural plant succession.

Questions

- ❑ Have natural processes been allowed to run their course without human intervention?
- ❑ Does the area prevent incidental damage to ecosystems?
- ❑ Is the species composition or succession appropriate for the area?
- ❑ Are invasive species present and if so, are they increasing or dominant in the area?
- ❑ Does the area provide contiguous habitat for fish, wildlife and flora?
- ❑ Is motorized access present, and if so, how prevalent is it in the area?

Ratings

- **Low**
  - Natural processes are disjointed due human management activities, primarily fire suppression
  - Motorized access is prevalent due to trail presence, area is dissected/bisected by these trails
- **Medium**
  - Natural processes have been sporadically altered by human management activities, primarily fire suppression
  - Motorized access is sporadic or only present on the perimeter of the area
- **High**
  - Natural processes have been operating uninfluenced by humans, species composition are mostly or entirely native
  - Motorized access is not present or extremely difficult

Natural Appearance

"Determine the degree to which an area is natural or appears to be natural and free from disturbance so that the normal interplay between biotic species inhabiting the area continues."[98]

Questions

- ❑ Does the area's vegetation appear "natural"?
  - *Note: this evaluation relies mostly on whether a layperson sees the area as "natural" based on their knowledge and understanding of what "natural" is or should be, or what*

[97] FSH 1909.12, 7.21(1)
[98] FSH 1909.12, 7.21(1)

they would like to see.

- ❑ Is evidence of human activity present and if so, how much does it affect the area's appearance?
- ❑ Is there an opportunity to observe animal and plant life in their native environments?

Ratings

- **Low**
  - Unclassified road or motorized routes are present and dominate the landscape's appearance
  - Vegetation does not reflect what most people think a forest would look like throughout most of the area
- **Medium**
  - Unclassified road or motorized routes are present, but not dominant to the landscape
  - Vegetation in most of the area reflects what most people think a forest would look like, few areas exist that do not meet this appearance
- **High**
  - Unclassified road or motorized routes are rarely present or not present
  - Vegetation reflects what most people would think a forest looks like

Opportunity for Solitude

"Determine the degree to which an area provides visitors with the opportunity to gain a wide range of experiential benefits such as a feeling of solitude and serenity, a spirit of adventure and awareness, and a sense of self-reliance." [99]

Questions

- ❑ Does the area provide a feeling of isolation or a sense that civilization has been left behind?
- ❑ Is the area a place where man and wildlife can interact in a manner going back thousands of years?
- ❑ Is the experience natural for those able to visit the area?
- ❑ Are there intrusions by "cherry stem" roads?
- ❑ Can the traveler see or hear evidence of civilization from within the area?
- ❑ Is the area a quiet place free from motorized noise

Ratings

- **Low**
  - Encounters with humans or civilization is likely and regular, or are impacted by high seasonal use
  - Influence by outside development is prevalent (views, noise, smells)
  - Area is relative narrow and sinuous in shape, "edge effect" is prevalent
- **Medium**
  - Encounters with humans is infrequent, but common
  - Some viewpoints (mostly high elevation) provide opportunities to see surrounding developments
  - Some portions are distinctly separated due to topographic features
  - Area has some narrow portions, but much of the area is not influenced by perimeter "edge effect"
- **High**
  - Encounters with humans is rare

[99] FSH 1909.12, 7.21(1)

- Visitors quickly leave behind civilization influence within a short distance (1/4 - 1/2 mile)
- Area is not influenced by "edge effect"
- Topographic features (i.e., narrow canyons) create areas of isolation

Opportunity for Challenge/Primitive Recreation

"Determine the degree to which the area offers visitors the opportunity to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, or self-reliance. The most desirable area offers many outstanding opportunities for adventure and challenge."[100]

"Determine an area's capability of providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as camping, hunting, fishing, mountain climbing, ski touring, canoeing, boating, river rafting, backpacking, hiking, riding, photography, and other outdoor activities."[101]

Questions

- ❑ Are there outstanding opportunities for adventure, excitement, self-reliance, and challenge?
  - *Note: the key word here is "outstanding" and should be evaluated in the context of the overall planning area, such as the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests.*
- ❑ Does the area provide primitive and unconfined recreation? (See examples above)

Ratings

- **Low**
  - Area has little to no knowledge of recreational use due to no infrastructure (i.e., trails)
  - Access would mostly be bushwhacking or cross-country travel through vegetation
  - Terrain presents no challenge for travel
- **Medium**
  - Area has some infrastructure and/or attractive destinations to draw recreationists
  - Challenging terrain is confined to specific portions of area
- **High**
  - Area provides desirable attractions or destinations for primitive recreation, some infrastructure (i.e., non-motorized trails) exists to facilitate access for recreation activities
  - Terrain is widely diverse and highly challenging

Special Features

"Identify the range of geological, biological, or ecological strata or any particularly unique segment of these strata. Assess whether the area has any other scientific, educational, or historical values. Social, economic, and environmental factors must blend together with natural features to make the area desirable and manageable as wilderness."

"Describe the roadless area's capability to provide outdoor education and scientific study, both formal and informal, in a manner that is compatible with wilderness. Abundant and varied wildlife may enhance an area's wilderness capability. If the primary objective should be the protection or management of one or more wildlife species, analyze the relative values of wilderness and wildlife management. In some instances, particularly where nonconforming structures or activities are necessary for management of the wildlife or its habitat, wilderness designation may not be appropriate. Special scenic features contribute to an area's wilderness capability."[102]

Questions

- ❑ Are there features that are special to this particular area?

---

[100] FSH 1909.12, 7.21(2)
[101] FSH 1909.12, 7.21(3)
[102] FSH1909.12, 7.21 (1) and (4)

- ❑ Do these features provide opportunities for outdoor education and scientific study?
  - o Examples can include historic features, scenery, wildlife habitat, etc.
- ❑ Does the area serve as benchmark reference for comparing the health of National Forest lands?
- ❑ Does the area serve as a reserve for biological, ecological, and geological study (i.e., Research Natural Areas)?
- ❑ Do these features require nonconforming structures or activities?

Ratings

No rating required here. Identify the special feature(s) present and their contribution to the area.

Availability

"*[T]he determination of availability is conditioned by the value of and need for the wilderness resource compared to the value of and need for other resources.* (emphasis added) To be available for wilderness, *the values of the wilderness resource, both tangible and intangible, should offset the value of resources that formal wilderness designation would forego*. (emphasis added) The predominant value does not necessarily reflect the use or combination of uses that would yield the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output…Determine the degree of Forest Service control over the surface and subsurface of the area. The Forest Service should have sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential…The effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands is also a necessary consideration in evaluating availability. Determine the effect of such designation on transportation systems outside the wilderness and identify the requirements for wilderness access and traveler transfer facilities. Determine whether the costs and locations of required facilities would be compatible with other management needs." [103]

Lands Generally Unavailable for Wilderness[104]

Following are examples of lands that are generally best suited for development and intensive management for sustained yield production of resources other than wilderness. Depending on the seriousness of the resource needs, these lands may be considered unavailable for wilderness:

- **Increased water production and/or additional onsite storage**
  - o The need is so vital and an obvious and inevitable public necessity that the installation or maintenance of improvements would be incompatible with wilderness
- **Wildlife management measures**
  - o Wilderness designation would seriously restrict or prevent actions of considerable magnitude and importance
- **Highly mineralized areas**
  - o Their existence has such strategic or economic importance and extent that restrictions or controls necessary to maintain the wilderness character of the land would not be in the public interest
- **Unique or outstanding natural phenomena**
  - o General public access and special development to facilitate public enjoyment should be available
- **Clearly documented resource demands**
  - o Examples include timber or mineral production or developed recreation areas, such as winter sports sites

[103] FSH 1909.12, 7.22
[104] FSH 1909.12, 7.22 (a)

- **Contractual agreements**
    - Lands committed for use, purposes, or activities that are not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act of 1964

Questions

- ❑ Do the values of the wilderness resource (tangible and intangible) offset the area's current/future resource value(s) or uses?
  Note: The predominant value should not necessarily reflect the use(s) that would yield the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.
    - Resource values/uses to consider:
        - Recreation opportunities (motorized specifically) and demands (high use areas)
        - Wildlife habitat
        - Water and air quality
        - Livestock operations
        - Ecological systems, functions, and continuity
        - Timber opportunities
        - Mineral potential
        - Cultural and historical interests
        - Land use authorizations (i.e., communication sites)
- ❑ What resource demands and uses can this area satisfy?
    - Account for current use, trends, and potential future use of the above listed resources
- ❑ Do the wilderness resource values (tangible and intangible) preclude current/future management opportunities in this area?
    - Management considerations to consider:
        - Trail maintenance – what are the environmental effects of reduced or limited trail maintenance?
        - Livestock grazing – what limits would exist to address forage conditions or facilities (fences and gates, water tanks)?
        - Fire – what limits would exist with managed and prescribed natural fire, fire suppression, or fire fuels management?
        - Insect and disease – what limits would exist to address/monitor an insect and disease outbreak? Would the outbreak threaten human values outside the area?
        - Adjacent private lands – what human values on private land (i.e., wildfire risk to homes, desired living environment) would be:
            - Threatened by a wilderness designation?
            - Enhanced by a wilderness designation?
        - Private land inholding - are the current or planned activities compatible with wilderness management?
- ❑ How much control of the area's surface and subsurface does the Forest Service control?
- ❑ What are the effects of wilderness designation on transportation systems outside of the area?
    - What access exists, or is needed, to help people visit the area or adjacent National Forest land?
    - Are the development costs for access facilities (roads, trails, trailheads) compatible with other management needs?
- ❑ How would county functions (search and rescue, trash pick-up) be affected by a wilderness designation?
    - Are funds available to help local counties provide services in the area?

Note: Be careful about assumptions about revenues produced by wilderness users vs. ATV users, etc.

- Is the rest of country willing to support costs of wilderness management (i.e., user fees?)?

- ❑ Have local counties already accepted some areas as possible wilderness areas?

Need

"[A]n analysis of the degree to which it contributes to the *local and national distribution* of wilderness. (emphasis added) There should be *clear evidence of current or future public need for additional designated wilderness* in the general area under consideration (emphasis added) …Deal with "need" on a national basis and evaluate such factors as the geographic distribution of areas, representations of landforms and ecosystems, and the presence of wildlife expected to be visible in a wilderness environment." [105]

Assumptions[106]

- Demand for wilderness increases with both an increasing population and a growing awareness of wilderness
- Some undeveloped lands provide many opportunities for a primitive recreation experience outside wilderness. These lands are going to decrease in acreage as the demands on public lands increase.
- Some visitor use that occurs in designated wildernesses is not dependent upon the wilderness environment.
- Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.
- To survive, some biotic species and/or associations may require the environment found only in a wilderness.

Questions

- ❑ How does the area contribute to the local and national distribution of wilderness?
  - On the national scale, Utah has relatively few wilderness areas (the Dixie NF has 3 designated areas; the Fishlake NF has no areas)
  - Southern Utah has many national parks and monuments that provide wilderness opportunities for visitors
- ❑ What is the clear evidence of current or future public need for additional designated wilderness in southern Utah?
  - Consider the [resent visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, trends and changes in transportation, and Nation-wide travel patterns.[107]
  - The extent to which nonwilderness lands on the National Forest, other Federal lands, State lands, and private lands other than wildernesses are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.[108]
- ❑ What public input/interest has been expressed about the area to be included in the NWPS?
  - People believe that more wilderness areas should be designated to preserve scenery. Proportionately, Utah has more scenic beauty and unique features than other areas of U.S.

[105] FSH 1909.12, 7.23
[106] FSH 1909.12, 7.23 (a)
[107] FSH 1901.12, 7.23 (b) (2)
[108] FSH 1901.12, 7.23 (b) (3)

– this could create an obligation to preserve those areas.

- What is the "need" on a national basis?
  - Look at the geographic distribution of existing wilderness areas
    - Consider the location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups.[109]
  - Consider representations of landforms and ecosystems
    - Look at the area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems…This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out a NWPS and may be further subdivided to suit local, subregional, and regional needs.[110]
    - A wider representation of ecosystems other than mountains should be in the NWPS. Consider areas that are not high-elevation.
  - Address the presence of wildlife expected to be visible in a wilderness environment.
    - Consider the ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and developmental projects that affect their habitats. Consider other available options, other than wilderness designation, for meeting this need.[111]
    - Consider the need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings.[112]
  - Look at the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.[113]
  - Local and national needs are different. Local communities bear impacts of change first. National interest and use of area can help identify need. Identify areas that get high use/interest from national interests.

[109] FSH 1909.12, 7.23 (b) (1)
[110] FSH 1909.12, 7.23 (b) (6)
[111] FSH 1909.12, 7.23 (b) (4)
[112] FSH 1909.12, 7.23 (b) (5)
[113] Ibid

Intermountain Region
Planning Desk Guide

A Protocol for Identifying and Evaluating Areas for Potential Wilderness

(sometimes referred to as Wilderness Suitability or Roadless Inventory and Evaluation)

Updated 10/28/2004

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the next 5-10 years the national forests in the Intermountain Region will be revising their Forest Plans. The regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act require that, …roadless areas within the National Forest System shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas during the forest planning process,…(36 CFR 219.17, 1982). [Note: Regulations for the 2000 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.27), not now in effect, require that "…all undeveloped areas that are of sufficient size as to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition must be evaluated for recommended wilderness designation during the plan revision process."] Further requirements for evaluation and designation of wilderness are in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1923, FSM 2320 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 7. Roadless and undeveloped areas are also important for the nonmotorized recreation, ecological and other values they help provide. Some areas also have substantial motorized trail recreation values.

In the past, individual Forests, with regional and national policy guidance, completed a roadless inventory independently. This sometimes resulted in inconsistencies between adjoining units in roadless inventories on similar land areas. Collaboration by adjoining forests will provide a more consistent approach to identifying areas with wilderness potential in Forest Plan revisions.

Over the last several years the Forest Service has proposed new roadless area management direction, new planning regulations, and a new transportation rule. Roadless area direction is under litigation, the new planning rules are still under review and the transportation rule is slowly being implemented. These new policies affected roadless area inventory and evaluation and this protocol. Other changes to this protocol were made after public involvement and comment during the fall of 1999.

The user will note that the term “roadless inventory” is avoided. With the publishing of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in 2001 the “inventoried roadless areas” of record were fixed in time and place. Our purpose is not to identify roadless areas for roadless management, but to strictly use the identification and evaluation process of this paper to meet our obligations to consider the wilderness potential of still undeveloped lands.

This protocol reflects the best planning advice on identifying and evaluating areas with wilderness potential during these turbulent times.

II. USE OF THESE CRITERIA

The following criteria are a guide for all Intermountain Region National Forests to use when **identifying areas to be evaluated for wilderness potential during forest plan revision**. These criteria were developed to improve consistency across the Intermountain Region. These criteria are consistent with existing Forest Service Handbook and Manual direction. Wilderness suitability updates or validations previously completed for ongoing forest plan revision efforts need not be redone if these updates were consistent with FSH 1909.12 direction. If individual Forest situations warrant, Forests may deviate from these criteria with approval of the Regional Forester.

III. DEFINITIONS – From Transportation Rule, Manuals and Handbooks

Wilderness Area - A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is further defined as an area of Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological , geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value (16 U.S.C. 1131). Only Congress may designate Wilderness Areas.

Road – a motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary. (36 CFR 212.1)

Classified Road – Roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service (36 CFR 212.1).

Unclassified Road – Roads on National forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not obliterated and/or decommissioned upon termination of authorization (36 CFR 212.1).

Temporary Road – Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management (36 CFR 212.1).

Road Maintenance – The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective (FSM 7712.3).

Trail – a commonly used term denoting a pathway for purposes pf travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicle. (FSM 2353.05)

Trail vehicle – vehicles designed for trail use, such as bicycles, snowmobiles, trail bikes, trail scooters, and all terrain vehicles (ATV). (FSM 2353.05)

IV. THE GENERAL PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

The process to identify and evaluate undeveloped areas for wilderness potential includes three general steps. This process document focuses on step 1 of the three steps that are listed below:

1. Identify current undeveloped lands with wilderness potential;
2. Evaluate these lands for their wilderness values; and
3. Recommend in the Forest Plan certain areas with suitability or potential for wilderness designation, if any, to Congress.

Steps 2 and 3 are articulated in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7.2 and 7.3, respectively.

The identification of potential wilderness should reflect all undeveloped lands on the National Forest that meet the criteria for wilderness. As such it should be comprehensive and include all lands that meet the criteria regardless of their classification during earlier rounds of planning.

The goal of Step 1 is to identify all lands that might have wilderness potential using the best current information available. Use the most current information as the starting point. For a few Forests, the last (and only) time lands were identified for wilderness potential may have been the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) Final Environmental Impact Statement (USFS, 1979). For other Forests, such an identification may have been accomplished as a part of the original Forest Plan and documented as an appendix to the DEIS or FEIS. Additional information may be available from project level NEPA documents that affected lands with wilderness potential.

There may be differences between the last forest-wide identification process and attempts to draw potential wilderness area boundaries with GIS. Early roadless area maps were generally hand drawn, often at scales of 1:100,000 or greater. A refinement or validation step may be necessary when the existing roadless inventory information is updated with a draft GIS potential wilderness map at a larger scale. Boundary lines should be placed so they do not overlap or cross known roads, facilities, or other developments. It is possible new areas may be identified because of the precision of GIS or changes in the resource . This may be especially apparent in small land units contiguous to designated wilderness. All areas that meet the criteria for potential wilderness (listed below) should be identified for evaluation.

Lands "released" through the various state Wilderness acts, or allocated to other management prescriptions through the Forest planning process, can still be identified for evaluation as potential wilderness. Most State wilderness bills require a review of the “wilderness option” when Forest Plans are revised (California Wilderneaa Act of 1984, Utah Wilderness Act of 1984, Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984, Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989). Determine through the identification process if these areas still possess wilderness potential. If they do not meet the criteria do not identify them for

evaluation as potential wilderness. If through this identification process they are determined to possess wilderness potential, then include them in the listing of areas to be evaluated. If only a portion of an existing area does not meet the criteria for potential wilderness, then the boundary should be redefined to exclude that portion, keeping the remainder of the area identified for evaluation as potential wilderness (providing it meets the criteria). It is important to be prudent and even-handed in applying the criteria, especially when modifying or dropping an area from further consideration as potential wilderness.

The results of the identification process will be documented and included in an Appendix of the EIS for the Revised Forest Plan.

The identification process steps are described in Section VIII.

V. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

1. An interdisciplinary team (IDT) should identify and evaluate potential wilderness areas for possible recommendation for wilderness designation.

2. All Forests should use GIS technology for the wilderness potential analysis. Data layers in GIS should follow existing protocols to provide consistentcy between Forests. Each data layer will be adequately described and attributed to determine acreage and perimeter of the areas identified with wilderness potential and to produce display maps. Use the best available data sources. Collect new data if necessary to meet the requirements of this process. Supplement data available in GIS with other data and/or information from other sources where needed to fill information gaps.

3. Forests should use common criteria for identification and evaluation of areas with wilderness potential (see Sections VII and IX), except where a unique situation warrants a special individualized criteria.

4. It is recommended that past roadless inventories (RARE II, Appendix C maps, and/or other recent roadless inventories) be digitized and kept on file for historical reference. At a minimum they would be useful for comparison of acreage changes and activity locations through the years.

5. Changes from past inventories, such as variances in acreages or locations, will be noted and explained during public review. Include a table similar to that shown below in your Forest Plan Appendix.

Roadless Area Name	RARE II or Forest Plan ID	Current ID number	Acres from last inventory (indicate source and	GIS calculated acreages from same	Differences in acres (Reductions/additions) due to mapping and calculating acres with GIS	Current Area with Wilderness potential using GIS	Net change in Acreage due to managemen actions

	number		methodology in footnote)	inventory		(acres)	during last planning period
Black Creek	17515	0417015	234,000	235,359	+ 1,359	215,000	- 29,000

6. Ares with wilderness potential should include all contiguous parcels that meet the inventory criteria regardless of public ownership Generally, contiguous undevleoped areas will be analyzed by the Forest who took the lead during the first round of planning as shown in Appendix C of each Forest Plan. These shared undeveloped areas and the lead Forest for each will be identified in the Forest Plan Revision work plans submitted to the Regional Forester for approval. Lead forest is typically determined by the forest with the most acres, but other public issues, timing of planning effort, and capability may affect this determination. Analysis of areas contiguous to other federal ownerships should be negotiated with those agencies.

7. Undeveloped area boundaries should generally be established at a point 33' from the centerline of the constraining road, edge of development, facility or other feature which would disqualify an area for consideration as wilderness. (See discussion under Facilities for disperesed recreation impacts) This boundary location reflects the anticipated easment distance which will occur within road corridors and around facilities. Adjustments of this distance may be made on a case-by-case basis to reflect legal easments, cut/fill slope location or other definable distance criteria that would affect the boundary of an undevleoped area. The undeveloped area boundaries may be changed after the evaluation phase to reflect proposed wilderness recommendations to Congress (FSH 1909.12, 7.26). See Exhibit B on Boundary Delineation for a discussion of boundary location suggestions.

8. If a GIS buffer is necessary to display roads and boundaries offset from each other, use the minimum distance necessary to achieve the desired display results. Calculate acres based on the buffered polygon with the correct easment distance applied. Alternately, acreages may be calculated for each roadless area by determining the acreage of the polygon formed by the intersection of all road and/or "facility or influence of man's activities" area segments surrounding the area. Modify the acreage within the polygon by the appropriate factor to reflect any easment distance of offset from centerline of roads. Typically assume 4 acres per linear mile of perimeter reflects a 33' easment. This final figure will be used as the undeveloped area acreage.

9. All areas meeting the criteria, regardless of their past designation or status, will be identified in the updated list of areas with wilderness potential.

10. Identify these areas with wilderness potential using a number sequence of Region (xx), Forest (xx), and area number (001-999). Areas on adjoining Forests and Regions shall have the same area number with the lead Forest number being used (FSH 1909.12, 7.13)

11. Narrow fingers, appendages, extrusions, and other polygons formed during the GIS analysis which do not meet the purpose of considering an area for potential wilderness may be excluded from the inventory on a case-by-case basis. Generally fingers or necks less than ½ mile in width can be used as possible adjustment points. Explain your rationale for removal of the area from the inventory in your documentation. See Section VIII. for additional information on criteria to use to exclude unsuitable lands from the inventory.

VI. PARTICIPATION BY OTHERS IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF LANDS WITH WILDERNESS POTENTIAL

Experience has shown that the public, other federal agencies (particularly land management agencies such as the BLM), and state and local governments are strongly interested in the identification and evaluation of lands for their wilderness potential. Considering this, it is important to provide meaningful opportunities for public input. Furthermore, disposition of lands adjoining the National Forests can affect the identification of undeveloped areas on the National Forests meeting certain size constraints. Since this inventory is a process of identifying lands that contain potential wilderness characteristics based on existing conditions, an EIS is not needed. Inventories are categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or an EA under 7 CFR 1b.3.

Although an EIS or EA is not required for this inventory, it is still important to provide opportunities for public input. These opportunities can be used to improve information and to gain understanding, and possibly acceptance, of what lands do/do not meet the criteria for lands to be considered for their wilderness suitability.

Consider preparing and releasing for public comment a "draft" document identifying all areas being considered for wilderness designation. In the document explain the history of past roadless inventory on your Forest, provide a map of each new area identifed with wilderness potential (at a scale of no less than ½" per mile) showing major transportation routes, cities and adjaceny to existing wilderness areas. Note changes in the inventory due to designation as wilderness, deletions from forest activities and additions through re-examination. (for an example see "Inventory of Unroaded and Undeveloped Lands on the Uinta National Forest", Uinta National Forest, 2003)

Comments received can be helpful to identify issues, clarify evaluation criteria, and provide refinement for final roadless boundaries. All comments should be incorporated into the planning record.

VII. INVENTORY CRITERIA

Chapter 7 of the Forest Service Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, 8/92) contains a set of inventory criteria. Criteria from the Forest Service Handbook are identified with a FSH 1909.12 notation. Explained most simply there are 3 types of criteria: size, presence of roads, and presence of other facilities or influences of man.

A. SIZE

Criteria:

1. "They contain 5,000 acres or more" (FSH 1909.12).
2. "They contain less than 5,000 acres but:

   a. Due to physiography or vegetation, they are manageable in their natural condition.
   b. They are self-contained ecosystems such as an island" (FSH 1909.12).

Consider a specific noncontiguous area of less than 5,000 acres if the public or IDT identifies special features warranting its consideration.

   c. "They are contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, Administration-endorsed wilderness, or roadless areas in other Federal ownership, regardless of their size" (FSH 1909.12).

B. ROADS

Over the years, various roadless area inventories have defined "roads" in different manners. Original RARE I inventories often considered any two-track travelway a road and eliminated the area from the inventory. In the RARE II inventory, the roads/roadless area relationship was described as an area exclusive of improved roads constructed or maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use. The RARE II criteria includes the word "constructed" in addition to the term "improved" included in the current Forest Service Handbook direction. Both terms imply something more than a two-track travelway that just developed over time. This suggests that user developed roads (i.e. not constructed as such) may not meet the definition of an improved road unless they have since been constructed or reconstructed (e.g. road prism established, drainage structures installed, etc.) and maintained.

With the release of the Transportation Rule (FSM 7710) road management on the National Forest System has been simplified. Roads, of any type, standard or maintenance level, are categorized as either “classified” or “unclassified”. Classified roads are intended for long term use for National Forest purposes. Unclassified roads are not intended for long term use or were created through unauthorized means. Temporary roads are not intended for long term use and would not prevent consideration of the area for wilderness potential. For the purposes of evaluating areas for wilderness potential the presence of a classified road probably disqualifies that portion of the area from consideration as future wilderness.

Criteria:

1. Inventoried roadless areas do not contain classified roads. Previously, roadless areas "do not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles..." (FSH 1909.12). With the advent of the Transportation Rule, any road that is claimed for long term use and management as part of the forest development road system will disqualify an area

from consideration as potential wilderness regardless of its current condition or maintenance level.

a. As a starting point for validation/update of the areas to be considered for wilderness suitability, “classified roads” will be interpreted to mean:

1. All roads determined through roads analysis to be part of the Forest transportation system;
2. All roads placed in the Roads database, given road mgt objectives, given a forest road number, signed, and ascribed a maintenance level.

Evaluate each route against this criteria. It is possible to use the Classified Road GIS Core data layer to identify all classified roads.

b. Generally roads in Maintenance Level 2 would be considered "classified roads". Each route segment must be evaluated during roads analysis as to whether it meets road objectives for long term management. Adjust the Forest Road inventory as necessary using the appropriate process. In some cases Forests have entered routes which would qualify as "unclassified roads" into their Forest road inventories. Recode any segments found in the road inventory and roads data layer that do not qualify for consideration as a Forest Development Road as "unclassified roads". Do not exclude unclassified routes from the inventoried roadless area unless they are disqualified through other criteria described below.

c. Roads in Maintenance Level 1 should be reviewed to determine whether they will continue to be part of the classified road system. Those that would meet this criteria should be considered "classified roads". Just because a route is closed does not preclude it being a classified road. Apply the criteria for a road as if the route was open to make this determination. Remember that local travel planning efforts make road management decisions. This analysis just looks at existing management of roads to determine where undeveloped lands currently exist.

d. In addition, roads not under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service but which pass through National Forest should be identified. These could include State, County, other Federal or private roads. These transportation routes typically will meet the definition of "classified roads". These routes would not be acceptable within areas being considered for wilderness.

e. Some Counties and States have exercised RS 2447 right-of-way claims for various classified and unclassified routes within the National Forests. When such claims have been formally made and documented, include these routes in your roads data layer until such time as the claim is resolved. Do not include unclassified roads in your roads layer where no formal RS 2447 claim has been made.

2. Areas being considered for wilderness can include "unclassified roads".

a. Forests that have included "unclassified roads" in their road inventory should recode these routes to identify them as "unclassified roads" in the forest road atlas, INFRA, and their GIS roads layers. Follow procedures in FSM 7710. This would apply primarily to other vehicle travelways which were entered into the Forest road inventory as Maintenance Level 2 or 1 roads pending decisions on obliteration, closure, or permanent inclusion in the Forest Road system. These travelways would not disqualify an area for consideration as roadless. It is important that these routes do not show evidence of being constructed or maintained for vehicle use by standard vehicles.

b. Through road analysis determine if any unclassified roads should be considered for long term management as part of the forest transportation system. If an unclassified road is determined to be necessary for long term management then recode it to identify it as a "classified road", enter it into the INFRA roads database and assign it a road number. Include these routes in the roads layer. Note that this step may require separate action under NEPA as conversion of an unclassified route to a classified road is considered a management decision.

3. A temporary road is allowable in a an area considered for wilderness potential provided it has been obliterated, put back to original grade and/or is substantially unnoticeable. Temporary roads in current use during the inventory process should be evaluated based on the management prescription that applies to their eventual disposition. The roads analysis tied to the creation of the temporary road should indicate whether this route is intended for a one time or recurring use.

4. Some unclassified travel routes otherwise absent evidence of construction or improvement, may have some spot improvements. These travel routes will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if the intensity of activity is extensive enough to disqualify the route for consideration as part of the roads layer due to the improvement being beyond "substantially unnoticeable" as an adverse infleuence of man.

C. PRESENCE OF OTHER FACILITIES OR INFLUENCES OF MAN

Some areas may not be entirely free of the imprint of man but may be fully capable of providing wilderness benefits to the public. Accordingly, the RARE II inventory process allowed past timber harvest activities, evidence of old mining, some range improvements, minor recreation sites, water related facilities, etc., to be included in roadless areas if the passage of time or their visibility allowed the area to appear natural (USFS, 1979). Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Section 7.11a, also recognizes this. Areas may qualify for inventory as potential wilderness even though they include the features described below. Consideration must be given to the expected continued use, removal, and transportation to or from these facilities, structures, and features. The levels of impact shown are provided as general guidance only. Each specific activity or facility will need to be evaluated case by case. Consider each impact in the context of the whole area. The term "substantially unnoticeable" derives from the Wilderness Act and means that the average lay person would not recognize the impact or that the impact is minor in comparison to the larger landscape such that its impact is relatively slight or subordinate and not easily recognized.

Criteria:

1. Airstrips and heliports. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Permanent facilities or facilities with mechanical earthwork that are not substantially unnoticeable could be excluded from areas with wilderness potential. Consider the extent of development, future use patterns, and desirability of this access. Airstrips have been allowed in wilderness in the past and would not automatically disqualify an area for consideration.

2. Cultural treatments involving plantations or planting where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Exclude areas where terracing is not substantially unnoticeable and is a significant impairment to natural processes. Replanted natural disasters could be included in roadless areas. Congress has included these areas in the past, so consider eliminating only those areas with major environmental effects or high visibility.

3. Electronic installations, such as television, radio, and telephone repeaters, and the like, provided their impact is minimal. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Snow-Tel sites may be included provided their impact is minimal.

b. Exclude sites greater than one acre in size and/or serviced by improved roads or utility lines having a cleared right-of-way.

c. Electric Transmission lines with evidence of constructed access roads and/or right-of-way clearing that are not substantially unnoticeable will be excluded from roadless areas. However, transmission lines by themselves should not eliminate an area from consideration if there is no other lasting imprint of man's presence.

4. Areas with evidence of historic mining (50+ years ago). Do not include areas of significant current mineral activity, including prospecting with mechanical earthmoving equipment. The inventory may include areas where the only evidence of prospecting is holes that have been drilled without access roads to the site. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Areas where handwork mining occurred may be included.

b. Areas that otherwise meet inventory criteria if they are covered by mineral leases having a 'no surface occupancy' stipulation.

c. Areas covered by mineral leases that otherwise meet inventory criteria only if the lessee has not exercised development and occupancy rights. If and when these rights are exercised, remove the area, or portion affected, from the inventory unless it is

possible to establish specific occupancy provisions that would maintain the area in a condition suitable for wilderness. (FSH 1909.12).

(1) Consider in evaluation, that leases do exist and could, but may not, be developed at some future date. Handle privately owned minerals similarly.

(2) Remove from the inventory only areas actually developed or occupied.

5. National Grasslands may have structures or evidence of vegetative manipulation resulting from past management practices. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Vegetation type conversions that are reverting to native vegetation with minimal evidence of cultivation may be included in the inventory.

b. Includes less than 1 mile of interior fence per section.

6. Areas of less than 70 percent Federal ownership, if it is realistic to manage the Federal lands as wilderness, independent of the private land. (FSH 1909.12).

a. Maintaining access to private lands should be a key consideration in evaluation. Evaluate each area independently.

7. Minor structural range improvements (FSM 2240.5) such as fences or water troughs. Exclude areas where nonstructural range improvements are readily visible and apparent. Areas with spray or burning projects are permissible if there is little or no evidence of the project. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Exclude structures if they are greater than one acre in size. Fences may be included. Nonstructural improvements, greater than 5 acres, where mechanical equipment use is obvious (e.g. chaining & terracing) should be excluded unless the site has recovered to the point where evidence of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

8. Recreation improvements such as occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps. As a general rule, do not include developed sites. Areas with minor, easily removed recreation developments may be included. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Such minor developments include trail bridges, trail corduroy and puncheons, backcountry camps, FS administrative sites, cabins, and trailheads accessed by other unclassified roads, and low standard classified roads.

b. In general, man-made lakes and reservoirs greater than 5 acres in size, adjacent to other development excluded from roadless areas, or those accessed by a classified road should be excluded from roadless areas. Congress has included water impoundments in wilderness in the past. Consider the extent of the development, the access, the stability of water levels, and the naturalness of the shorelines. Natural

water-bodies may be included in roadless areas, even if they are presently used by motorized watercraft.

c. Heavily used dispersed recreation areas along travel routes could result in moving roadless boundaries to the furthest edge of activity. For example, many Forests have the opportunity for dispersed recreation within a 150 - 300 foot corridor along roads. If this use is significant consider excluding these concentrated use zones from the inventory.

d. Consider the effect of concentrations of motorized trail networks. Eliminate if pattern of use and impact is not substantially unnoticeable on the roadless character of the area.

9. Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are evident, ie. not substantially unnoticeable. Examples include those areas containing early logging activities related to historic settlement of the vicinity, areas where stumps and skid trails or roads are substantially unrecognizable, or areas where clearcuts have regenerated to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Clearcuts, legacy and seed tree cuts that have regenerated to only sapling growth stage should be excluded. Partial cuts will be evaluated on an individual basis and included in inventoried roadless only if harvest activities are substantially unnoticeable.

b. Where prior road construction is evident but these routes may currently be closed to vehicle traffic, consider the effect of the level of development on the roadless character of the area. Exclude areas from consideration where development is not substantially unnoticeable.

10. Ground-return telephone lines, if a right-of-way has not been cleared. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Uncleared lines greater than a 1/4 mile long, cleared utility corridors, operational pipelines, and operational ditches will all be excluded from the inventory.

b. Irrigation ditches which are currently in use or expected to be used during the planning period should be excluded from the inventory. Old ditches should be evaluated as to the amount of construction activity. Ditches where man's work is substantially unnoticeable may be included in roadless areas.

11. Watershed treatment areas if the use of mechanical equipment is not evident. The inventory may include areas where minor watershed treatment has been accomplished manually, such as small hand-constructed gully plugs. (FSH 1909.12)

a. Exclude mechanical treatments greater than 5 acres in size. This includes gabions or terraces obviously constructed using mechanized equipment.

b. Contour felling would not preclude consideration of an area.

VIII. INVENTORY OF AREAS WITH WILDERNESS POTENTIAL MAPPING PROCESS

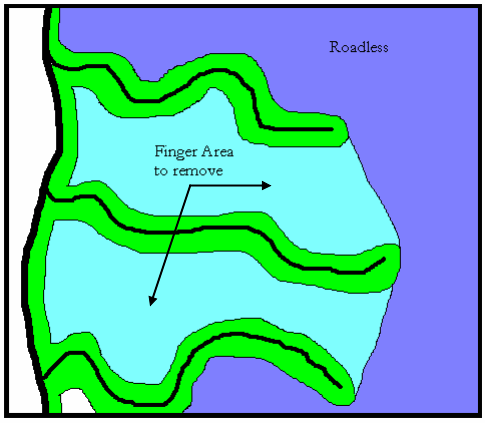
A. The inventory mapping process is a two step process.

Step 1 - GIS rendering of polygons that meet the wilderness potential criteria for size, absence of roads, and impacts of man.	a. Overlay Roads layer(s) and "Facilities and Other Impacts of Man" layer(s) to create a basic roaded and undeveloped polygons map. Select all classified roads to establish boundaries for undeveloped polygons. Select area impacts and point features from “other Impacts” layer to modify undeveloped polygons.
	b. Apply size criteria to the undeveloped polygons to determine which polygons are greater than 5000 acres. Review polygons less than 5000 acres as needed to determine if they potentially qualify for further wilderness potential consideration. Include as appropriate.
	c. Identify and attribute all unroaded polygons that will be considered for further wilderness suitability analysis.
	Final Product - Unroaded and undeveloped lands map.

Step 2 - Refinement of the GIS polygons.	Clean up the undeveloped polygons to remove areas which do not meet the intent of the wilderness potential criteria, such as narrow fingers, heavily roaded areas which create ameoba-like polygons, and other appendages, intrusions, and extensions. See examples below.
	This process requires professional judgement to consider the merits of each piece. Engage the public in making these decisions through requests for comments of draft inventories. Describe your rationale for excluding areas from the roadless inventory.
	Final Product – Areas Identified for consideration as Potential Wilderness).

B. Examples of GIS refinements

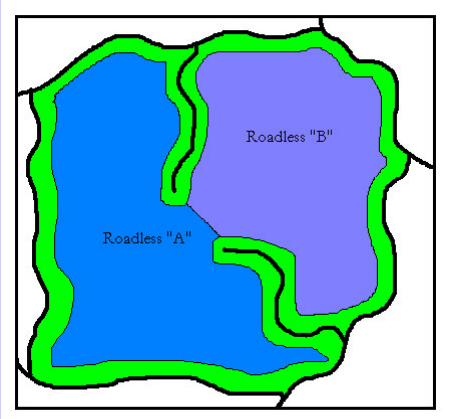
Fingers



- Remove small fingers less than 1/2 mile across if they do not exhibit roadless character
- adjust to manageable boundary

Consider the effect roads may have on roadless character where the distance between roads is less than ½ mile. Consider whether the area retains a natural appearance with man's impact substanially unnoticeable.

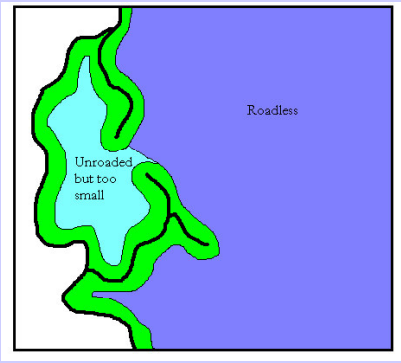
Extrusions - large



- Determine character of connection
- Keep intact if both sides are >5000 acres and connector has roadless character
- Separate into two areas if common area is <1/2 mile or lacks roadless character

Consider whether the connection between the roads retains roadless character. Use the same ½ mile distance for fingers in your determination. Consider whether the area retains a natural appearance with man's impact substanially unnoticeable.

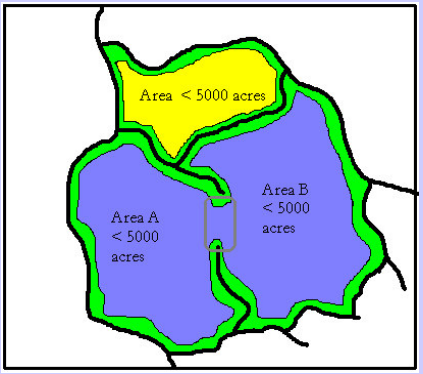
Extrusions - small



- Determine size of extrusion and distance of opening (< ½ mile)
- Eliminate areas < 5000 acres that would not be considered on their own if they do have roadless character
- Consider effect to total area

Consider whether the area retains a natural appearance with man's impact substanially unnoticeable.

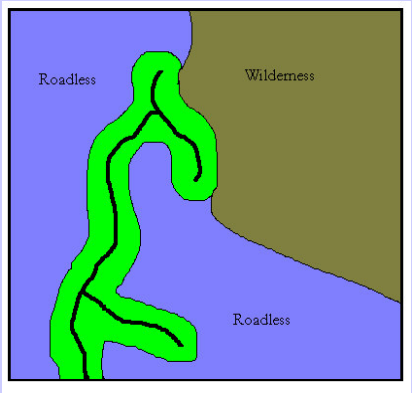
Extrusions - mixed/small areas



- Determine size of each extrusion
- Consider area of connection if less than ½ mile
- Eliminate areas < 5000 acres that would not be considered on their own if they do have roadless character
- Consider effect to total area

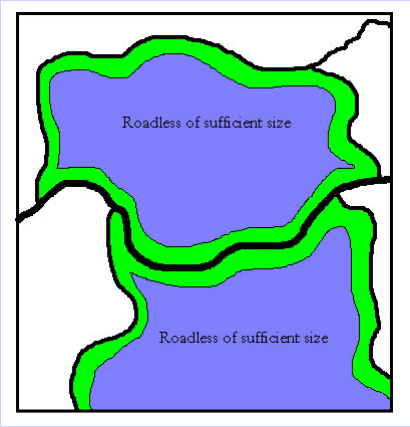
Consider areas that might be affected by narrow connections between roads. If the distance is less than ½ mile do the resulting polygons retain roadless character? If not, eliminate. If so, if the total area is greater than 5000 acres include in the inventory.

Contiguous Areas



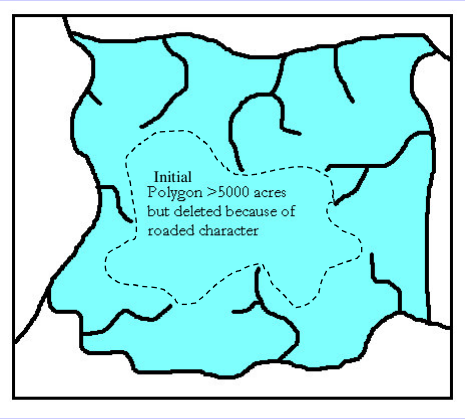
- Consider all contiguous areas regardless of jurisdiction
  - BLM wilderness
  - BLM study areas
  - BLM roadless
  - NPS lands

Separated Areas



- Consider each if >5000 acres
- Consider effect of road corridor on roadless character
  - could unit be managed as one
  - could road be closed

Roaded Network



- Eliminate areas < 5000 acres after deleting portions of the roaded network
- Assumes remaining area does not have roadless character and is < 5000 acres.

In heavily roaded areas an inital polygon greater than 5000 acres may be created that is adversely affected by the road network. But if after considering the effects of roads less than ½ mile distant, the resulting polygon of roadless land is less than 5000 acres eliminate the area from the inventory.

C. Other Maps

A number of illustrative maps can be developed using the areas identified for wilderness as a base, but the undeveloped lands inventory itself should remain unchanged. For example: the undeveloped lands inventory may serve as a base for depicting varied alternatives for recommended wilderness proposals during wilderness evaluations. Factors such as manageable boundaries, existing public uses, and other criteria, as shown in Exhibit B, should be used to refine recommended wilderness boundaries within each undeveloped area.

It is important to remember that maps displaying varied recommended wilderness alternatives do not affect the underlying inventory of lands identified for wilderness potential. Such maps are just refinements of these areas to reflect options for wilderness designation as part of alternative development for the revised Forest Plan. Some specific cases include:

- during evaluation of each undeveloped area, boundaries may be adjusted to create more manageable units for consideration as potential wilderness. The end result would be alternative maps with different portions of undeveloped areas being considered for wilderness designation.

- the preferred alternative maps would show which portions of undeveloped areas will be considered for wilderness designation.

IX. EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

After the undeveloped lands inventory of areas with wilderness potential is complete, evaluation of the these areas for potential wilderness designation is the next task. Follow the direction in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 7.2 to evaluate roadless areas against the tests of capability, availability and need. Document the results of your evaluation in an Appendix of the EIS for the Forest Plan. Engage the public in the evaluation of roadless areas for potential wilderness recommendation. Potential wilderness area boundaries may be revised as necessary, after the results of the evaluation are complete, to provide for a manageable recommended wilderness area (FSH 1909.12, 7.26).

Follow the direction for review and approval of wilderness recommendations as described in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 7.3. Hold public meetings and/or hearings as necessary. Include the following disclaimer statement found in FSH 1923.11 if the Forest Plan and FEIS make a recommendation for wilderness designation:

> "This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation. Therefore, this wilderness recommendation is not appealable under the agency's administrative appeal procedures."

X. MANAGEMENT OF AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR WILDERNESS POTENTIAL

Management area prescriptions that overlay the areas identified for wilderness potential should specify what activities are allowable within the area. This would include any travel plan restrictions or allowances for dispersed camping, fuelwood gathering, and/or off road vehicle travel. Follow R4 guidance on activities that would be allowed within areas identified as recommended for wilderness during forest planning.

XI. UPDATES OR CORRECTIONS TO ROADLESS AREA INVENTORY

Roadless area inventory boundaries are currently fixed due to the Roadless Area Conservation rule making. The official roadless maps were developed during this procedure. During Forest Plan revision Forests must retain the identity of these roadless area boundaries. These roadless area boundaries should be labeled "2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule Boundary".

When or if, these roadless area boundaries will ever be adjusted to update them for past management actions is still being determined. Follow this protocol to identify current roadless lands that will evaluated for their wilderness potential.

XII. REFERENCES

Wilderness Act of 1964, (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) Public Law 88-577, September 3, 1964
Evaluation of Roadless Areas, 36 CFR 219.17
Wilderness Evaluation, Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1923
Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook 1909.12, Wilderness Evaluation, Chapter 7

EXHIBIT A
NFMA REGULATIONS (1982)

The Secretary of Agriculture's regulations (36 CFR 219.17) for National Forest land and resource management planning (NFMA regulations) contain the following direction for evaluating "roadless areas" and recommending them as potential wilderness:

36 CFR 219.17 Evaluation of roadless areas

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law, roadless areas within the National Forest System shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas during the forest planning process, as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section."

(1) During analysis of the management situation, the following areas shall be subject to evaluation:

(i) Roadless areas including those previously inventoried in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II), in a unit plan, or in a forest plan, which remain essentially roadless and undeveloped, and which have not yet been designated as wilderness or for nonwilderness uses by law. In addition, other essentially roadless areas may be subject to evaluation at the discretion of the Forest Supervisor."

(ii) Areas contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, or administratively proposed wildernesses, regardless of which agency has jurisdiction for the wilderness or proposed wilderness."

(iii) Areas that are contiguous to roadless and undeveloped areas in other Federal ownership that have identified wilderness potential."

(iv) Areas designated by Congress for wilderness study, administrative proposals pending before Congress, and other legislative proposals pending which have been endorsed by the President.

(2) For each area subject to evaluation under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the determination of the significant resource issues, which in turn affect the detail and scope of evaluation required by the Forest Service, shall be developed with public participation. As a minimum, the evaluation shall include consideration of:

(i) The values of the area as wilderness;

(ii) The values foregone and effects on management of adjacent lands as a consequence of wilderness designation;

(iii) Feasibility of management as wilderness, in respect to size, nonconforming use, land ownership patterns, and existing contractual agreements or statutory rights;

(iv) Proximity to other designated wilderness and relative contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(v) The anticipated long-term changes in plant and animal species diversity, including the diversity of natural plant and animal communities of the forest planning area and the effects of such changes on the values for which wilderness areas were created

EXHIBIT B
DELINEATING BOUNDARIES
for areas proposed for Wilderness Designation
during Alternative Development

After identifying all roadless lands through the roadless inventory, further refinement of boundaries may be warranted during the development of alternatives for the Forest Plan. If roadless boundaries are adjusted it is with the intent of creating manageable roadless units which would be considered for wilderness designation. When possible, boundaries for these roadless areas should follow natural or semipermanent human-made features to facilitate easy on-the-ground location and management.

- Use boundaries that are easy to define and locate, both on a map and on the ground.
  * Use natural features such as live streams, well-defined ridges or drainages and mountain peaks. Use human-made features such as roads, trails, dams, powerlines, pipelines and bridges. May also use previously surveyed lines or legally determined lines such as property lines and State boundaries.
  * Boundaries should not cross powerlines, state/county roads or major access roads.

- Use boundaries that would be easy to manage should the area later become wilderness:
  * The "cherry-stemming" of boundaries around roads into roadless areas should be avoided. Consider the removing the area affected by the cherry-stemmed road.
  * Exclude narrow fingers or appendages into private lands.
  * Roadless areas can contain less than 70-percent Federal ownership, but only if it is realistic to manage the Federal lands as wilderness, independent of the private land.

- Where possible, conform with terrain or other features that constitute a barrier to prohibited uses and external influences.

- Locate boundaries to avoid conflict with important existing or potential public uses outside the boundary, which may result in nonconforming demands on the area if it were to become wilderness.

- Boundaries should be located to provide a reasonable and appropriate access for wilderness trailhead facilities.

When adjusting boundaries of existing RARE II areas to eliminate portions that no longer meet roadless criteria, locate the boundary to exclude the non-conforming area using natural or human-made features.

At this stage of analysis it is not necessary to be concerned with precise boundary descriptions, this will come later if the area is designated Wilderness. Simply consider following the road R-O-W, powerline clearing, and other features. For an area that crosses administrative boundaries (ranger districts, forests, States), treat it as one area for calculating acres and improved road densities and assign it one name and number.

Further guidance is provided in Section 7.26 - Boundary Adjustment Guidelines in FSH WO Amendment 1909.12-92-1.

EXHIBIT C
MODEL TEMPLATE
Appendix C - Roadless Area Evaluation

Instructions:
Describe the unique characteristics and Wilderness features for each roadless area.

Roadless Area Name:	Number of Acres:
Previous Name(s):	Change in size (acres) since last inventory:
Date of inventory:	Date of last inventory:
Roadless Area Number:	District:

Section 1. - Description of the Area (provide a narrative description for these categories)

Location and Access:
Geography:
Topography:
Vegetation:
Ecosystem Type:
Current Uses (including RVD's):
Appearance:
Surroundings:
Attractions:
-Wildlife
- Scenic Landmarks

Section 2. - Capability (provide a narrative description for these categories)

Manageability and Boundaries:
- Mitigation by boundary change
- Effect of size
Natural Integrity:
Natural Appearance:
Opportunities for Solitude:
Opportunities for Primitive Recreation:
Challenging Experiences:
Special Features:
- Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species and other Wildlife
- Historical and Scientific Study

Section 3. - Availability (provide a narrative description for these categories)

Tradeoffs with other Uses:
Resource Potentials:
- Recreation:
- Wildlife:
- Water:
- Livestock Operations:
- Ecological:
- Timber:
- Minerals:
- Cultural:
- Land Use Authorizations:

Management Considerations:
- Fire:
- Insects and Disease:
- Private Lands:

Section 4. - Need (provide a narrative description for these categories)

Nearby Wilderness and their use:
Distance from Population Centers:
Interest by Proponents, including Congressional
Public Input
Need for ecosystem representation in the NWPS
Other Public involvement/scoping results

Roadless Area Map

Provide a map at an appropriate scale of the inventoried roadless area. Include identifying features, main drainages, road systems and other locational information. Include a map legend with the minimum following items:

a. Roadless Name and Number
b. Roadless Boundary
c. Wilderness Boundaries (if any)
d. Boundary changes from last inventory
    a. New, not previously identified
    b. Roadless in past, but not now
    c. Roadless in past, designated by Congress as Wilderness
e. Major roads
f. Major Streams
g. Forest Boundary
h. County Boundaries
i. Vicinity Map of Forest with roadless area identifier

Top of the Document