

Appendix C

Roadless Area Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

The Appendix C displays the process used to conduct the roadless area inventory and wilderness evaluation for the Monongahela National Forest, Forest Plan Revision and the results of this analysis.

This evaluation is divided into four parts: (1) roadless inventory process, (2) matrix summary of potential inventoried roadless areas, (3) The potential inventoried roadless area evaluation process, and (4) wilderness evaluation of inventoried roadless areas.

The Roadless Inventory Process used a variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping exercises to initially identify 41 potential inventoried roadless areas (an estimated 326,539 acres). Each of these 41 potential areas was evaluated using the eight criteria for roadless areas east of the 100th meridian. Based on this evaluation, 18 areas (143,234 acres) met the criteria to be included in the new Roadless Area Inventory. A wilderness evaluation based on availability, capability, and need was completed for each of the 18 areas. Below is a summary of areas that met the roadless area criteria:

Inventory Result – These 18 areas (143,234 acres) received further evaluation as potential wildernesses because they met the eight criteria for potential wilderness in the East.

Area	Acres	Area	Acres
Big Draft	5,395	Gauley Mountain West	6,624
Canaan Loop	7,850	Middle Mountain	12,197
Cheat Mountain	7,955	Roaring Plains East	2,962
Cranberry Expansion	12,165	Roaring Plains North	3,119
Dolly Sods North	7,215	Roaring Plains West	6,825
Dry Fork	739	Seneca Creek	24,974
East Fork Greenbrier	10,153	Spice Run	6,171
Gaudineer	6,727	Tea Creek Mountain	8,272
Gauley Mountain East	7,780	Turkey Mountain	6,111

For the action alternatives (2, 2M, 3, and 4) in the Final EIS, management prescriptions were allocated for the 18 areas that were evaluated for wilderness potential as follows:

Alternative 2 – Thirteen areas receive a 6.2 Backcountry Recreation prescription, four areas receive a 5.1 Recommended Wilderness prescription, and one area receives a 6.2 and 8.1 SPNM prescription.

Alternative 2M – Thirteen areas receive a 6.2 Backcountry Recreation prescription, four areas receive a 5.1 Recommended Wilderness prescription, and one area receives a 6.2 and 8.1 SPNM prescription.

Alternative 3 – Eleven areas receive a 5.1 Recommended Wilderness prescription, and the other seven areas receive a 6.2 Backcountry Recreation prescription.

Alternative 4 – Six areas receive a 6.2 Backcountry Recreation prescription, six areas receive a 4.1 Spruce-Hardwood Restoration prescription, four areas receive a 6.1 Wildlife Habitat Emphasis prescription, one area receives a mix of 4.1 and 6.1 prescriptions, and one area receives a mix of 6.2 and 8.1 SPNM prescriptions.

INTRODUCTION

This appendix displays the process used to conduct a roadless area inventory and wilderness evaluation and the results of that analysis. The planning record document in which the entire roadless inventory and Wilderness evaluation is located is titled, “*Monongahela National Forest - Forest Plan Revision Roadless Area Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation.*”

This document is divided into four parts.

Part One describes the inventory process. It displays authorities and requirements, criteria used during inventory, and a detailed description of steps taken on the Monongahela National Forest to accomplish the roadless inventory. All areas inventoried during the RARE II process (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation of 1979), as well as all other Monongahela National Forest System lands were considered in the inventory process.

Part Two gives the results of the inventory. It lists each area that met criteria during the inventory process and summarizes results of the inventory criteria measures. Eighteen areas continued into evaluation of Wilderness attributes. Fourteen of those are RARE II inventoried areas and were also mapped as roadless areas in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Part Three describes the wilderness evaluation process, including an overview of the process and specific criteria to be used to evaluate an area’s capability, availability and need for wilderness.

Part Four presents the Wilderness evaluation for each of the areas that met inventory requirements, as listed in Part Two. It also displays the results of the Wilderness evaluation and summarizes how each of the potential Wilderness was considered in alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Monongahela Forest Plan Revision.

PART ONE: THE ROADLESS INVENTORY PROCESS

Direction for a Roadless Area Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation

Purpose

The primary purpose of the roadless area inventory and wilderness evaluation is to determine which areas on the Forest have the best potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Forest is identifying this pool of potential areas for Forest Plan revision in order to help develop a range of alternatives for recommended wilderness in the Draft EIS. Recommended wilderness is one of the 6 planning decisions to be made in Forest Plan revision.

Although the updated roadless area inventory is replacing roadless inventories of the past (RARE I, RARE II, Roadless Area Conservation Rule areas), this is not an inventory primarily to determine roadless areas but rather part of a process to determine which of those roadless areas have the best potential for wilderness. Therefore, criteria related to wilderness attributes are part of the inventory process, as described by the Forest Service Handbook and Regional direction.

For the inventory process, the Forest reviewed every area that would potentially qualify as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975. These areas included:

- RARE II roadless areas
- Roadless Area Conservation Rule roadless areas
- Areas currently managed as 6.2 Backcountry Recreation on the Forest
- Additional areas requested by the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition and The Wilderness Society

Authority

The authority for studying and designating Wilderness is contained in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 (see FSM 1923.01). The authority for conducting a Roadless Area Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation as part of the Monongahela National Forest Plan Revision is found in two separate acts of Congress:

- The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop regulations “specifying guidelines for land management plans developed to achieve the goals of the Program which, (A) ensure consideration of the economic and environmental aspects of various systems of silviculture and protection of forest resources, to provide for outdoor recreation (including Wilderness), range, timber, watershed, wildlife, and fish.” [Section 6 (f)(3)(A)]
- The Monongahela National Forest Wilderness Act of 1983, with regard to “National Forest System lands in the State of West Virginia which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d) (National Forest System roadless lands in the State of West Virginia which are less than five thousand acres in size)”, directs the Department of Agriculture to “review the Wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a 10-year cycle, or at least every 15 years.” [Section 5 (b)(2)]

Requirements

The requirements for identification and evaluation of potential wilderness are found in the Code of Federal Regulations and the Forest Service Manual:

- 36 CFR 219.17 – (a) Unless otherwise provide 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. (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 non-Wilderness 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; and

- 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.
- Forest Service Manual 1923 (Wilderness Evaluation) – Consideration of Wilderness suitability is inherent in land and resource management planning ... Planning for potential Wilderness designation may occur in the development of a forest plan or may require a separate study.
 - FSM 1923.03(2) – A roadless area being evaluated and ultimately recommended for Wilderness or Wilderness study is not available for any use or activity that may reduce the area's Wilderness potential. Activities currently permitted may continue, pending designation, if the activities do not compromise Wilderness values of the roadless area.
 - FSM 1923.04c – Forest Supervisor. The Forest Supervisor shall conduct necessary Wilderness studies and prepare a study report/environmental impact statement, either as part of the forest plan or as a separate study.
 - Forest Service Manual 2320 (Wilderness Management) lists the specific laws affecting the administration of National Forest Wilderness areas, including the Wilderness Act of 1964; the Forest Management Acts of 1897, 1899 and 1901 (Organic Act); the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970; the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975; the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and the Clean Air Act of 1977.

Details

The details for conducting the Roadless Area Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation as part of Forest Plan Revision are found in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 7 (Wilderness Evaluation).

Description of Roadless Area Inventory Criteria

Primary Criteria and Exceptions

The Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 identifies three primary criteria an area must meet to be considered a “potential wilderness (or roadless area)”:

1. It must contain 5,000 acres or more,
2. It may contain less than 5,000 acres if:
 - a. Due to physiography or vegetation, it is manageable in its natural condition,
 - b. It is a self-contained ecosystem (such as an island)
 - c. It is contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, administration endorsed wilderness, or roadless areas in Federal ownership, regardless of size.
3. It does not contain improved roads, maintained for travel by standard passenger type vehicles, except as permitted in areas east of the 100th meridian (in which case the area contains no more than ½ mile of improved road for each 1,000 acres, and the road is under Forest Service jurisdiction).

The Handbook notes some important exceptions to these basic criteria. For instance, a roadless area may qualify for inventory even though it includes the following types of areas or features:

1. Airstrips and heliports.
2. Plantations or plantings where use of mechanical equipment is not evident.

3. Electronic installations, such as television, radio, and telephone repeaters, “provided their impact is minimal.”
4. Evidence of historic mining (50+ years ago), or areas where the only evidence of prospecting is holes drilled without the use of access roads, or areas with mineral leases which require “no surface occupancy” or where lessee has not exercised development and occupancy rights.
5. National Grasslands.
6. Areas of less than 70% Federal Ownership, if it is realistic to manage the Federal lands as Wilderness, independent of private land.
7. Minor structural range improvements (fence, water trough), or areas with burning projects, provided there is little or no evidence of the project.
8. Recreation improvements such as occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps; including developed sites only if they are minor and easily removed.
9. Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction is not evident.
10. Ground-return telephone lines, if a right-of-way has not been cleared.
11. Watershed treatment areas if the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.

The Forest Service Handbook also notes exceptions for roadless areas “east of the 100th meridian”:

1. The land is regaining a natural, untrammelled appearance
2. Improvements existing in the area are being affected by the forces of nature rather than humans, and they are disappearing or muted
3. The area has existing or attainable National Forest System ownership patterns, both surface and subsurface, that could ensure perpetuation of identified Wilderness values
4. The location of the area is conducive to the perpetuation of Wilderness values (consider the relationship of the area to sources of noise, air and water pollution; as well as unsightly conditions; and the amount and pattern of Federal ownership)
5. The area contains no more than a half mile of improved road for each 1,000 acres, and the road is under Forest Service jurisdiction
6. No more than 15 percent of the area is in non-native, planted vegetation
7. Twenty percent or less of the area has been harvested within the past 10 years
8. The area contains only a few dwellings on private lands and the location of these dwellings and their access insulate their effects on the natural conditions of Federal lands.

Interpretation

The Regional Forester, in his August 1997 letter to the R9 Forests (on file in project record), provides more specific interpretation of the FSH 1909.12 for application to the Eastern Region. Included in this interpretation is direction to “re-inventory” RARE II areas (as identified in the Nation-wide Environmental Impact Statement of January, 1979) to determine if they still qualify for inclusion in the inventory. If a portion of the RARE II area no longer qualifies, the boundary can be modified to “exclude only that portion that no longer qualifies.”

The direction to inventory potential roadless areas is not limited to RARE II areas, but extends to “all other National Forest System lands.” The Regional Forester also emphasizes that the inventory should be thorough and free of bias or “data filters.” The results of the inventory are documented in an Appendix to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Forest Plan Revision.

The Regional Forester’s letter provides clarification and specific direction for both the primary criteria and the exceptions listed in the FSH, including:

1. Identifying “core areas” of solitude which meet the “semi-primitive” criteria described in the 1986 Forest Service Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Book. Such core areas should contain approximately 2,500 acres (unless they are contiguous to an existing Wilderness). The ROS Book further states that this core area must be “at least ½-mile but no further than 3 miles from all roads, railroads or trails with motorized use; can include the existence of primitive roads and trails if usually closed to motorized use.”
2. Non-native, planted vegetation includes wildlife openings, seeded roads, non-native tree plantations, etc.
3. To determine how much of an area has been “harvested,” use regeneration cuts under even-aged management systems only, including seed-tree, shelterwood, or clearcuts. Thinnings or uneven-aged harvests (individual or group selection) are not counted as “harvest.”
4. Boundaries should follow natural or relatively permanent human-made features, including:
 - a) Natural features such as live streams, well-defined ridges or drainages.
 - b) Human-made features such as roads, trails, dams, power lines, pipelines, bridges, property lines, and State or Forest boundaries.
 - c) Boundaries should not cross power lines, state/county roads or major access roads.
 - d) Narrow, elongated, gerrymandered areas are not suitable; the boundary should provide an easily managed area.
 - e) Cherry-stemming boundaries around roads into or through roadless areas are not appropriate.
 - f) 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.
 - g) Locate boundaries to avoid conflict with important existing or potential public uses outside the boundary, which could result in non-conforming demands on the area if it were to become a Wilderness.
5. Normally, roads under State, County, Townships, or other ownerships are not included in a roadless area since the Forest Service does not have authority to regulate use on those roads.
6. In addition to the improvements permitted in roadless areas (listed in the FSH), the Regional Forester identified improvements that are not permitted in a roadless area, including:
 - a) Significant current mineral activity.
 - b) Areas of prospecting with mechanical earth moving equipment.
 - c) Significant developed recreation sites judged difficult to obliterate and rehabilitate.
 - d) Active railroads and railroad beds that have cuts and fills, old trestles, abutments, and cinder surfacing.
 - e) Pipelines, transmission lines, and utility corridors.
 - f) High standard trails with surfaces, difficult to rehabilitate to primitive standards (should include paved and surfaced trails and most year-round motorized trails).

Improved Roads

Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 7.11(b)(5) states that “Roadless Areas east of the 100th meridian” shall have “no more than a half mile of improved road for each 1,000 acres, and the road is under Forest Service jurisdiction.”

The Regional Forester’s August 1997 letter recommended the following definitions of an “improved road:”

“An improved road is any constructed or existing feature or facility created on the land for the purpose of travel by passenger vehicles (four wheeled, 2 wheel drive) which are legally allowed to operate on forest roads or public roads and highways, and vehicles are greater than 50 inches in width. Said facility will have an area for vehicles to travel on and will incorporate some manner for the disposal of surface runoff.”

“An improved road has a definable, constructed cross-section, is properly drained, may or may not be surfaced, and is useable by most vehicle types. Some roads may be useable by high clearance vehicles. It is also stable for the predominant traffic during the normal use season. All roads assigned a Maintenance level of 3, 4 or 5 in the Forest Development Transportation Plan are improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger cars. Maintenance Level 1 (roads closed to vehicle use for one year or longer) and Maintenance Level 2 (roads maintained for high clearance vehicles such as pick-ups, 4x4's, etc.) are “improved roads” if they meet the above description.”

Core Area of Solitude

ROS Class Delineation (1986 ROS Book, USDA-Forest Service):

- ROS is Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
- Chapter IV, LM Planning, defines ROS Class Delineation as the inventory and mapping by ROS of the land and water areas of a Forest to “identify which areas are currently providing what kinds of recreation opportunities.”
- Three components are analyzed: the physical, social and managerial settings.

The characteristics of each ROS setting “affect the kind of experience the recreationist most probably realizes from using the area”:

1. Criteria for Physical setting includes: Remoteness, Size, and Evidence of Humans
2. Criteria for Social setting includes: User Density
3. Criteria for Managerial setting includes: Managerial Regimentation and Noticeability.

Wilderness Delineation: The 1986 ROS Book notes that, “Although some designated Wildernesses are composed largely of the Primitive type of recreation opportunity, many designated Wildernesses also include Semi-Primitive or Roded-Natural opportunities.” For the Monongahela National Forest, the criteria for a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS experience are used as the standard for Roadless Area Inventory and Wilderness Evaluation.

The following ROS Class Delineation criteria for Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized experience are found in the 1986 ROS Book, Chapter IV.

1) Remoteness: “An area designated at least ½-mile but not further than 3 miles from all roads, railroads or trails with motorized use; can include the existence of primitive roads and trails if usually closed to motorized use.” Application: The following corridors and geographical features were assigned a ½-mile buffer during mapping exercises to determine a core area of solitude:

- All Traffic Service Level 3 or better roads
- All OPEN Improved Roads within potential areas
- All roads, Improved or Unimproved, with special use permits providing motorized access across National Forest land
- All power lines, pipelines
- All developed campgrounds
- Any adjacent private ownership with development inconsistent with SPNM experience (for example: residential or seasonal structures)

2) Size: 2,500 acres (“Situations where an area identified on the remoteness overlay is slightly smaller than the size criteria for a Primitive or Semi-Primitive class – or the area is a unique entity for some other reason – may require individual consideration.”) Application: Settings over 2,500 acres met the basic qualification for the SPNM experience. Smaller areas were considered if they were contiguous to an existing Wilderness. Areas with under 2,000 acres of core solitude were considered if topographical factors reduced the potential for outside impacts (such as Roaring Plains East and North). RARE II areas with a total size of 5,000 acres or more of NFS land received further consideration, regardless of core area.

3) Evidence of Humans: “Natural-appearing setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of an observer wandering through the area. Little or no evidence of primitive roads and the motorized use of trails and primitive roads.” Application: Settings with a density of improved roads (in accordance with the FSH and R9 direction) in excess of 0.5 mile/1,000 NF acres were disqualified from further consideration.

4) User Density: “Usually 6-15 parties per day encountered on trails and 6 or less visible at campsites.” Application: User density was not a key factor, since there is little data on use of dispersed recreation opportunities within the Monongahela National Forest. If a setting was known to have use on the scale listed in the criteria, however, it could be taken into account.

5) Managerial: “On site regimentation and controls present but subtle. Controls can be physical (such as barriers) or regulatory (such as permits).” Application: Managerial setting was not a key factor, except perhaps where controls were not present. An example would be an area with few road closures or controlled access.

Application of Selection Criteria – Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs)

The Roadless Area Inventory for the Monongahela National Forest began in June, 2003. The inventory was conducted by the Recreation Staff Officer and utilized geographic information system (GIS) tools as an aid in identifying potential roadless areas.

Initial Steps to Identify Potential IRAs

Utilize GIS tools to develop a potential Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) model using the following steps:

1. Identify potential IRAs greater than 5,000 acres:
 - a. Combine surface ownership and the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) areas.
 - b. Reselect for areas that are not RACR.
 - c. Reselect remaining areas that are greater than or equal to 5,000 acres.
2. Create ½ mile road buffers:
 - a. Select Forest Service roads, including Traffic Service Level 3, 4 and 5 roads, all open Improved Roads within potential areas, and all roads, Improved or Unimproved, with special use permits providing motorized access across National Forest land.
 - b. Select Federal, State primary and secondary roads.
 - c. Buffer selected roads by ½ mile. *Note:* This query incorporated Level 3 or better roads, since 1 and 2 Level roads would require field inspection or review of condition surveys to determine whether they were “improved.”
3. Identify IRAs with core areas greater than 2,000 acres:
 - a. Combine (union) potential IRAs from Step 1 with ½ mile road buffers from Step 2.

- b. Reselect for areas that are not in ½ mile road buffers.
- c. Reselect remaining areas that are greater than or equal to 2,000 acres.
4. Cross-reference core areas with GIS layers and digital Forest Quad maps to evaluate areas containing the following conditions:
 - a. Assess shape of potential areas: Eliminate or modify “narrow, elongated or gerrymandered” areas, or areas with “cherry-stemmed” boundaries.
 - b. Determine presence of pipelines, transmission lines, and utility corridors; or if boundaries crossed power lines or state/county roads or major access roads.
 - c. Determine presence of interior roads under “State, Township, or other ownerships.”
 - d. Assess private ownership of lands within the boundaries of identified areas, and eliminate any areas with over 30% private ownership or unmanageable land ownership pattern.
 - e. Assess use restrictions and rights-of-way and developed recreation.
5. Complete the identification of potential IRAs. Delineate unit boundaries by adding in non-core areas.
6. As a final check, ensure that no potential areas were missed during steps 1-5. All MNF lands were delineated by intersecting ownership with federal and state primary and secondary roads, Forest Service level 3-5 roads, and transmission lines. All areas over 1,000 acres were reviewed for their potential inclusion in the Roadless Area Inventory. No additional areas were identified. The maps and documentation of areas greater than 1,000 acres not included in this inventory are located in the MNF Forest Plan Revision Analysis File.

Almost all of the 23 areas that did not make the inventory were eliminated because they did not meet two or more of the eight criteria for wilderness in the East and/or size requirements. There were only two exceptions, and these areas were eliminated due to Criterion #4 because they were surrounded by private lands and had very little core solitude area with which to buffer the sounds and sights of nearby development. The tables on pages 12-23 indicate which of the eight criteria and/or size and core solitude requirements that the areas did or did not meet.

Forest Supervisor Review

The Forest Supervisor reviewed the criteria and no exemptions were identified.

PART TWO: MATRIX SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IRAs

Summary of Potential Inventoried Roadless Areas

The following 41 areas are either Rare II or Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) Areas or other areas on the Forest identified through the GIS mapping process that may meet the inventory criteria for evaluation of potential wilderness areas.

Area	Acres	Area	Acres
Beaver Lick Mountain	18,611	Lockridge Mountain South	6,541
Big Draft	8,006	Lower Laurel Fork	3,177
Canaan Loop (09043)	13,532	Marlin Mountain (09330)	9,347
Cheat Mountain (09040)	7,955	McGowan Mountain (09332)	10,522
Cranberry Addition (09331)	5,127	Meadow Creek North	9,682
Cranberry Expansion	12,165	Meadow Creek South	5,465
Cranberry Glades Botanical Area	784	Middle Mountain (09050)	12,197
Dolly Sods North	7,215	North Fork Mountain (09042)	9,391
Dry Fork (09333)	739	Peters Mountain	2,347
East Fork Greenbrier (09326)	10,153	Roaring Plains North (09327)	3,119
Falls of Hills Creek (09049)	5,474	Roaring Plains East (09327)	2,962
Gaudineer	13,500	Roaring Plains West (09327)	6,825
Gauley Mountain East (09047)	7,780	Seneca Creek (09041)	24,974
Gauley Mountain West (09047)	6,624	Smoke Hole #1	2,823
Glady Fork (09334)	2,759	Smoke Hole #2	744
Greathouse Hollow	9,729	Spice Run (09329)	7,698
Kennison Mountain	23,717	Tea Creek Mountain (09048)	8,272
Laurel Fork	1,172	Turkey Mountain (09328)	6,111
Little Allegheny and Laurel Run (09051)*	9,187	Upper Shavers Fork East	7,898
Little Mountain (09052)	8,072	Upper Shavers Fork West	5,974
Lockridge Mountain North	8,169	Total	326,539

*Although Little Allegheny and Laurel Run have been considered as two separate areas in the past, the system road that separates them is now overgrown with tree vegetation, has had its culverts removed, and cannot be driven by vehicles. It therefore no longer qualifies as a roadless area boundary.

There are eight criteria (FSH 1909.12) that areas in the Eastern United States must meet in order to satisfy the definitions of wilderness in section 2 (c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. These criteria are described in detail above in the "Exceptions" section. The following matrix indicates whether or not the areas met the inventory criteria and received further evaluation for wilderness potential.

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Beaver Lick Mountain	Big Draft	Canaan Loop	Cheat Mountain
Total Acres	18,611	5,395	7,850	7,955
Acres Core Solitude	3,568	2,558	3,165	4,962
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammeled appearance	No, 37 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads, 92 acres of wildlife openings and 1,198 acres of timber harvesting in past 10 years	Yes, Area is regaining it's untrammeled natural appearance	Yes, Area is regaining it's untrammeled natural appearance	Yes, Area has a dominantly natural and wild appearance, good opportunity for SPNM
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	No, Past management activities are still evident including many temporary logging and skid roads, and past timber harvesting	Yes, Some of the road system is fairly evident	Yes, Improvements include extensive trail system, 2 shelters, and 28 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, Improvements include a few re-vegetated and disappearing roads, 7 acres in wildlife openings.
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/ gas, 70% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 2,483 subsurface acres oil/ gas, 40% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/gas, 0% private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land (can be excluded), 3,471 acres oil/gas (not active), 60% private mineral rights (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	No, Narrow width, development on adjacent private land. Management activities and noise from private lands is evident. About 60% of area borders private land, communities, and State Park.	Yes, But area has road system, minor improvements, adjacent to Blue Bend Rec. Area and youth camp, private land and access to the southeast	Yes, But road system and pipe line surround area, private land to north, moderate-to-high mountain bike use, including permitted events. Adjacent to two heavily used and developed State parks.	Yes, Some private land to the northwest and railroad line forms eastern boundary. Otherwise surrounded by NFS lands.
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes,	Yes, Only 15 acres (0.2%) in wildlife openings	Yes, Only 28 acres (0.4%) in wildlife openings	Yes, Only 7 acres (0.1%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 1,198 acres (7%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings in area, no access needs	Yes, Most developments are on or near boundaries, private land in SE could be excluded	Yes, There are 2 FS shelters located in the area, but no private dwellings	Yes, 0 private dwellings in area, no access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Cranberry Addition	Cranberry Expansion	Cranberry Botanical	Dolly Sods North
Total Acres	5,127	12,165	784	7,215
Acres Core Solitude	1,063	8,866	403	6,032
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammeled appearance	No, Area has obvious roads with administrative motorized access, shelters, liming station	Yes, Area is regaining it's untrammeled natural appearance	No, Perimeter road, signs, developed boardwalk and associated improvements	Yes, Area has a dominantly natural and wild appearance, but past management activities are still evident
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	No, Area has developed sites, shelters, roads, liming station, fish management, 14 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, Improvements include a few revegetated and disappearing roads, and 38 acres in wildlife openings.	No, Boardwalk, signs, parking area, toilet are all actively managed	Yes, Improvements include a few old roads, 0 acres in wildlife openings.
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/gas, 80% private minerals (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, no acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 80% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/gas, 100 acres (13%) private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 900 acres oil/gas (not active), 100% private mineral rights (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	Yes, Area is adjacent to Cranberry Wilderness, although the two areas are separated by an open road.	Yes, Would expand the size of the Cranberry Wilderness	No, Extremely small size and openness of area cannot buffer adjacent road, parking lot, and traffic noise	Yes, Would expand the size of the Dolly Sods Wilderness
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	No, 15 miles of FS roads, 2.9 miles per 1000 acres	Yes, 0.1 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, Only 14 acres (0.1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, Only 38 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, Only 7 acres (0.1%) harvested	Yes, 7 acres (<1%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings in area, no access needs	Yes, WVDNR Liming Station would need to be excluded	Yes, 0 private dwellings	Yes, 0 private dwellings in area, no access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	No	Yes	No	Yes

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Dry Fork	East Fork Greenbrier	Falls of Hills Creek	Gaudineer
Total Acres	739	10,153	5,474	6,727
Acres Core Solitude	0	4,575	1,533	2,305
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammed appearance	Yes, Area adjoins Otter Creek Wilderness and is regaining a natural untrammed appearance	Yes, Area is regaining it's untrammed natural appearance	No, Trail development along creek	Yes, Although 4.6 miles of Level 1 and 2 road, most are healing, no timber harvest in past 10 years
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	Yes, Although to small size activities adjacent to area are evident	Yes, Although there is approximately 20 miles of low level roads that are healing but apparent	No, Trail developments include steel stairways and board-walking, bridge, accessible paved trail	Yes Although there is approximately 4.6 miles of low level roads that are healing but apparent
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/gas, 50% private minerals (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 10,050 acres subsurface acres oil/gas (not-active), no private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 643 subsurface acres oil/gas (not-active), 30% private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 2,181 subsurface acres oil/gas (not-active), 32% private mineral rights
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	Yes, Area would expand size of Otter Creek Wilderness. Boundaries would follow a high amount of federal/private boundary line	Yes, Although land on NW,N, NE has potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses	No, Development along the Falls of Hills Creek, State Road 29/3 bisects the southern portion of area, State Highway 55 is northern boundary, ameoba shape	Yes, Primarily surrounded by NF, portion of northern boundary borders private land
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 1.1 miles, .11 mile per 1,000 acres. Does have 20 miles of Level 1 & 2 road	Yes, 0.16 miles per 1,000 acres, but 1.1 mile of State Road 29/3 cherry stem nearly bisects area	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres does have 4.6miles of Level 1 and 2 road
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 14 acres (2%) in wildlife openings	Yes, Only 37 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 24 acres (<1%)in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 405 acres (4%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings in area, no access needs	Yes, 1 weather station within the area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Gauley Mountain East	Gauley Mountain West	Glady Fork	Greathouse Hollow
Total Acres	7,780	6,624	2,759	9,729
Acres Core Solitude	2,622	4,178	723	4,336
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammed appearance	Yes, Area is regaining it's untrammed natural appearance, some recent timber harvest is still evident	Yes, Area is regaining it's untrammed natural appearance, some recent timber harvest is still evident	No, Development on adjacent private lands, numerous low standard roads and timber harvesting is evident	No, Significant evidence of past management activities, area does not appear untrammed or natural in appearance
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	Yes, Although there are numerous miles of low level roads that are healing but apparent	Yes, Although there are numerous miles of low level roads that are healing but apparent	No, 7 miles of road system, research area, rights-of-ways to private land	No, Past management activities are still evident including many temporary logging and skid roads, and past timber harvesting
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 5,209 acres oil/gas (not active), 100% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 5,561 acres oil/gas (not active), 100% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/gas, 30% private minerals (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 subsurface acres oil/gas, 100% private minerals (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	Yes, Although significant undeveloped private land makes up the eastern boundary	Yes, Size, good ownership patterns	No, Small size, development on adjacent private land. Management activities and noise from private lands is evident	Yes, Although, management activities and noise from private lands is evident along the perimeter of area
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres Approximately 6 miles of Level 1 and 2 road	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres Approximately 8 miles of Level 1 and 2 road	No, 7 miles of road 2.3 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres only 4 miles of Level 1 and 2 road
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 4 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 7 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 57 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	Yes	Yes	No	No

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Kennison Mountain	Laurel Fork	Little Allegheny/ Laurel Run	Little Mountain
Total Acres	23,717	1,172	9,187	8,072
Acres Core Solitude	4,549	33	4,708	851
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammelled appearance	No, 37 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads, 3,304 acres of timber harvesting, evidence of strip mining	No, Woods roads and 454 acres of timber harvesting in last 10 years	Yes, 47 acres of managed wildlife openings 10 miles of level 1 & 2 roads. illegal user-created and maintained ATV roads and trails	No, 14 miles of Level 1 and 2 road still evident, evidence of logging still present
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	No, Management is evident	No, Management is evident	No, Illegal user-created and maintained ATV roads and trails are evident, as are wildlife openings and storage buildings	No, Management activities are still evident on the landscape
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land or subsurface acres oil/gas, 85% private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, no private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land or subsurface acres oil/gas, 80% private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 10,770 acres oil/gas (not active), 100% private mineral rights (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	No, A golf course and development borders the southwest perimeter of the area	No, Small size of area and lack of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, recent timber harvesting (454 acres)	No Rural development and farming adjacent to area, noise from roads and equipment is evident, existing and high potential for encroachment on portions of the southern, northern, and northeast perimeters and most of the western perimeter. Anthony Correctional Center and community of Shyrock are along western perimeter.	No, Surrounded by private land and development, long narrow shape limits opportunity for SPNM setting
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, .12 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 36 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 47 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 11 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 3,304 acres (14%) harvested	No, 454 acres (39%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings	Yes, 0 private dwellings	Yes, 1 private inholding with approximately 1 mile of access road	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent
Area meets criteria for inventory	No	No	No	No

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Lockridge Mountain North	Lockridge Mountain South	Lower Laurel Fork	Marlin Mountain
Total Acres	8,169	6,541	3,177	9,347
Acres Core Solitude	1,228	733	112	986
1. Area retaining a natural, untrammelled appearance	No, 13 miles of Level 1 and 2 road, 249 acres of timber harvest and 53 acres of managed wildlife openings are evident on the landscape	No, 6 miles of Level 1 and 2 road, 476 acres of timber harvest and 13 acres of managed wildlife openings are evident on the landscape	Yes, One railroad grade and tunnel	No, 13 miles of classified Level 1 and 2 road which is actually designed graveled and improved, 132 acres timber harvest, 51 acres wildlife openings
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	No, Management activities are still evident on the landscape	No, Management activities are still evident on the landscape	Yes, Remote and inaccessible but development evident on adjacent private land	No, Improvements are evident, 13 miles of GIS layer Level 1 and 2 roads, FR-300 is graveled and is opened seasonally to public use
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 0 private minerals	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 60% private minerals (not active)	Yes Very limited access, 0 surface acres private land, 875 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 30% private minerals (not active)	Yes, But has 12 surface acres private land and road access, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, no private mineral rights. Greenbrier state owned trail
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	No, The overall size and shape of area, core solitude acres, adjacent improvements and potential for development of adjacent private land	No, The overall size and shape of area, core solitude acres, adjacent improvements and potential for development of adjacent private land	No, Small size and narrow shape provide little buffering capacity for sights and sounds from adjacent private land, access concerns, lack of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation	Yes, Some potential for development of adjacent private land
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	No, 7.2 miles of improved road, .78 miles per 1,000 acres (Level 1 and 2 roads that meet the definition of improved)
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 53 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 13 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, 51 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 249 acres (3%) harvested	Yes, 467 acres (8%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 132 acres (<2%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent	Yes, 0 private dwellings
Area meets criteria for inventory	No	No	No	No

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	McGowen Mountain	Meadow Creek North	Meadow Creek South	Middle Mountain
Total Acres	10,522	9,682	5,465	12,197
Acres Core Solitude	2,239	4,563	1,865	6,189
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammelled appearance	No, 19 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads, 229 acres of timber harvest, 198 acres of maintained wildlife openings	No, 14 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads, 131 acres of wildlife openings and 642 acres of timber harvest in the past 10 years	No, 10 miles of Level 1 and 2 road which are still evident on the landscape, 20 acres of wildlife openings	Yes, Evidence of management practices are still evident but most of the area is regaining its natural appearance
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	No, Management is evident	No, Management is evident	No, Management is evident	Yes, Improvements include some Level 1 and 2 roads
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	No, 364 surface acres private land, 1,773 acres subsurface oil/gas (not active), 10% private mineral rights	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, no acres oil/gas, 97% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, no acres oil/gas, 90% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, no acres oil/gas, 60% private mineral rights (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollution sources or obvious signs of development)	No, Area is adjacent to Wilderness on one side, but the area is also near roads and adjacent private land development, and has in-holdings	No, Good opportunity for solitude but significant development and private land along western boundary portions of eastern boundary	No, Size, development on adjacent private land, lack of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation	Yes, Good solitude, Although there is significant development on private land along the eastern and western boundaries
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, .19 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 198 acres (2%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 131 acres (<2%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 26 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 48 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 229 acres (2%) harvested	Yes, 642 acres (7%) harvested	Yes, No acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 115 acres (<1%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	No, Several dwellings on private land with access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs within but numerous adjacent
Area meets criteria for inventory	No	No	No	Yes

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	North Fork Mountain	Peters Mountain	Roaring Plains North	Roaring Plains East
Total Acres	9,391	2,347	3,119	2,962
Acres Core Solitude	1,811	14	853	132
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammed appearance	Yes, Most of the area is regaining it's natural appearance	Yes, Most of the area is regaining it's natural appearance	Yes, Area has a natural untrammed appearance	Yes, Area has a natural untrammed appearance
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	Yes, Improvements within the area are mostly disappearing. There is an existing cemetery, structures, and access road within the area.	Yes, Improvements within the area are disappearing	Yes, There are 2 miles of Level 1 and 2 road within the area but are beginning to disappear	Yes, Management is not evident in area, most improvements have disappeared
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 404 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 0% private minerals (not active)	Yes, 0 acres private land, and no acres under oil and gas lease. 3% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 40% private mineral rights (not active).	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface oil/gas, 40% private mineral rights (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	No, Size of area and long narrow shape affects visuals and noise within the area from development along the north, east and western perimeter of the area and State Highways 23 and 28. Development outside of the area is evident from viewpoints within the area.	No, Small size of area and its narrow irregular shape affect visuals and noise within the area from development along the north, east, and west perimeters, including State Highways 66 and 28. Development outside of the area includes towns of Cass, Dunmore and Greenbank, which are evident from area viewpoints. Train from Cass and airstrips also affect solitude within the area.	Yes, Even though the area is small in size the high plateau does screen much of the area from pollutions sources and obvious signs of development	Yes, Even though the area is small in size the high plateau does screen much of the area from pollutions sources and obvious signs of development
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 78 acres (<1%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	No, Existing cemetery, structures, and access road within the area.	Yes, No improvements within the area but a lot of development is occurring along perimeter of area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	No	No	Yes	Yes

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Roaring Plains West	Seneca Creek	Smoke Hole 1	Smoke Hole 2
Total Acres	6,825	24,974	2,823	744
Acres Core Solitude	4,706	13,771	23	0
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammed appearance	Yes, Evidence of management practices are still evident but most of the area is regaining it natural appearance	Yes, Most of the area has regained it's natural appearance, there are 10 miles of Level 1 & 2 road within the area, most are healing	Yes, Most of the area has regained it's natural appearance, there are 0 miles of Level 1 & 2 road within the area,	Yes, Most of the area has regained it's natural appearance, there are 0 miles of Level 1 & 2 road within the area,
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	Yes, Management is not evident in area, most improvements have disappeared	Yes, There are 10 miles of Level 1 & 2 road within the area, most are healing	No, Private land/ in-holdings	No, Big Bend Recreation Area
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, no acres oil/gas, 40% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 2,389 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 10% private minerals (not active)	No, Large tracts of private in-holdings	No, Surrounds Big Bend Recreation Area
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	Yes, Although the existing road system and pipeline dissect the Roaring Plains area into 3 distinct areas this area is sufficient is size and core solitude to be evaluated	Yes, Overall large size including 13,771 acres in core solitude, 100% FS ownership, moderate and established mountain bike use	No, Access to Interior Private lands. Approximately 60% of area has current oil and gas lease.	No, Access to Interior Private lands
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles/ 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles/ 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 31 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 446 acres (<2%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	No, Private dwellings on private lands within area	No, Big Bend Recreation Area within interior of area
Area meets criteria for inventory	Yes	Yes	No	No

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area			
	Spice Run	Tea Creek Mountain	Turkey Mountain	Upper Shavers Fork East
Total Acres	6,171	8,272	6,111	8,218
Acres Core Solitude	3,210	6,308	3,734	2,000
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammed appearance	Yes, Area has a natural untrammed appearance	Yes, Area has a natural untrammed appearance	Yes, Evidence of management practices are still evident but most of the area is regaining its natural appearance	No, Significant evidence of past management activities area does not appear untrammed or natural in appearance
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	Yes, Management is noticeable but disappearing.	Yes, Management is not evident in most of area, most improvements have disappeared although extensive trail system is present	Yes, Past management activities are evident but are beginning to disappear	No, Past management activities are still evident including many temporary logging and skid roads, and past timber harvesting
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 100% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface oil/gas, 90% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, no acres oil/gas, 90% private mineral rights (not active)	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 100% private minerals (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	Yes, Exclude private land and road easement,	Yes, Borders Cranberry Wilderness but would not expand size of the wilderness due to highly developed road between areas	Yes, Borders Cranberry Wilderness but would not expand size of the wilderness due to highly developed road between areas	Yes, Marginal due to size of area and existing railroad that splits Upper Shavers Fork East and West into two separate areas
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, .43 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 8 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 32 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 9 acres (<1%) in wildlife openings	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs if private land and easement are excluded	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Inventory Criteria	Potential Inventoried Roadless Area
	Upper Shavers Fork West
Total Acres	5,975
Acres Core Solitude	3,519
1. Area regaining a natural, untrammelled appearance	No, Significant evidence of past management activities area does not appear untrammelled or natural in appearance
2. Improvements in area are affected primarily by forces of nature and are disappearing/muted	No, Past management activities are still evident including many temporary logging and skid roads, and past timber harvesting
3. Area has existing or attainable NFS ownership patterns, surface/subsurface	Yes, 0 surface acres private land, 0 acres subsurface acres oil/gas, 100% private minerals (not active)
4. Area location is conducive to wilderness values (Proximity to pollutions sources or obvious signs of development)	Yes, Marginal due to size of area and existing railroad that splits Upper Shavers Fork East and West into two separate areas
5. No more than ½ mile improved road per 1,000 acres in FS jurisdiction	Yes, 0 miles per 1,000 acres
6. 15% or less of area with non-native planted vegetation	Yes, 0 acres (0%) in wildlife openings
7. 20% or less of area harvested in last 10 years	Yes, 0 acres (0%) harvested
8. Only a few private dwellings or access needs to dwellings in area	Yes, 0 private dwellings or private access needs
Area meets criteria for inventory	No

We examined every area on the Forest with roadless area potential during Roadless Area Inventory process. In four known instances, we looked at areas that were actually larger than their acres show in the matrix above. These areas are Big Draft, Canaan Loop, Gaudineer, and Spice Run.

The Big Draft Management Prescription 6.2 area in the 1986 Forest Plan is 8,006 acres. We looked at the entire area for inventory eligibility and found that it was divided by State Highway 36. Therefore, we divided Big Draft into the area west of the highway that became the IRA described in the matrix above, and the area east of the highway that did not qualify for the inventory. The area east of the road did not qualify due primarily to criterion #4: it is a small (2,600 acres) narrow area, with almost not core solitude and an irregular boundary that has adjacent development in the form of highways, agricultural fields, a youth camp, and private residences that make the location not very conducive to wilderness values. The area also has 18 acres of wildlife openings, 3.5 miles of linear trail and road openings, and 1 waterhole within the area that are maintained by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, as well as a fenced rare plant enclosure, and a road that provides access to private property (criterion #8).

The Canaan Mountain 6.2 area in the 1986 Forest Plan is around 13,500 acres, which is bisected by open Forest Road 13. To follow the Roadless Area Inventory consistently, we used Forest Road 13 as a boundary in the inventory process. This decision resulted in two separate areas, one area north of the road (7,850 acres) that became the IRA described in the matrix above, and one area south of the road (5,682 acres) that did not qualify for the inventory. The area south of the road did not qualify due primarily to criterion #4: it is a long narrow area, with little core solitude and an irregular boundary that has adjacent development in the form of highways, private residences, a popular State Park, and an airstrip that make the location not very conducive to wilderness values. There are also old roads, harvest units, and two private land inclusions within the area, one of which extends into the central part of the area.

The Spice Run Management Prescription 6.2 area in the 1986 Forest Plan is 7,698 acres. We looked at the entire area for inventory eligibility and found that most of it (6,171 acres) was eligible for the inventory. However, we excluded the southwest corner of the area (1,527 acres) because it included three private land inclusions, with an access road (criterion #8) that would likely affect the future manageability of the area.

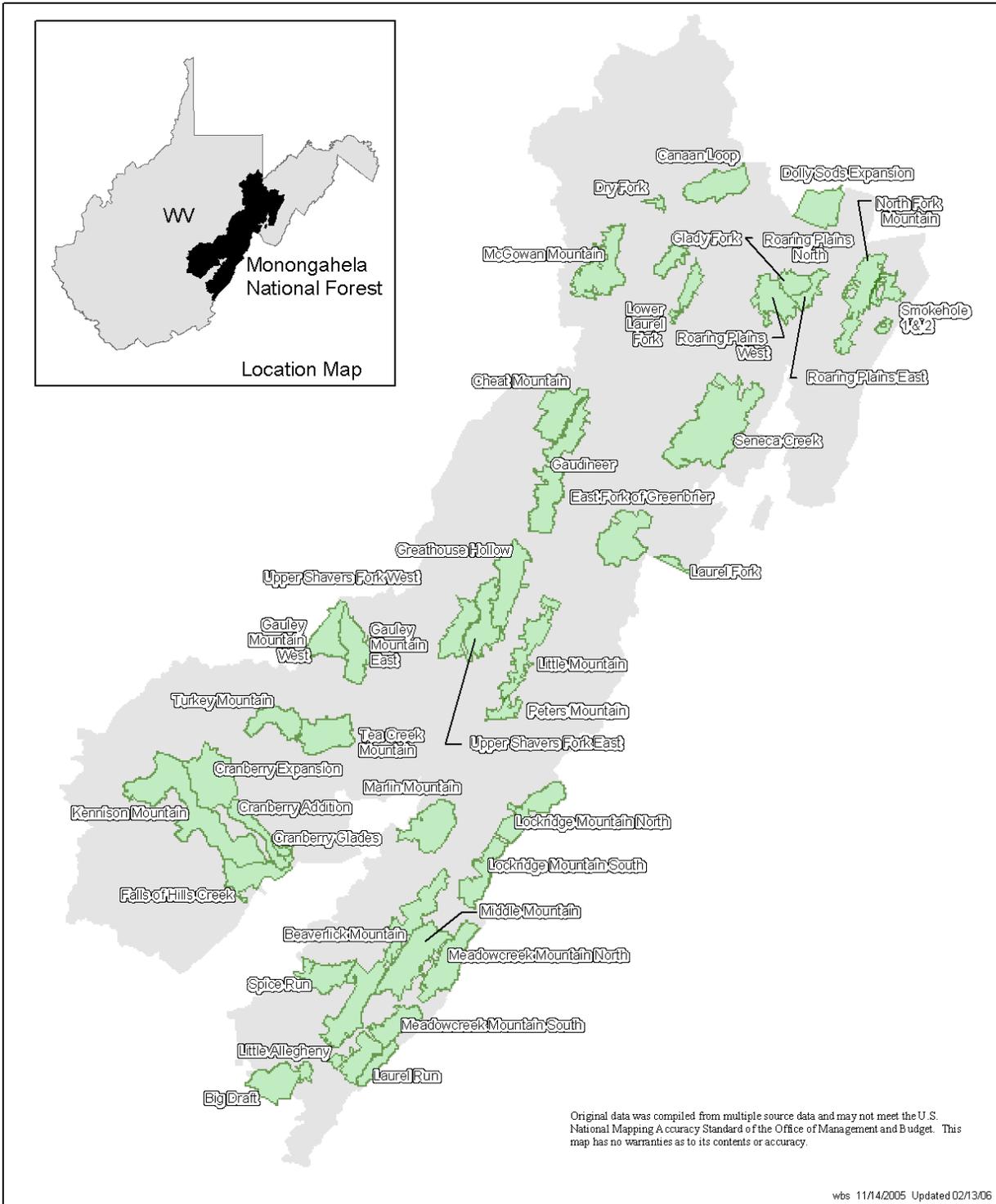
The Gaudineer area is a combination of MP 6.1 and 4.0 in the 1986 Plan. We looked at a total area of 13,500 acres for inventory eligibility and found that 6,727 acres met all of the inventory criteria, and 6,773 acres did not. The 6,773-acre area to the north did not qualify due to criteria #4: it is a long, very narrow (less than ½ mile wide in places) area with an irregular boundary and little or no core solitude that has adjacent development in the form of private residences and openings along Forest Road 44, and an active railroad along the western boundary that make the location not very conducive to wilderness values. The area also has more than ½ mile of improved road (FS Road 27) per 1,000 acres (criterion #5) and several harvest units and maintained openings within its boundaries.

Besides the 16,593 acres that have been excluded from the four areas described above, the following 23 areas (166,712 acres) are not included into the inventory for future consideration as wilderness because they did not meet the eight criteria for potential wilderness in the East:

Area	Acres	Area	Acres
Beaver Lick Mountain	18,611	Lower Laurel Fork	3,177
Cranberry Addition	5,127	Marlin Mountain	9,347
Cranberry Botanical	784	McGowan Mountain	10,522
Falls of Hills Creek	5,474	Meadow Creek North	9,682
Glady Fork	2,759	Meadow Creek South	5,465
Greathouse Hollow	9,729	North Fork Mountain	9,391
Kennison Mountain	23,717	Peters Mountain	2,347
Laurel Fork	1,172	Smoke Hole 1	2,823
Little Allegheny/Laurel Run	9,187	Smoke Hole 2	744
Little Mountain	8,072	Upper Shavers Fork East	7,898
Lockridge Mountain North	8,169	Upper Shavers Fork West	5,974
Lockridge Mountain South	6,541	Totals	166,712

RESULT – There are 18 areas (143,234 acres) that comprise the new roadless inventory, and they have received further evaluation as potential wildernesses in the East. They are as follows:

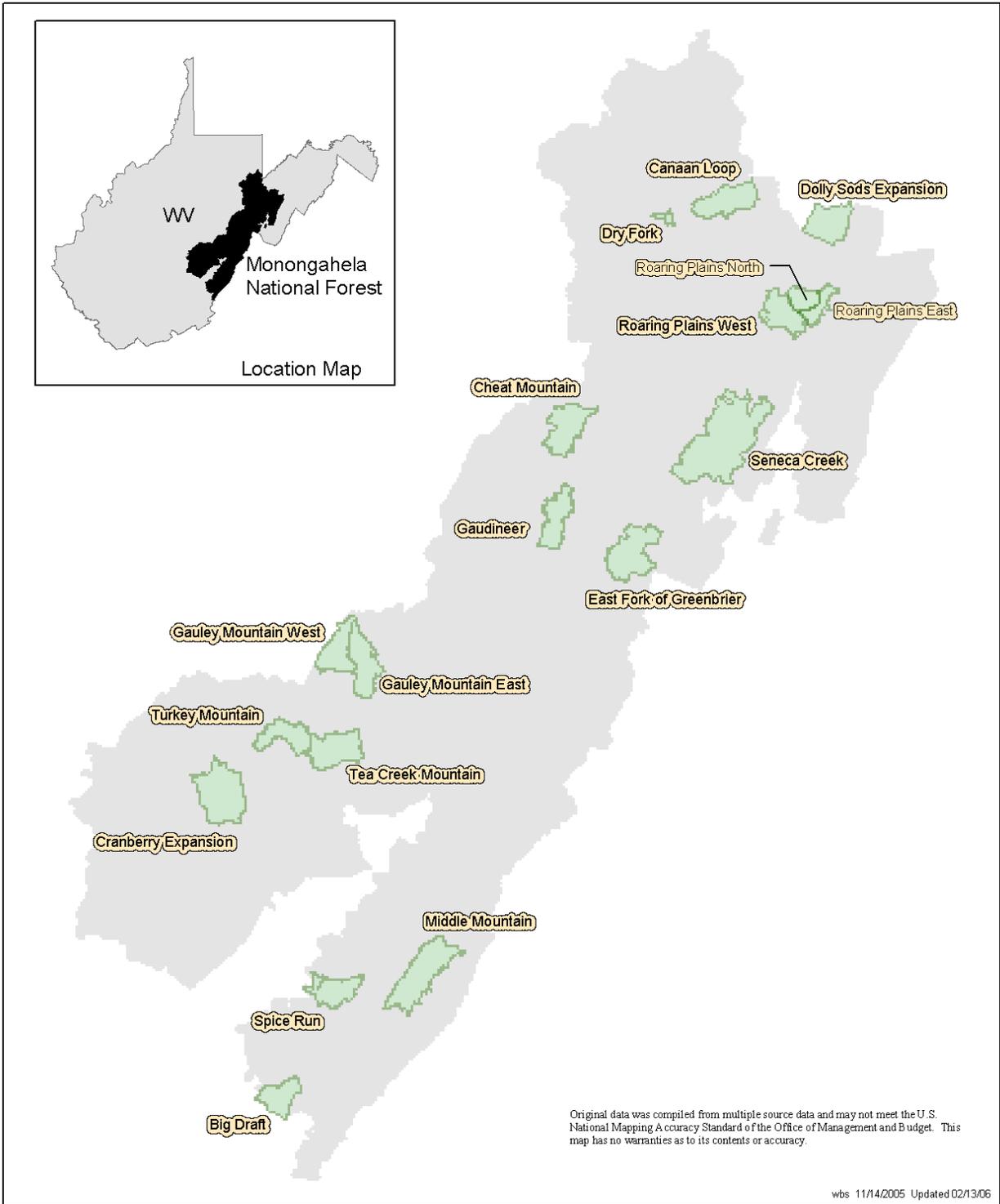
Area	Acres	Area	Acres
Big Draft	5,395	Gauley Mountain West	6,624
Canaan Loop	7,850	Middle Mountain	12,197
Cheat Mountain	7,955	Roaring Plains North	3,199
Cranberry Expansion	12,165	Roaring Plains East	2,962
Dolly Sods North	7,215	Roaring Plains West	6,825
Dry Fork	739	Seneca Creek	24,974
East Fork Greenbrier	10,153	Spice Run	6,171
Gaudineer	6,727	Tea Creek Mountain	8,272
Gauley Mountain East	7,780	Turkey Mountain	6,111



Roadless Review Areas

Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest





Inventoried Roadless Areas

Forest Plan Revision - Monongahela National Forest



PART THREE: THE WILDERNESS EVALUATION PROCESS

Evaluation of roadless areas east of the 100th meridian as part of the forest planning process yields one of the two following decisions:

1. Manage the area for management prescriptions other than Recommended Wilderness
2. Recommend the area to Congress as a Wilderness Study Area (FSH 1909.12) and assign it a prescription that maintains its Wilderness attributes until Congress decides to designate it or not.

The Forest evaluated the updated IRAs for their wilderness potential as one of the 6 planning decisions to be made in Forest Plan revision. Wilderness evaluation was divided into the following 6 steps.

Step 1 – Description

Provide an overview that includes basic information about each Roadless Area, including location, size, access, and general biophysical features.

Step 2 – Wilderness Capability

Indicate each area's capability for Wilderness by describing the basic characteristics that make the area appropriate and valuable for Wilderness, regardless of the area's availability or need. The evaluation compares a range of wilderness attributes for each area to attributes that currently exist within designated wildernesses on the Forest and the Region. These attributes include:

- **Natural Appearance and Natural Integrity** – These two attributes are often covered together as they are so closely related and dependent on the degree of disturbance that has occurred or is occurring in the area. This is 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 (FSH 1909.12). Degree of Disturbance may be described by looking at the percent of the area harvested within the past 10 years; percent of the area in non-native planted vegetation; improvements in the area and whether they are regaining natural character; and management activities that are currently occurring on a widespread basis (1997 R9 Guidelines).
- **Opportunity for Solitude** – This is a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk (1986 ROS Book, SPNM Delineation). Solitude may be described by stating gross acres and describing the topography of the roadless area; considering size, shape, and percent of core area to entire roadless area; describing existing travel patterns and degree of use within the area; and describing other factors such as noise (1997 R9 Guidelines).
- **Opportunity for Challenging Primitive Recreation** - 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 (FSH 1909.12). State the range and uniqueness to the recreation activities available; describe what characteristics of the area create the opportunities for the different activities (1997 R9 Guidelines). Challenge is the degree to which the area offers visitors the opportunity to experience adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative, or self-reliance. Most desirable areas offer many outstanding opportunities for adventure and challenge (FSH 1909.12). Look at opportunities to experience a level of risk; the probability of having the feeling of being the first one in the area; the

opportunity to get off the travel way and away from human influences in the area; the probability of being dependent on outdoor skills; the signs of trails, travel corridors, blazes; the extent that physical elements and natural forces interact with the individual use of the area (i.e. terrain, high volume stream flow, etc.) (1997 R9 Guidelines).

- **Special Features** - Describe any special features that have not been described in another section; state presence of designated Scenic Areas, features, focal points, or distinctive landscapes (1997 R9 Guidelines). Abundant and varied wildlife may also enhance an area's Wilderness capability (FSH 1909.12). Because the Forest has abundant and varied wildlife on most of its lands, we chose to limit this aspect of Special Features to known federally listed species or their habitats. Although most species on the Forest would benefit from the general lack of disturbance under a wilderness designation, there are no known species that have an "inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings" (FSH 1909.12). In fact, some species, such as Virginia big-eared bat and running buffalo clover, are known to benefit from habitat disturbance or management, and therefore could be negatively affected by wilderness designation.
- **Manageability and Boundaries** - The Forest Service's ability to manage an area as an enduring resource of Wilderness, untrammled by man, retaining its primeval character, and to protect and manage its natural character are all factors to consider. Also considered are such factors as size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences (FSH 1909.12). Important influences may also include the amount and character of private land within the area; the presence and character of special use permits in the area; the adjacent area if not in Forest Service ownership; and any outstanding mineral rights within the area (1997 R9 Guidelines).

National Forests east of the 100th meridian may contain limited non-conforming uses and/or non-conforming structures and improvements while retaining capability for Wilderness designation.

Attributes were rated on a relative scale of high to low, based on various combinations of GIS data, local knowledge, orthophoto mapping, public comment and input, field visits, and professional judgment. Admittedly, this is a somewhat subjective system, and wilderness advocates or detractors would no doubt rate the same areas differently based on their own interpretation of the criteria, flavored with personal opinion and agenda. However, legal decisions and past experience have shown that there is no purely scientific way of rating something as subjective as a wilderness attribute, so the Forest has chosen a process that we feel is at least based in discernable conditions and allows us to relatively describe the areas in a meaningful way for both the general public and the Responsible Official.

Step 3 – Availability for Wilderness

The 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. To be available for Wilderness, the values of the Wilderness resources, both tangible and intangible, should offset the value of resources that formal Wilderness designation would forego (FSH 1909.12). Describe and discuss non-Wilderness resources, current uses, outputs and potential uses available within a Roadless Area that may affect its availability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. (1997 R9 Guidelines)

The 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:

- Areas where the need for increased water production and/or additional onsite storage is so vital that the installation or maintenance of improvements that would be incompatible with Wilderness is an obvious and inevitable public necessity.
- Areas where designation would seriously restrict or prevent the application of wildlife management measures of considerable magnitude and importance.
- Highly mineralized areas that are of 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.
- Areas containing natural phenomena of such unique or outstanding nature that general public access and special development to facilitate public enjoyment should be available.
- Land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber or mineral production or for developed recreation areas such as winter sports sites.
- Lands committed through contractual agreements for use, purposes, or activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (FSH 1909.12, 7.22a).

Step 4 – Need for Wilderness

Determine the need for an area to be designated as Wilderness through an analysis of the degree to which it contributes to the local and national distribution of Wilderness. There should be clear evidence of current or future public need for additional designated Wilderness in general area under consideration. Demonstrate this need through the public involvement process, including public input to environmental analysis and its resultant documentation. 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 (FSH 1909.12, 7.23a).

In determining whether there is a need to designate a roadless area as Wilderness, consider:

1. The location, size, and type of other Wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed areas. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups.
2. Present visitor pressure on other Wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion figures, trends and changes in transportation, and Nation-wide travel patterns.
3. Extent to which non-Wilderness lands on National Forest, other Federal lands, State lands, and private lands other than Wildernesses are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences (FSH 1909.12, 7.23b).

The need for wilderness is covered in multiple places of this appendix. The IRA evaluations have a Need section that addresses the ecosystem representation and public interest related to each IRA, as well as the distance to other designated wildernesses on the Forest. Additionally, the following discussion provides a broader context of national, regional, and local wilderness opportunity and use trends and patterns.

Forest-wide Wilderness Need Summary

Since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) has grown from about 9 million acres in 54 areas to an estimated 105.6 million acres in 662 areas today. The National Park Service manages 44 million wilderness acres (41%), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages 21 million acres (20%), the U.S. Forest Service manages 35 million acres (33%), and the Bureau of Land Management manages 7 million acres (6%). The Forest Service manages the most wilderness units at 406. One acre in six of the National Forest System is now in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An estimated 5% of all lands in the United States are federally designated wilderness, with less than 10% occurring east of the Mississippi River.

Recreation is one of the many values associated with wilderness areas. Other values include the importance of natural environments for people and the protection of biological diversity/ecological units. Below is a discussion of wilderness need based on the above.

Recreation Use Trends - The National Forest Visitor Use Monitoring (NFVUM) results for 2002 indicate that nationally there are about 12.7 million recreation visits to National Forest managed wilderness annually, with 889,000 (7%) visiting wildernesses in the Eastern Region. In 2001 visitor use monitoring for the George Washington National Forest indicated that there were about 69,400 visits to their 17 wildernesses (2% of total recreation use), and in 2002 the Allegheny National Forest's visits to their two wildernesses totaled 38,815, or 3% of their overall recreation use. The NFVUM was conducted on the Monongahela in FY 2003. The results indicate that there were 38,595 visits to the five existing wildernesses on the Forest, which is approximately 3% of the total Forest recreation visits.

As the remainder of the country becomes increasingly populated, it is reasonable to assume that the relatively un-crowded State of West Virginia will become more attractive for both recreationists and others seeking areas to experience remoteness in a wild setting. There is a predicted long-term increase in demand for recreation opportunities, coupled with increasing development of private land base in West Virginia and surrounding states. In West Virginia, the National Forests, and to a lesser extent the State lands, are almost the exclusive providers of public semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. The Monongahela National Forest contains five Wildernesses totaling over 78,000 acres or about 9% of the Forest. In addition, there are 2,721 acres of the Mountain Lake Wilderness in a portion of the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest located in West Virginia. Within the local geographical Allegheny Mountain Range (Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia) there are 25 federally designated wildernesses totaling 266,827 acres.

There were also over 416,000 acres of the Monongahela National Forest in Management Area 6.1 (remote wildlife habitat emphasis) in the 1986 Plan, and approximately 125,000 acres in Management Area 6.2 (backcountry recreation emphasis). Although some timber harvest has occurred in the 6.1 areas since 1986, both of these areas offer backcountry recreation opportunities, and together they represent over 50% of the Forest land base.

National Opinion Trends Toward Wilderness - In addition to recreation use in wilderness, there are non-users that value wilderness, and this fact is important to consider when analyzing potential wilderness areas, prescription allocations, and the need for additional wilderness. Studies have shown that a large portion of the non-visiting public values the knowledge that natural environments exist and are protected. This perception can be considered an existence benefit. These wilderness advocates also have the off-site benefit of knowing that protection today will provide wilderness for future generations to enjoy. These values are reflected in the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (2001) finding that 67% of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed to the question, "How do you feel about designating more federal lands in your state as wilderness?" Over 96% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I enjoy knowing that future generations will be able to visit and experience wilderness areas."

Biological Diversity/Ecological Units - There is potential to contribute to biological diversity and ecosystem representation by preserving additional areas where natural processes dominate in a variety of potential late successional forest types. The context for determining the need for ecosystem representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) is based upon the eco-region descriptions developed by Robert G. Bailey in *Descriptions of the Ecoregions of the United States* (Bailey 1995). Nationwide, 261 different ecosystem types have been identified based on biophysical factors. Of these, an estimated 157 eco-regions, also referred to as provinces, are now represented in the NWPS. The goal of ecosystem representation is to represent different ecosystem types in a preservation-oriented

system such as the NWPS, to meet biological (landform representation and biodiversity conservation) and social needs (outdoor recreation opportunities).

The Monongahela National Forest potential wilderness areas are all located in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Allegheny Mountains Section (M221B), which includes 18 areas with a total of 143,234 acres. The five existing wildernesses on the Forest, totalling over 78,000 acres, are also located in this ecological unit.

The Forest Service defines adequate wilderness representation of an ecosystem to include two or more distinct examples of at least 1,000 acres (Loomis et al. 1999). However, there are no absolute “minimums” for representation. The M221 Ecoregion is adequately represented with wilderness, with an estimated 306,693 acres included in the NWPS, including 25 separate examples of at least 1000 acres.

The 18 potential wilderness areas and 5 wildernesses on the Forest are located within three Ecological Unit Subsections. The Northern High Allegheny Mountain Subsection (M221Ba) includes the Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, and Laurel Fork North and South Wildernesses and Canaan Loop, Cheat Mountain, Dolly Sods North, Dry Fork, East Fork Greenbrier, Gauley Mountain East, Gauley Mountain West, Roaring Plains East, North and West, and Seneca Creek, (15 areas totaling 128,129 acres). The Southern (Middle) High Allegheny Subsection (M221 Bc) includes the Cranberry Wilderness and the Cranberry Expansion, Tea Creek Mountain and Turkey Mountain areas (4 areas totaling 62,412 acres), and the Eastern Allegheny Mountain and Valley subsection (M221Bd) includes the Big Draft, Gaudineer, Middle Mountain, and Spice Run areas (4 areas totaling 30,472 acres).

Step 5 – Wilderness Evaluation Summary

This section includes a summary of capability related to wilderness attributes, determination of availability or unavailability, current and potential values foregone with wilderness designation, and description of biological and social need.

Step 6 – Alternatives and Environmental Consequences

The potential environmental consequences of a Wilderness or a non-Wilderness recommendation are described in two different sections of this appendix. This Introduction has a section that describes the “General Consequences of a Wilderness or Non-Wilderness Designation”, which provides a broad-scale evaluation of how different resource or program areas could be affected. The “Individual IRA Descriptions and Evaluations” section looks at how each area would be managed by alternative, and what that might mean in terms of development potential.

Potential outcomes for individual IRAs under each of the alternatives are estimated in two analyses within the Environmental Consequences sections for each IRA: Management Disposition by Alternative and Development Potential. Although, both of these analyses address the potential development or preservation of IRAs, they represent different scales of development potential and involve different analytical elements. Potential outcomes under each of the management alternatives for the IRAs are also analyzed in Chapter 3 of the EIS, in the Recreation and Wilderness section.

The purpose of the first analysis, Management Disposition by Alternative, is to provide a broad sense of the ultimate disposition likely under assigned management prescription for each IRA. It represents the potential, long-term outcomes over the course of probably a century or more of managing the IRAs based solely upon their Management Prescription (MP) assignments. In that it is purely based upon MP assignment and does not reflect actual resource features or socio-political considerations, the IRA outcome acreages should not be taken literally, but can serve to illustrate likely relative differences

between the alternatives. IRA disposition outcomes under each alternative are divided among four different categories:

- Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)
- Maintain Undeveloped Character (MPs 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.5 Candidate RNAs)
- Potential Low Levels of Development (MPs 4.1, 7.0, and 6.3)
- Available for a Full Range of Development (MPs 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, and 8.6).

Two levels of potential development are distinguished in these categories because of differences among the MPs relative to differing intensities of development. MP 4.1 technically allows development in some portions of the prescription area, and greatly restricts development in many other portions. For the purpose of this analysis, potential actions have been averaged across the MP. The second analysis below breaks these actions out to a finer scale.

The second analysis, Development Potential, is an effort to provide a more refined sense of the potential development outcomes likely under assigned management direction for each IRA. For the initial Forest Plan, timber sale schedules were used to estimate potential timber development and specific sales were listed. Similar schedules were not developed for this round of planning and the range of resource management activities that result in IRA development have also expanded. As a result, a series of combinations of data elements were used to estimate areas where management activities had the greatest potential to result in development within IRAs. MP assignments were combined with suited timberlands and areas having known potential for mineral exploration and development to estimate areas of highest priority and potential for development.

Timber harvest and natural gas development were chosen to evaluate as they have the most potential for both occurrence and large-scale, long-lasting change to the undeveloped character of a given area. Prescribed fire was not used because effects are short term and do not constitute development. Special uses tend to be unpredictable as to where and when they occur, and are typically localized in nature. Recreation development (campgrounds, trails, etc.) is not predicted to increase substantially at this time and would also be localized in nature. Range management is almost absent from the areas in question, and is not predicted to increase. Watershed restoration or mine-site reclamation would have an overall beneficial effect on reducing the developed character of an area.

Harvest-related development potential was estimated by the amount of suitable timber acres in each area by alternative. Estimates of mining-related development potential were calculated by taking the total amount of acres under federal leases or private mineral rights, and dividing by 640, or the number of acres in a square mile, and multiplying by 15.5. It has been estimated that the maximum reasonable amount of gas development that occurs on the Forest is about 1 gas well per square mile, and that the surface disturbance (well site, roads, pipelines) associated with each site averages around 15.5 acres.

It was felt that these elements represent the best practical estimation of the potential for development of any individual IRA given implementation of the revised Forest Plans under each alternative over the planning period. Even with the refinements in this second analysis, development predictions are likely to be greatly overestimated compared to the actual development that could occur under those prescriptions in the next 10 to 15 years. However, these estimates still represent the best guess for the maximum reasonable "potential" for development within any given IRA on a programmatic scale.

There is no way to predict with complete certainty all the many factors that contribute to or affect future development activities. As such, any prediction of future activities in programmatic planning is likely to vary from what actually occurs during the subsequent implementation period. Again, the results of this analysis should not be seen as an absolute determination of the levels of development that will take place.

Instead, they should be viewed more as measures of relative differences in potential IRA development represented by the alternatives.

PART FOUR: EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

Consequences of a Wilderness or Non-Wilderness Designation

The individual descriptions found in this section address the environmental consequences of wilderness or non-wilderness designation. Some effects are the same for all roadless areas. In other cases, non-wilderness designation outcomes may vary depending on whether the management prescription assigned to an IRA allows development activities or not. These general effects are described by resource topic, below, for the general types of management that may occur as a result of designation or non-designation as wilderness. Effects have been typically separated into 3 categories:

- Wilderness Designation (MP 5.0)
- Non-Wilderness, Non-Development (MP 5.1, 6.2, 8.1 SPNM areas, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)
- Non-Wilderness, Development (MPs 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 4.1, 6.1, 7.0, 8.5 Fernow, 8.6)

Under the Wilderness Designation and Non-Wilderness, Non-development scenarios it is assumed that illegal motorized use would be at levels so low that it would have essentially no effect on the undeveloped character of the area. Under the Non-Wilderness, Non-development scenario it is assumed that if vegetation management occurs it would be at levels so low that it would have essentially no effect on the undeveloped character of the area.

Air

Effects of Wilderness/Non-wilderness Designation - There would be no expected net change to air quality specifically from a wilderness or non-wilderness designation. Wildland fires result in short-term degradation in air quality. Neither a wilderness nor non-wilderness designation would preclude the use of prescribed fire, which may also result in short-term impacts to air quality. Air quality would more likely be affected by management outside of wilderness or by sources of ambient air pollutants off the Forests.

Soil and Water

Effects of Wilderness Designation - The natural functions of watershed systems would be maintained. The risk of human-cause alterations of the watershed condition would be primarily limited to localized recreation activities. Soil productivity and water quality would fluctuate within ranges defined by natural processes. Instream flows for all multiple use purposes would be asserted.

Additional commitment of the soil resource may occur as a result of the construction of new trails. Additional reductions in soil productivity may occur from soil compaction, displacement, and erosion in areas of concentrated recreation use. These effects would likely be greatest in areas around streams and lake and where outfitting and guiding operations are based. Additional impacts on soil and water resources from motorized use would be limited to unauthorized encroachment from ATVs or ORVs. The use of artificial means to rehabilitate areas in degraded condition would be limited to minimum tool techniques.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects would be the same as described for a wilderness designation, except that previously authorized motorized uses and related soil erosion would continue.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development - The natural functions of watershed systems would be affected by development. The threat of soil erosion from associated motorized uses and land-disturbing development would increase with the degree of use. However, active rehabilitation efforts could be undertaken to mitigate affected resource areas. Compaction from recreation use in popular visitation areas would likely continue.

Fish Habitat and Species

Effects of Wilderness Designation - Under a wilderness designation, natural processes would primarily affect fish and their habitat. Natural events and climatic variation would influence sedimentation, riparian vegetation, and nutrient cycles. These processes are the same as those that affected fish populations before Euro-American settlement. Fish stocking programs would be permitted to continue in areas of historic stocking under either a wilderness or non-wilderness designation.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects would be expected to be similar to those described for a wilderness designation. However, continuation of previously authorized motorized uses would be expected to increase sedimentation, with potentially adverse effects to riparian habitat and nutrient cycles.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development - Natural processes that affect fish and their habitat would be interrupted to a degree commensurate with development activities. Motorized uses, road construction, and other land-disturbing activities may increase sedimentation and potentially adversely affect riparian habitat and nutrient cycles. However, active rehabilitation efforts could be undertaken to mitigate affected resource areas.

Wildlife Habitat and Species

Effects of Wilderness Designation - As natural succession progresses, climax vegetation types would dominate in the absence of disturbance such as fire, favoring those species that depend on late successional habitats. Wildlife species that need openings and immature forest habitats would find less available. Opportunities to manipulate habitat for the benefit of wildlife species would be substantially reduced. Changes in populations may become more cyclic under a wilderness designation. Wildlife harassment from motorized uses would not be a concern and habitat fragmentation would be minimized.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects to wildlife would be similar to that described for wilderness, except that previously authorized motorized uses would likely continue, which could result in some level of wildlife harassment and possible displacement. Habitat fragmentation would also be minimized due to the lack of development activities.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development - Vegetation treatments may result in a greater mosaic of habitat types and associated species diversity. Opportunities to manipulate habitat specifically for the benefit of wildlife species would be available. Fragmentation and loss of habitat from road construction may occur with increased development. Opportunities to decommission roads and restore habitat would exist.

Plants

Effects of Wilderness Designation - Natural ecological succession would be allowed to continue and, over time, restore ecological under a wilderness designation. Levels of insect infestation and disease would reach endemic levels as ecological systems move toward their historic ranges of variability. Prescribed fire might be used under a wilderness designation to reduce fuel loads. Dispersal of non-native invasive weeds would be generally limited to along the trail systems and river corridors. Monitoring and detection of infestation is often infrequent in wilderness areas, thus allowing for noxious weeds to establish and expand prior to discovery. Overall plant diversity would be slow to change, but would move towards a dominance of mature trees and late successional habitats.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects under this designation would be similar to a wilderness designation.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development - Natural ecological succession could be interrupted by development activities associated with other resource management objectives. Incidents of insects and disease would still occur, but would be more aggressively prevented or managed through vegetation treatments practices. The use of prescribed fire might be limited in local areas to protect capital investments and structures, but would generally be used more for ecological restoration. The potential for infestation of noxious weeds are moderate to high in developed and actively managed areas. Soil disturbance associated with such activities could increase the risk of invasion. The ability to detect and treat infestations would be greater than in wilderness areas and thus infestations could be prevented or contained earlier. Overall plant diversity would depend on the management objectives for the area.

Fire

Effects of Wilderness Designation – Because mechanical vegetation management treatments are not allowed in designated wilderness areas, standing vegetation would eventually mature and die, increasing fuel loads and the potential for wildland fire. Wildland fires would be managed according to wilderness fire management plans. Considerations in implementing any action include considerations of firefighter and public safety, cost efficiency, the potential spread of fire to adjacent non-wilderness lands, and air quality impacts. Suppression strategies and tactics employed would be employed in a manner that reduces impacts of the actions on wilderness values.

Prescribed fire may be used in wilderness to reduce fuel loads. It may also be used to prevent, where necessary, the spread of wildfire to or from a wilderness, or to protect features such as structures. Prescribed fire is only initiated under the direction of approved wilderness fire management plan.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects would be expected to be similar to that described for a wilderness designation. However, the tactics available for wildfire suppression would probably be less limited without a wilderness designation. The effects relative to prescribed fire would be similar to those under wilderness designation.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development - The full range of suppression tactics is most likely to be available for use. The use of prescribed fire might be limited in local areas to protect capital investments and structures, but would generally be used more for ecological restoration.

Insect and Disease

Effects of Wilderness Designation – Forest stands in designated wilderness would be more likely to age past maturity and provide an environment for potential insect and disease build-up. If insect and disease occurrences build up within protected areas, they may eventually threaten vegetation on adjacent, unprotected lands as well. Generally, no insect or disease control would be permitted within wilderness unless lands unless other ownership or resources outside the wilderness are threatened. Suppression treatments would then employ the means most compatible with preservation of wilderness values.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects would be expected to be similar to that described for a wilderness designation. However, the tools available for suppression of outbreaks would probably be somewhat less limited without a wilderness designation.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development – Response to insect and disease outbreaks can generally be more direct and rapid under these forms of management. A greater range of suppression tools and treatment options would also provide a higher level of success in containing the extent of the outbreak and in protecting adjacent resources.

Domestic Livestock Grazing

Effects of Wilderness Designation – Grazing of livestock may be permitted within wilderness areas where grazing was established at the time that the wilderness was designated. Domestic livestock grazing activities are permitted in accordance with guidelines in the House of Representatives Report No. 96-1126. Corrals, fences, and water developments essential to sustain current permitted domestic livestock levels are allowed. The location of the development and types of materials use would harmonize with the wilderness character of the area in order to reduce the impact of man-made objects on the natural-appearing environment.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - In many cases, the forms of structures needed for grazing management such as water developments and fencing have little impact and may be compatible with non-development forms of management. There would likely be few effects on current grazing practices and improvements.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development – Current grazing practices and improvements would likely be the least changed under this form of management and could continue to the extent that they did not adversely affect other resources or interfere with the primary management emphasis of the area.

Minerals

Effects of Wilderness Designation – Federal land not under lease or with privately owned mineral rights may be withdrawn from mineral exploration and development. Under a wilderness designation, mineral exploration and development may continue under leases in existence at the time of wilderness designation. Holders of valid mineral leases retain the rights granted by the terms and conditions of the specific leases. Once a lease expires, the land may be withdrawn from mineral exploration and development. Holders of privately owned mineral rights are allowed to conduct operations necessary for the development, production, and processing of mineral resources. Mechanized equipment, motorized access, and utility corridors may be used. However, these activities and the reclamation of all disturbed lands are typically designed to minimize the impact on the surrounding wilderness character.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development – Holders of privately owned mineral rights are allowed to conduct operations necessary for the development, production, and processing of mineral resources. For lands under federal lease, a no surface occupancy restriction would restrict the amount of exploration or development that could occur, and eliminate surface disturbance within the area.

Effects of Non-wilderness Designation – These lands would be open to mineral exploration and development except where specifically withdrawn or restricted for other purposes. Although a full range of activities may be allowed and employed, developments and activities would be adjusted to mitigate adverse impacts to other resources where appropriate.

Recreation

Effects of Wilderness Designation – While recreational use of wilderness is generally encouraged and expected, the principal emphasis of wilderness management direction is to manage recreation use to minimize the evidence of human use and provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. To accomplish this task requires certain restrictions on recreational use within wilderness that are not necessarily needed for the same activities outside wilderness. Only primitive, non-mechanized access and recreation activities are permitted in wilderness, and only those facilities required for the safety of users and protection of wilderness resources are provided. Convenience facilities are not provided. Existing opportunities for mountain bicycling would be lost as a result of wilderness designation. The use of mechanized tools for trail construction and maintenance would be restricted. Existing outfitter and guide services operating within these areas may need to be modified or eliminated to meet wilderness requirements. In many cases, wilderness designation has served to elevate an area's visibility to the public, increasing its popularity and its recreation use. Increased use can result in increased damage to trails and other resources, as well as reduced opportunities for solitude and other wilderness values.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development – Current recreation uses would likely be the least changed under this form of management, except in areas where public motorized use is currently allowed. Access would not necessarily be restricted to wilderness-compliant forms and current activities and practices could continue to the extent to that they didn't adversely affect other resources.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development - Development activities can reduce the primitive recreational character of a roadless area through a combination of altered recreation settings, experiences, and access. The sights and sounds of human presence are usually increased by development activities. Recreationists seeking a more primitive experience would choose not to visit such an area, and obvious signs of development would cause the Forest to remove the area from its roadless inventory. On the other hand, development may also provide greater recreational access and increased non-primitive recreation experiences.

Facilities

Effects of Wilderness Designation – A reasonable network of trails and campsites are acceptable facilities in a wilderness, except in areas to be managed in a pristine condition. In fact, trails leading to and within wilderness areas become the principal management tool for achieving management objectives. Existing structures would be evaluated for management needs relative to wilderness and other resources. Non-conforming or unneeded Forest Service structures may be removed.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - Current facilities and trails would likely be the least changed under this form of management and current structures could continue to the extent that they did not adversely affect other resources.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development – Development under a non-wilderness management prescription could have a number of effects on trails and facilities ranging from enhancement to elimination depending upon the primary resource objectives for the area.

Scenic Resources

Effects of Wilderness Designation – The result of natural succession as it occurs within designated wilderness areas would change the scenic characteristics of the areas over time. This change could be slow, or it could occur quickly as the result of wildfire or insect or disease attack. The result would most likely be a characteristic landscape mosaic representative of how the areas would naturally appear if relatively unaffected by human activity.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development - The effects would be expected to be similar to that described for a wilderness designation.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development – There would be a greater potential for landscapes that exhibit obvious signs of human presence. Scenic Integrity Objectives would serve to constrain or modify development to mitigate adverse effects to scenic resources in areas seen from major recreation facilities and use corridors.

Cultural Resources

Effects of Wilderness Designation – Potential impacts from ground-disturbing activities like road building and timber harvest would essentially be eliminated. The opportunity to find undiscovered resources would be greatly reduced, and the opportunity to interpret them on site for public enjoyment would be lost.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Non-development – Effects would be similar to those from Wilderness Designation, except there may be more interpretation opportunities.

Effects of Non-wilderness, Development – Potential impacts from ground-disturbing activities like road building and timber harvest could occur, and mitigation would be applied at the project level for resource protection. Project level inventories would increase opportunities to identify undiscovered resources. There would be few if any restrictions on site interpretation.

Individual Evaluations of Potential Wilderness Areas

Each of the 18 potential wilderness areas is evaluated below for their wilderness potential. Each IRA evaluation includes:

- Description - location, vegetation, terrain and special attractions,
- Capability – wilderness characteristics like natural appearance and opportunity for solitude,
- Availability – the areas known resources, existing and potential uses,
- Need – proximity to existing wilderness and public interest,
- Alternatives and Environmental Consequences – summary of development potential by alternative.

Big Draft
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092101
5,395 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Big Draft area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, White Sulphur Springs Ranger District, Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The entire area is located on National Forest System lands. The area is located at the southern tip of the Forest, just south of Blue Bend Recreation area and about 5 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. State Roads 16 and 36, Forest Road 296, and County Roads 21/2 and 36/1 provide the primary access to the area. Nearby communities include; Anthony, 1 mile west, White Sulphur Springs, about 5 miles to the south, and Lewisburg, 15 miles to the southwest. The area is about 3 miles long and 2.5 miles wide and is found within portions of United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps for Anthony and White Sulphur Springs. There are no improved roads and 14 miles of designated trail within the IRA.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Big Draft ranges in elevation from 1,800 feet along the Greenbrier River to over 3,100 feet on interior portions of the area. Slopes within the area range from 10 to 60% and are typically long ridges with narrow summits and mountain slopes. The geologic formations within the area vary and include Mississippi sandstone, Devonian sandstone and shale with a surface geology consisting of sandy silty colluvium. The primary vegetative type is oak and hickory, with pockets of hemlock and white pine. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good. The understory consists of rhododendron, mixed shrubs, grasses, and ferns.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under Management Prescription 6.2, which emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of the Big Draft area is regaining its natural untrammelled appearance, and natural ecological processes are the primary factors affecting the area. There has not been any timber harvesting in the area since prior to 1986. There are no managed wildlife openings within the area. Except for these openings, natural integrity and appearance are both considered high over much of the area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Big Draft area is 5,395 acres in size and provides 2,558 acres of core solitude (47% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. National Forest borders most of the area to the north and east. Private land borders the entire southern and most of the western perimeters of the area. Visitor use within the area is considered moderate to high most of the year and is primarily by hikers, hunters and anglers. The Blue Bend and Anthony Creek Trails are heavily used by anglers. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is relatively good, and the opportunity to experience remoteness is moderate. Due to the relatively small size of the core solitude area, there is potential to hear noise from adjacent roads, the Blue Bend Recreation Area and Camp Woods, and activities on private lands to the south. Overall, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are both considered low along trails and the boundaries with roads, private lands, and the Blue Bend Recreation area, but relatively high elsewhere, particularly in the core solitude area.

Special Features: The area offers outstanding white-water paddling opportunities along its boundary.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has good established boundaries (roads, river, and Forest boundary) and no major intrusions. However, the relatively small size of the area, combined with the amount of private bordering the area to the south and west, increase the potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is considered moderate. Due to these factors, and wildlife management activities within the area, the current potential for managing the area as wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: This is a popular area for a variety of recreation opportunities. Use within the area is considered moderate to high most of the year and is primarily by hikers, hunters, paddlers, and anglers. The 14-mile trail system is open to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians and provides numerous scenic views. The Blue Bend Trail is on the National Register of Historic Places Register and, along with the Anthony Creek Trail, is heavily used by anglers. Mountain bike use within the area is considered low. Equestrian use is very low. There is a trail shelter along the Blue Bend Trail that receives moderate use. Anthony Creek and the Greenbrier River provide seasonal paddling opportunities. Blue Bend visitors and students from the nearby youth camp also use the area for hiking and fishing. If this area were designated wilderness, mountain bike use would be eliminated; this use is currently low. The trail shelter on the Blue Bend Trail would need to be removed. Trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanized equipment.

Fisheries: The area is located along the lower reaches of Anthony Creek at its confluence with the Greenbrier River. Fisheries resources within Anthony Creek include warm water game fish (small-mouth bass, rock bass and green sunfish) and numerous native non-game species. Fisheries data is limited for the major tributaries, Laurel Creek and Big Draft, in the area. Big Draft was sampled in 1992 and only black-nose dace and creek chub were collected. Fish were observed in Laurel Creek during a habitat survey in 1991, but no fish sampling data are available. Species of concern collected in Anthony Creek, within the IRA, include candy darter, bigmouth chub and blue-head chub. The candy darter is on the Regional Forester's sensitive species list, and bigmouth chub and blue-head chub are ranked by the state as S3/S4 and S3 respectively. Wilderness designation would not overly restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams in this area because road access to Anthony Creek and Big Draft exist outside of the area.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey and a variety of birds and reptiles. There are no managed wildlife openings within the area.

Water: This area contains portions of 5 coldwater streams. The Greenbrier River is a navigable river and flows through a small portion of the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Under the assigned 6.2 MP, commercial timber harvesting is not currently permitted except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas severely damaged by hurricanes, ice storms, etc. There has not been any significant timber harvesting in the area since the early 1980s. The IRA contains an estimated 95,761 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 5,322 acres (99 percent) are considered tentatively suited timberlands, including an estimated 2,374 (44%) acres that are considered to be prime timberland. The potential timber value of 95,761 CCF would remain foregone under a wilderness designation.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area. However, there are 2,483 acres in federal gas leases and 40% of the area has private mineral rights. Lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Based on available information, mineable coal is not present within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate based on the potential for some natural gas discovery coincident with private ownership. The value from future federal mineral development, which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone under a wilderness designation. However, there could be values received from future development of the private mineral estate because 40% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are seven known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 2% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are no special use permits issued in the area.

Disturbances: Fire regimes are classified based on the average number of years between fires, combined with the severity of the fire on the dominant overstory vegetation. The Big Draft area is located within Fire Regimes I, III and V. Fire Regime I has a 0-35 year frequency of low (surface fire most common) and mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced). Fire Regime III has a 35-100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity. Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. The fire regime condition class is a classification based on the relative degree of departure the area has from its natural fire regime. Area lands are currently in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within the natural or historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from the natural range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would likely restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private land to the north and west.

Botanical Characteristics: There is one Regional Forester Sensitive Species known to occur in the area, large-flowered Barbara's buttons. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that trails and other disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 80-90 air miles northeast of the Big Draft area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are about 60 air miles to the northeast, and the Cranberry Wilderness is 20 air miles north of the area. The area is 5 air miles north of White Sulphur Springs and 23 air miles southwest of Marlinton. The area is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, and a 4-5 hour drive Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of White Sulphur Springs, Lewisburg, Covington, Marlinton, and Richwood, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Eastern Allegheny Mountain and Valley Section

(M221Bd), which is represented regionally, nationally, and within existing wilderness on the Monongahela National Forest.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high with minor moderate exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	High in core area and off trails; low near boundaries, trails, and wildlife openings
Special Features	T&E species habitat
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values or uses foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, mountain biking, several special use permit operations, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, watershed restoration, prescribed fire, and fire suppression.

The Big Draft area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Eastern Allegheny Mountain and Valley Section (M221Bd), which represented regionally in existing wildernesses. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition has specifically proposed this area for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (5.1)	0	0	0	5,395	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	5,395	5,395	5,395	0	5,395
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Canaan Loop
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092102
7,850 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Canaan Loop area is located on the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District, Tucker County, West Virginia. The entire area is on National Forest System lands. The area is located west of State Road 32. Forest Road (FR) 13 circles the area. Blackwater Falls State Park borders the area to the north, and the Canaan Valley State Park is about ½ mile to the south. Nearby communities include Davis, Canaan Heights, and Hendricks, West Virginia. The area is about 3 miles in length and 1 mile wide and is found within portions of the Mozark Mountain and Blackwater Falls USGS quadrangle maps. Primary vehicle access is provided by FR 13. Visitors also access the area from the Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley State Parks. There are no improved or unimproved roads within the area. Five trails, totaling 16 miles, are located within and immediately adjacent to the Canaan Loop area.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Canaan Loop area is a high plateau ranging in elevation from 4,145 feet at Pointy Knob to 3,100 feet near Blackwater Falls State Park. Much of the area is relatively flat, and there are many seasonally wet places. The geology of this area is predominately Pottsville Rock; with Conemaugh Allegheny Rocks located on the higher knobs on the west and north side of Canaan Mountain. Vegetation consists of red spruce, hemlock, and hardwood stands with an understory of rhododendron, mountain laurel, and shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is good. The vegetative makeup of the area is 65% hardwood, 25% softwood, and 10% upland brush.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under MP 6.2, which emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: There are no roads within the area, although there is an extensive trail system within and adjacent to the area. Existing vegetation, combined with the high-elevation plateau, provides good visual screening from outside activities and opportunities to experience solitude and the feeling of remoteness. Most of the area appears to be natural, but there are signs of human-induced disturbance and presence, primarily 20 acres of wildlife openings, 20 dispersed campsites, two trail shelters, an old rock quarry, and the well-used trail system. Except for these localized areas, the overall natural integrity is intact and the natural appearance is considered high.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The area is 7,850 acres in size, provides over 3,100 acres of contiguous core solitude (40% of the area), and is located entirely on National Forest System lands. The area is bordered to the north and east by Black Water Falls State Park and private commercial forest land. The western and southern boundaries are National Forest. A gas pipeline forms the eastern boundary of the area. Visitor use is considered moderate most of the year and high during hunting season. The 16-mile trail system (1.33 miles/square mile) receives moderate to high hiker and mountain bike use. Equestrian use is low. The trail system provides connecting access to the two state parks bordering the area. The likelihood of encountering other visitors along trails is moderate to high. However, because of the area's narrow width, the road circling the area, and the private commercial land and state park bordering to the north, it is likely that human-produced sounds—traffic, chainsaws, large groups— would occasionally be heard within a good portion of the area. Thus,

opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are both considered low along trails and near the area's boundaries, and moderate in the core solitude area.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Forest Service Road 13 completely circles the Canaan Loop area and would serve as an excellent boundary. There are no current mineral leases or privately owned rights. However, the size and shape (only 1 mile wide) of the area makes its preservation potential marginal. Road traffic and uses, and commercial forest land and the state park bordering on the north, increase the risk of encroachment and non-conforming uses within the area. Well-established mountain bike use on the trail system within the area would be difficult to eliminate. Although the area does have over 3,100 acres of core solitude, this area is long and narrow, so noise from outside sources even within the core area can be expected. The overall manageability of the area is considered low.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are two Forest Service trail shelters with the area. One is located along trail #110, the Railroad Grade Trail, and the other adjacent to trail #701, the Allegheny Trail. The American Discovery/Allegheny Trail, a key attraction, is open to all non-motorized uses. The 16-mile non-motorized trail system attracts a variety of visitors, including many from the Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley State Parks. Mountain biking is very popular in the area, and recreation special use permits are authorized annually for special mountain bike events. Most of the trails were originally constructed as fire lanes, and some resource damage is occurring from heavy trail use in wet areas. Hiking, hunting, fishing, nature watching, cross-country skiing and disperse camping are also popular activities within the area. There are 20 dispersed campsites in the area. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use in this area. Elimination of this use would be controversial. In addition, two existing trail shelters would have to be removed or destroyed, and trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: Canaan Loop is situated on Canaan Mountain and drains to the Blackwater River to the north and Red Run to the south. The area is underlain by geologies that are sensitive to acid deposition and streams in the area are susceptible to acidic conditions. Laurel Run, which heads in the area, is on the EPA 303d list of impaired streams due to biological impairment. Red Run is also considered acidic, but the addition of limestone sand to the channel has mitigated the effects of acid deposition. Brook trout, black-nose dace and mottled sculpin have re-established in the stream following the limestone treatment. Wilderness designation would restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams or restore watershed conditions to help maintain or improve water quality and fish habitat.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey and a variety of birds and reptiles. Threatened, endangered and Regional sensitive (TES) species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander, and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, and the northern water shrew. The WVDNR currently maintains 20 acres of wildlife openings. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for six cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Most streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands within the area.

Timber: Under the assigned 6.2 MP, timber harvesting is not currently permitted except for achieving recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas severely damaged by hurricanes, ice storms, etc. There has not been any timber harvest in this area since the early 1980s. This area contains an estimated 161,774 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 7,693 acres (98%) are considered tentatively suited timberlands. There are an estimated 3,170 acres (41%) of prime timberland within the area. The potential timber value of 161,744 CCF would remain foregone with wilderness designation.

Minerals: There are no active or inactive private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area. Forty percent of the area is estimated to have a 25% chance, and 60% of the area has a 12.5% chance, of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. There are no privately owned mineral rights within the area. Based on available information, mineable coal may be present in some areas, but the economic viability is unknown. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is low because of the combination of U.S. control over managing minerals and the relative uncertainty regarding the occurrence of valuable minerals. The value from future mineral development, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone under a wilderness designation, but this potential value appears to be relatively low.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall moderate probability cultural resource zone. There are two known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. None of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are five recreation and no non-recreation special use permits issued for activities within the area. Mountain bike special use permits would need to be discontinued or modified to exclude any trail segments within a designated wilderness area.

Disturbances: Canaan Loop is within Fire Regime V. Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. This Condition Class is within its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private land and state park developments.

Botanical Characteristics: No populations of threatened, endangered or sensitive plants are known to occur within the area, but only a few botanical surveys have been done. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within this area, it is likely that existing road and trail corridors and other disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are within 5-10 miles of Canaan Loop. The Laurel Fork North and South Wildernesses are about 15-20 miles to the southwest. The area is 6 air miles from Parsons, 17 miles from Elkins, and is within a 3-hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated Wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Parsons, Davis and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and within existing wildernesses on the Monongahela National Forest.

Public Interest: The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition did not include this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal. No organizations or individuals have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act or 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high with localized low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Moderate in core area and off trails; low near boundaries, trails, and wildlife openings
Special Features	T&E species habitat
Manageability	Low

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values or uses foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, mountain biking, several special use permit operations, 20 acres of maintained wildlife openings, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, stream liming, watershed restoration, prescribed fire, and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The M22Ba Ecological Unit is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. No organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	7,850	7,850	7,850	7,850	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	7,850
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Cheat Mountain
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092103
7,955 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Cheat Mountain area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Greenbrier Ranger District, Randolph County, West Virginia. The area is located south of Bemis, West Virginia. A railroad borders the area to the east, and private land makes up the northwestern boundary. National Forest System lands border the area to the north, south and southwest. Nearby communities include Bemis (1 mile north), Daily (5 miles west), and Glady (2 miles east), West Virginia. The area is approximately 5 miles long and 2.5 mile wide and is found primarily within portions of the Beverly East USGS quadrangle map. Primary vehicle access is provided by State Road 30 and 22 from the north, and Forest Road 92 from the west. The scenic train provides visitor access along the eastern boundary of the area and stops at the High Falls of Cheat. Visitors can also access the area from the pipeline on the northern border. There are 0 miles of improved road and about 5 miles of unimproved road within the area. A system trail accesses the High Falls of Cheat from Forest Road 44 adjacent to the area.

There are no system trails within the Cheat Mountain area. Two miles of the unimproved road is currently serving as a trail across the central and south central portion of the area. Two abandoned trails also access the area from the north and travel into the center of the area but are very difficult to follow.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Cheat Mountain area ranges in elevation from 3,000 feet at along the Shavers Fork to 3,800 feet at the top of Cheat Mountain. Slopes are generally steep along the Shavers Fork, with more gradual slopes toward the main ridge. The upper reaches of Red, Red Roaring, and Fish Hawk Runs are quite gentle with some swampy areas. Vegetation consists primarily of northern hardwood stands with some red spruce and an understory of rhododendron and shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is good.

Current Management: The Cheat Mountain area is currently managed under Management Prescription 6.2, which emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of the Cheat Mountain area is regaining its natural untrammeled appearance, and natural ecological processes are the primary factors affecting the area. There are only 5 acres of wildlife openings and 2 acres of orchards under current management. Therefore, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over the entire area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: Cheat Mountain area is 7,955 acres in size and provides over 4,900 acres of core solitude (62% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. The railroad borders the area to the east and private land makes up the northwestern boundary. National Forest System lands border the area to the north, south and southwest. Visitor use of the area is considered low most of the year and is limited primarily to hunters and anglers. There are no system trails that access the area, although a closed Level 2 road does provide east-west access across the southern portion of the area. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is low, and the opportunity to experience remoteness is good. The rhododendron understory is very thick in places and provides for social screening within the area. There is the potential to hear noise from

the nearby town of Bemis, West Virginia and from the railroad trains that travel along the eastern boundary of the area. However, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are considered high throughout the core area.

Special Features: The area provides potential and known habitat for four federally listed species. The High Falls of the Cheat is a major waterfall in the area that may be enjoyed by hiker or train passenger alike.

Manageability and Boundaries: The current boundaries (railroad, roads, and private lands) could be used for wilderness designation. The size and shape (5 miles long, 2.5 mile wide) of the Cheat Mountain area, combined with ownership patterns and lack of access, give the area good preservation potential. The eastern boundary, along the railroad, has low potential for development. The northern, southern, and southwestern boundaries are National Forest System lands, and the central and northwestern boundaries are bordered by private land. There is some potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses from adjacent private land. The potential for conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas coincident with privately owned mineral rights.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The Cheat Mountain area provides an excellent setting within the Monongahela National Forest for visitors to experience semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Recreation use within the area is low to very low primarily due to the limited road access and no trail development. The primary recreation activities within the area are hunting and fishing. This area provides hunters and anglers the opportunity to experience their activities in a remote area with little chance of contacting other people except along the existing railroad. Due to the overall even-aged characteristics of timber in the area, topography, and heavy concentrations of rhododendron, vistas are not prominent. Two railroad trains travel along the Shavers Fork of the Cheat boundary, providing visitors with scenic views of the area. A wilderness designation would have little or no effect on recreation resources, as there are currently no non-conforming uses, trails, or facilities in the area.

Fisheries: The Cheat Mountain area lies primarily in the Shavers Fork watershed, and portions of the Files Creek watershed where the western boundary dips below the Cheat Mountain ridgeline. It is bounded on the north by Fishing Hawk Creek and to the south by McGee Creek. The underlying geology is sensitive to acid deposition, and streams in the area are susceptible to acidic conditions. Fishing Hawk and McGee Creeks are currently treated with limestone sand to mitigate the effects of acid deposition. The Shavers Fork main stem is on the EPA 303d list of impaired streams due to biological impairment and is treated with limestone sand higher in the watershed south of the area. Brook trout can be found in most of the streams within the area, and trout are stocked within the Shavers Fork main stem. No sensitive species have been reported in the area, but Regional Forester sensitive species Cheat minnow and mountain red-belly dace have been collected in the Shavers Fork upstream of the area and may occur within the IRA. Wilderness designation would restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams to help maintain or improve fish habitat.

Wildlife: Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles. TES species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander, Virginia big-eared, Indiana, and eastern small-footed bats, and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. Currently the WVDNR manages 2 acres of wildlife openings and 5 acres of orchards within the area. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for seven cold water streams that all flow into the Shavers Fork of the Cheat River, which forms the eastern boundary of the area, or Files Creek where the area dips below Cheat Mountain on the western boundary. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Most streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: There are no existing or potential range allotments located within the Cheat Mountain area.

Timber: Commercial timber harvest is not currently permitted in the area under MP 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. This area contains an estimated 197,102 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 7,909 acres (99%) are considered tentatively suited timberlands and 6,523 acres (82%) are considered prime timberland within the area. The potential timber value of 197,102 CCF would remain foregone with wilderness designation.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area. However, there are 3,471 acres in federal gas leases. Lands within the IRA are estimated to have a 25% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Sixty percent of the area has private mineral rights. Based on available information; thirty percent of the area has mineable coal identified and documented with acres and tons estimated, 20% of the area has mineable coal indicated, 20% of the area indicated that mineable coal may be present, and 30% of the area where mineable coal is not present. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is considered high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas coincident with privately owned mineral rights. The value from future development of the Federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be values received from future development of the private mineral estate (60% of the area). These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall moderate probability cultural resource zone. There are 14 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 50% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are no special use permits issued for activities within the area. A wilderness designation would have little or no effect on these resources, as there are currently no special uses or non-federal lands in the area.

Disturbances: The Cheat Mountain area is within Fire Regime V. This regime has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. This Condition Class is within its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private land to the north and west.

Botanical Characteristics: There are two plants on the Regional Forester Sensitive Species list that are known to occur in the area, long-stalked holly and large-flowered Barbara's buttons. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Laurel Fork Wildernesses are within 4-10 air miles of the Cheat Mountain area. The Dolly Sods and Cranberry Wilderness are about 15-25 air miles to the northeast and southwest respectively. The area is 10 air miles southeast of Elkins and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Bemis, Dailey, and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been relatively high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal. Individuals and environmental organizations—including the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Highlands Conservancy, and West Virginia Wilderness Coalition—have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability:**

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high, with a few localized low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	High except near railroad and wildlife openings
Special Features	T&E species habitat, High Falls of the Cheat
Manageability	High, other than concerns with mineral estate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values or uses foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 7 acres of maintained wildlife areas, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use and access for stream liming and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented nationally and regionally in existing wildernesses. Individuals and environmental organizations—including the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Highlands Conservancy, and The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition—have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	7,955	7,955	7,955	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	7,527	0	0	0	7,955
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 7.0, 6.3)	428	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Cranberry Expansion
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092104
12,165 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Cranberry Expansion area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Gauley Ranger District, Pocahontas and Webster Counties, West Virginia. The area borders the Cranberry Wilderness to the east. National Forest System lands border the entire area, except for a small parcel of private land on the northeastern perimeter. Nearby communities include Marlinton (15 air miles southeast), Webster Springs (9 air miles north), and Richwood (7 air miles southwest), West Virginia. The area is approximately 7 miles long and 4 miles wide, and is found within portions of the Webster Springs USGS quadrangle map. Primary vehicle access is provided by Forest Road 76 from the west and the Williams River Road from the north. There is 1 mile of improved road, 4 miles of unimproved road, and 19 miles of trail within the area. All trails are open to hiker, equestrian, and mountain bike use.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Cranberry Expansion ranges in elevation from an estimated 2900 feet along the Cranberry River to over 4,400 feet along the ridges. The area is a deeply dissected high plateau with sharp valleys and many peaks. The topography is characterized by steep mountain slopes, broad benches and moderately wide to narrow valleys. The geology ranges from Kanawha and New River formations of the Pottsville Group on the ridge tops to Mauch Chunk on the lower slopes. The vegetation consists of red spruce, hemlock, and intermingled fire cherry, mountain ash and aspen at the highest elevations to a northern hardwood mixture of maple, beech and birch throughout the rest of the area. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is good. The understory consists of a variety of small trees and shrubs.

Current Management: Cranberry Expansion is currently managed under MPs 2.0 and 6.1 (35%) and 6.2 (65%). MP 2.0 emphasizes uneven-aged management of shade-tolerant hardwood trees, MP 6.1 emphasized wildlife habitat management in a non-motorized setting, and MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Although little to no timber harvesting has occurred within the area within the past 10 years, there is still some evidence of management actions. There are 38 acres of wildlife openings maintained by the WVDNR, 4 miles of unimproved roads, a liming station, and a 19-mile trail system. Overall, though, the vegetation and scenery appear to be in an untrammelled condition. For these reasons, both natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area, but low near localized roads and maintained openings.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: Cranberry Expansion is 12,165 acres including 8,866 acres of core solitude (73% of the area). The entire area is located on, and bordered by, National Forest System lands, except for a small private parcel along the northeastern perimeter. The area provides good opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, but encounters with other users can be fairly frequent, especially along trail corridors and streams during hunting and peak fishing seasons. Based on the size of the area and the amount of recreation use, the opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered high over much of the area, but moderate along trails, roads, and maintained openings.

Special Features: The Cranberry Wilderness, Cranberry Backcountry and Cranberry Expansion provide the largest expanse (over 50,000 acres) of semi-primitive non-motorized recreation setting in West Virginia. The area also provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: The size and shape (7 miles long and 4 miles wide) of the area, combined with the 35,000-acre Cranberry Wilderness and virtually no private land bordering the area, provide good boundary conditions to manage this area as wilderness. The established use by mountain bikers, wagons and carts within the area could be difficult to eliminate if the area is designated wilderness. The potential for conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas coincident with privately owned mineral rights. For these reasons, the overall manageability of the area is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Hiking, backpacking, hunting, and fishing are popular recreation activities within the area. Mountain bike and equestrian use is considered low. Numerous trails and a variety of exceptional trout fishing opportunities exist. This area and the adjacent Cranberry Wilderness are destinations for those looking for a more remote recreation experience. Wilderness designation would eliminate the low mountain bike, wagon and cart use in this area. Trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: The area is located west of the Cranberry Wilderness between the Williams River to the north and Cranberry River to the south. Fisheries resources within the area are limited due to acidic conditions. The geology underlying the area is highly sensitive to acid deposition, and Lick Branch (Cranberry drainage), Rough Run, Cold Run and Birchlog Run are on the EPA 303d list due to biological impairment. Limestone drums in the Cranberry River drainage mitigate the effects of acid rain in the Cranberry River main stem. Fishing opportunities are primarily in the main stem Cranberry and Williams Rivers. Game fish collected include trout, bass and pan-fish as well as numerous native non-game species. Species of concern that have been reported in or adjacent to the area include Regional Forester Sensitive Species candy darter and Appalachia darter in the Williams River, and mountain red-belly dace in the Cranberry River. Bigmouth chub, ranked S3/S4 by the state, have also been collected in the Williams River within and adjacent to the area. Wilderness designation would restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams or restore watershed conditions to help maintain or improve water quality and fish habitat.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. At the present time black bear and whitetail deer are abundant and are increasing in numbers. This area is within a black bear sanctuary. The area also provides habitat for the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, northern goshawk, and the green and Cheat Mountain salamander. The WVDNR currently manages the old town site of Three Forks (25-30 acres) within the area to maintain its savannah-like conditions. Maintaining this area or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters of 12 coldwater streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 301,436 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 12,044 acres (99 percent) are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 10,611

acres (87%) are considered to be prime timberland. Portions of the area within MPs 2.0 and 6.1 permit commercial timber harvest, although there has not been any significant harvesting in the past decade. The economic value associated with 195,933 CCF in MPs 2.0 and 6.1 would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active or inactive private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area. An estimate of the gas resource cannot be made on sixty percent of the area due to a lack of information about production, trapping mechanisms, or the lateral discontinuity of gas zones. The remaining 40% of the area is estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Eighty percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information, mineable coal is present within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas coincident with privately owned mineral rights. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from future development of the private mineral estate because 80% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are 20 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 40% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. Private land borders a small portion of the area boundary on the northeastern perimeter. There are 2 recreation and 0 non-recreation special use permits issued within the area.

Disturbances: The Cranberry Expansion Area is located within Fire Regime V. Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. Condition Class 1 is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Mechanized fire suppression techniques would be restricted; however, motorized equipment and use is relatively unimportant in this area due to the adjacent wilderness and river locations.

Botanical Characteristics: The Canada anemone, a State-listed rare species, and the long-stocked holly, a Regional Forester sensitive species, are known to occur in the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 55-60 air miles northeast of Cranberry Expansion. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are about 30 air miles to the northeast, and the Cranberry Wilderness adjoins the area eastern perimeter. The area is 7 air miles northeast of Richwood and 8 air miles northwest of Marlinton. The area is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, and a 4-5 hour drive of Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Marlinton, Richwood, Webster Springs, and Summersville, and population centers like Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Southern Middle High Allegheny Subsection (M221Bc), which is represented regionally, nationally and on the Forest in existing wilderness.

Public Interest: There has been relatively high public interest in this area becoming wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal. Individuals and environmental organizations—including the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Highlands Conservancy, and West Virginia Wilderness Coalition—have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high, with localized low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Mostly high, with localized moderate exceptions
Special Features	Adjacency to wilderness. T&E species habitat.
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values or uses foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 195,933 CCF of timber, mountain biking and wagon or cart use, 25-30 acres of wildlife area management, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, stream liming, watershed restoration, and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented on the Forest in existing wilderness. Individuals and environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	12,165	12,165	12,165	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, CRNAs)	7,890	0	0	0	12,165
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 7.0, 6.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	4,276	0	0	0	0

Dolly Sods North
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092105
7,215 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Dolly Sods North area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Potomac Ranger District, Tucker County, West Virginia. The area is located north of the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Private land borders the area to the north and west and National Forest System lands to the east. Nearby communities include Petersburg (about 15 miles east), and Cortland (about 5 miles west), West Virginia. The area is an estimated 3.5 miles in length and 3.5 mile wide and is found within portions of the Blackbird Knob and Blackwater Falls USGS quadrangle maps. Primary vehicle access is provided by Forest Road 75. Visitors also access the area from State Road 35 from the west. There are no improved roads within the area, although there is evidence of numerous woods roads and ATV trails created prior to Federal ownership in 1993. There are numerous trails totaling 22 miles within the Dolly Sods North Area and 48 miles adjoining the area to the south within the Dolly Sods Wilderness.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Dolly Sods North is a high-elevation plateau, ranging in elevation from 3,800 feet along the northern segment of Red Creek to 3,950 feet at Blackbird Knob. Since Dolly Sods North has relatively flat and rolling terrain, there are many seasonally wet places. Vegetation consists primarily of a sub-alpine community including large areas of open heath and bog areas. Red spruce and alder, although limited, are the main tree species. Vegetative screening is generally poor. The understory consists primarily of blueberry, azalea and mosses.

Current Management: Although not specifically designated in the Forest Plan, this area has been managed as Management Prescription 6.2 since its acquisition by the Forest Service in 1993. Prescription 6.2 is managed primarily for backcountry recreation.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Natural processes are operating within the area and the area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of Dolly Sods North appears to be natural but there are signs of disturbance, including numerous woods roads and some user-created ATV trails. These woods roads and ATV trails are healing and are currently serving as the trail system for the area. Unexploded ordnance from military operations in the 1940s may still be present in the area. The area has a mostly wild appearance now, but it does not look or function like it did 100+ years ago due to a history of logging, burning, erosion, and bombing. For these reasons the overall natural integrity and appearance is only considered moderate.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: Dolly Sods North is 7,215 acres in size and includes 6,032 acres of core solitude (84% of the area). National Forest System lands border the area on the east and the Dolly Sods Wilderness borders to the south. When combined with the adjacent Dolly Sods Wilderness, the area would increase to a total of 17,430 acres with approximately 13,700 acres of core solitude. The area is located entirely on National Forest System lands. The area is bordered by relatively undeveloped private land on the north and west. Recreation use of the area is considered to be high from late spring through the fall color season, moderate during fall hunting season, and low the remainder of the year. Unplowed roads usually limit access during the winter months. There are 22 miles of designed trail within the area, and numerous woods roads and ATV routes developed prior to Federal ownership in 1993 provide a relatively extensive trail system. Hiker and mountain bike use within the area is high, and equestrian use is low to moderate but increasing annually. Illegal ATV use within the

area is common. The high-elevation rolling terrain, along with the heath and bog eco-types provide a feeling of remoteness. However, the likelihood of encountering other visitors along trails is moderate to high. For these reasons, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are only considered moderate.

Special Features: The bog and heath eco-types are more typical of what one would expect to find in Maine or southern Canada rather than West Virginia. The upper tributaries of Red Creek have sphagnum bogs including rare sundew and reindeer moss. The area has potential or known habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Forest Service Road 75 would serve as the eastern boundary, Dolly Sods Wilderness borders to the south, and the Forest Service property line borders on the west and north. Forest Service Road 75 is well defined, and the southern boundary expands an existing wilderness. The size and shape (3.5 miles long, 3.5 mile wide) of Dolly Sods North, along with its ability to expand the size of the current Dolly Sods Wilderness from 10,215 acres to 17,430 acres, including 13,700 acres of core solitude, makes its preservation potential very good. The potential for development and non-conforming uses from private land bordering the area on the north and west is currently low but likely to increase as more large areas of private land are sold off and developments and rural/urban sprawl increase. Increasingly popular mountain bike use throughout the trail system within the area would be difficult to eliminate. In addition, the open nature of the area and abundant trails would make illegal ATV use difficult to eliminate. The northern and western boundaries adjacent to private land increase the potential risk of encroachment and non-conforming uses if the area were designated wilderness. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is high because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas. For the reasons listed above, the overall manageability of the area is considered low.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Mountain biking is popular in the area, and recreation special use permits are authorized annually for mountain biking, horseback riding, outfitter and guide operations, and annual special events. Hiking, hunting, fishing, nature watching, cross-country skiing, blueberry picking, and dispersed camping are also popular activities within the area. Recreation use is expected to increase substantially over the next 10-15 years in this general area with the completion of Corridor H, which will provide interstate access from Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to the north-central counties in West Virginia. Illegal ATV use is common. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use in this area, which would be controversial. In addition, trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: Dolly Sod North is located in the headwaters of Red Creek and includes major tributaries Left Fork Red Creek and Alder Run. Only non-game species have been reported within the area including pearl dace, a Regional Forester's sensitive species. Acid deposition effects water quality in the area and Red Creek is on the EPA 303d list of impaired waters due to biological impairment. Wilderness designation would affect the ability to add lime to streams by mechanized equipment or transport to help maintain or improve water quality and fish habitat.

Wildlife: Wildlife species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, bobcat and a variety of birds and reptiles. TES species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include Cheat Mountain salamander, West Virginia northern flying squirrel, and northern water shrew. There is no current wildlife habitat management that would be affected by wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the upper reaches and some tributaries of Red Creek. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Most streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: There are no existing or proposed range allotments located within or immediately adjacent to the area.

Timber: No timber-related activities have occurred in this area since it was purchased by the Forest Service in 1993, and no major logging has occurred since the early 1920s. The area contains an estimated 37,627 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 1,022 acres (13 percent) are considered tentatively suited timberlands. There are no acres of prime timberland within the area. The timber value is relatively low due to the open, non-forested nature of most of the land; thus, the value foregone under a wilderness designation would be minimal.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within Dolly Sods North. Ninety percent of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre, and 10% are estimated to have a 25% chance of gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. All of the oil and gas mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information, mineable coal is not present in 93% of the area. Seven percent of the area has mineable coal identified and documented with acres and tons estimated. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is high because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas ownership. The privately owned mineral rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall moderate probability cultural resource zone. There are five known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 75% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are eight recreation and no non-recreation special use permits issued within the area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and recreation events. The mountain biking and biking special events uses would be foregone under a wilderness designation.

Disturbances: Dolly Sods North is in Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35–100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity, and Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. This area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Due to possible unexploded ordnances within the area, most suppression actions on trails and the perimeters adjacent to private lands. The use of chainsaws, motorized ground equipment and aerial suppression would likely be restricted within the area under a wilderness designation.

Botanical Characteristics: No populations of threatened, endangered or sensitive plants are known to occur in the area. Few botanical surveys have been done in the area. There are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within this area.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Dolly Sods Wilderness borders this area to the south and the Otter Creek Wilderness is within 10 miles. The Laurel Fork North and South Wildernesses are about 15-20 air miles to the southwest and the Cranberry Wilderness is an estimated 72 air miles to the southwest. The area is 15 air miles from Parsons, 30 miles from Elkins, and is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would expand the existing Dolly Sods Wilderness and serve the local communities of Petersburg, Parsons and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and within existing wildernesses on the Monongahela National Forest.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal. This area was not in federal ownership at the time of the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, so it could not be considered for wilderness recommendation for those bills.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Moderate
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Moderate
Special Features	T&E species habitat, unusual ecotypes
Manageability	Low

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values or uses foregone under a wilderness designation include mountain biking, several special use permit operations, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, stream liming, watershed restoration, and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5)	7,215	7,215	7,215	7,215	7,215
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Dry Fork
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092106
739 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Dry Fork area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Cheat Ranger District, Tucker County, West Virginia. The Otter Creek Wilderness borders the area to the west, and private lands make up a major portion of the northern, southern and eastern boundaries. Nearby communities include Hambleton and Hendricks (1 air mile north), Parsons (4 air miles northwest), and Elkins (15 miles southwest), West Virginia. The area is about 3/4 miles in length and 1 ½ miles wide and is found within the Mozark Mountain USGS quadrangle map. Primary vehicle access is provided by State Route 72. There are no system trails or improved roads located within the Dry Fork area. An estimated 0.9 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads are located within the area.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Dry Fork area ranges in elevation from 1,800 feet along the Dry Fork to over 3,200 feet at McGowan Mountain. Slopes are generally steep along the mid and upper slopes, with more gradual slopes along the river and ridge tops. The geologic formations are primarily the Pottsville Mauch Chunk Groups. Soils include the Calvin and Dekalb-Calvin-Belmont series. Spruce dominates the higher elevations, with a mixture of northern hardwoods and the middle and lower slopes, and an understory of rhododendron, small trees and shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under Management Prescription 6.1, which emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: The Dry Fork area is relatively small in size, encompassing 739 acres; however, the area is minimally affected by outside forces. This area is contiguous to the Otter Creek Wilderness and would increase the size of this wilderness from the current 20,000 acres to 20,739 acres. Other than 14 acres of maintained wildlife openings and less than 1 mile of roads, most of the area has regained its natural untrammelled appearance, and natural ecological processes are the primary factors affecting the area. Therefore, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over most of the area, and low near the developed openings and roads.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Dry Fork area is 739 acres in size, provides 0 acres of core solitude (0% of the area), and is located entirely on National Forest System lands. Forest Roads 138 (level 2) and 2 are still evident on the landscape. Visitor use of the area is considered low most of the year and is limited primarily to hunters. There are no system trails that access the area, although Forest Road 138 does provide some limited access. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is low. The opportunity to experience remoteness is moderate away from the highway. There is the potential to hear noise from the Fernow Experimental Forest, State Highway 72 and Forest Road 138. Based on these factors, the opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered moderate.

Special Features: The area provides potential habitat for one federally listed species and is contiguous to the Otter Creek Wilderness.

Manageability and Boundaries: The present boundaries—roads, private land, wilderness—could be used as is for a wilderness designation. The Dry Fork area’s potential to increase the size of the Otter Creek Wilderness, combined with ownership and current use patterns, make its preservation potential good. However, there is moderate potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses from adjacent private land to the north and south. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas discovery coincident with privately owned mineral rights. Therefore, the overall manageability of the area as wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are no designated system trails within the area and 0.9 mile of Level 2 Forest Service road that provide access within the area. The area receives low recreation use. Dispersed camping is low and occurs primarily during hunting season. The primary recreation activities within the area are hunting and fishing. There are no recreation special use permits issued for the area. Thus, a wilderness designation would have little effect on current recreation uses in the area.

Fisheries: The Dry Fork area is located on the north and northeast flanks of McGowan Mountain and is bordered to the east by Dry Fork and to the south by the Otter Creek Wilderness. There are no major streams within the area and no information is available for the small, high gradient, unnamed streams that head in the area. A large portion of the IRA is underlain by geology that is sensitive to acid deposition.

Wildlife: Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles. One threatened species that may be found within or adjacent to the area is the Cheat Mountain salamander. Currently there are 14 acres of WVDNR managed wildlife openings within the area. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 2 tributaries to Dry Fork. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area, although Dry Fork establishes the eastern boundary of the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: This area is currently under Management Prescription 6.1, which allows commercial timber harvest, although no acres have been harvested in the last decade. The area contains an estimated 17,679 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 667 acres (88 percent) of the area are considered tentatively suited timberlands and an estimated 411 acres (54%) are considered to be prime timberland. The timber value associated with 17,679 CCF would be foregone under a wilderness designation.

Minerals: There is one active private gas lease, and no active coal operations within the area. There are no acres in federal gas leases in the area. All lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. An estimated 63% of the area has private mineral rights. Based on available information there is a high potential for mineable coal and natural gas coincident with privately owned mineral rights, resulting in a high potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from future development of the private mineral estate because 60% of the area has privately

owned gas and oil mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in a low probability cultural resource zone with pockets of moderate to high at saddles and along the river. There are 2 known sites that have been identified within the area. All of the area has been surveyed but survey quality ranges from poor to high.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are 4 non-recreation special use permits issued for the area, and no recreation special uses. The non-recreation special use permits include 2 road use permits, 1 power line, and 1 telephone line. All permits are on the eastern perimeter of the area. These uses would not be affected by a wilderness designation.

Disturbances: The Dry Fork area is within Fire Regime V. This regime has a 200+ year frequency and high severity (greater than 75% of dominant overstory vegetation replacement). This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. This class is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness designation would likely restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access could be important in this area due to the adjacent private lands and Fernow Experimental Forest.

Botanical Characteristics: There are no known listed or Regional Forester's sensitive plant species within the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, road corridors and disturbed areas likely have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

The Otter Creek Wilderness is contiguous to the Dry Fork area and the Dolly Sods Wilderness is 12 air miles east of the area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are within 16 air miles south of the area, and the Cranberry Wilderness is 58 air miles to the southwest. The area is 1 air mile south of Hambleton and Hendricks, 4 air miles south east of Parsons and 15 air miles northeast of Elkins, West Virginia, and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Hambleton, Hendricks, Parsons, Gladwin and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition did not include this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal; however they have commented that they support a wilderness recommendation for this area. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high with minor low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Moderate
Special Features	T&E species habitat
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 17,679 CCF of timber, 14 acres of maintained wildlife openings, and mechanized equipment or vehicle use for fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition has specifically supported this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	739	739	739	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	0	0	0	0	739
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 7.0, 6.3)	739	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

East Fork Greenbrier
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092107
10,153 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The East Fork Greenbrier area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Greenbrier Ranger District, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. National Forest System lands border an estimated 90% of the area perimeter, with intermingled private lands along the northwest, north, and northeast boundaries. Island Campground borders the area at the southern tip. Nearby communities include Bartow (5 air miles south), Daily (16 air miles west), and Glady (15 air miles west), West Virginia. The area is about 5 miles in length and 2 mile wide and is found primarily within portions of the Thornwood and Sinks of Gandy USGS quadrangle maps. Primary vehicle access is provided by State Road 28 from the southeast and Forest Road 14 from the west and Forest Road 51 to the east. Visitors can also access the area from Forest Road 112 from the north. There are 9 miles of system trails and 20 miles of unimproved roads located within the East Fork Greenbrier area. The 1.1 miles of level 3 road and 20 miles of unimproved road currently provide motorized access for administrative use and special use permittee access to an existing weather station. These roads also provide non-motorized access for hunters and hikers.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The East Fork Greenbrier area ranges from an estimated 3,000 feet just north of Island Campground to about 4,000 feet throughout interior portions of the area. Slopes within the area range from 10-50%. The geologic formations are primarily those of the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian systems. The soils series associations include the Dekalb and Calvin series. Vegetation consists of northern hardwoods and red spruce with an understory of rhododendron, mixed shrubs, and grasses. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under Management Prescriptions 6.1 and 6.2. Management prescription 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments, and Prescription 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Management within the East Fork Greenbrier area is evident in scattered locations. There have been 405 acres of timber harvested in the area over the past 10 years, the 1.1 miles of level 3 road and most of the 20 miles of unimproved roads are evident on the landscape. The WVDNR manages 35 acres of wildlife openings, and over 15 miles of linear road/trail openings within the area. Other areas appear natural, with ecological processes dominating. For these reasons, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area, and low in developed and managed areas noted above.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The East Fork Greenbrier area is 10,153 acres including 4,575 acres of core solitude (45% of the area). National Forest System lands border an estimated 90% of the area perimeter, with intermingled private lands along the northwest, north, and northeast boundaries. Overall recreation use is low. Based on the size of the area and the amount of recreation use, the opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered mostly high, with moderate exceptions near private lands and developed features.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for one endangered species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area as wilderness. The size and shape (about 5 miles long and 2 miles wide) of the East Fork Greenbrier area, combined with the relatively small percentage of private land bordering the area, provide fairly good preservation potential. Although mountain bikes are currently permitted, use is low and should not be difficult to eliminate if wilderness designation occurs. An existing weather station would need to be removed, and the accompanying special use permit would need to be terminated. The value from future mineral development of the federal mineral estate (100% of area), which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone. For the reasons state above, the overall manageability of the area for wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There is one system trail (Greenbrier Trail), totaling 9 miles, within the IRA. The trail begins at Island Campground on the southern boundary of the area and travels north before ending just north of the area boundary on Forest Road 874. The trail receives relatively low hiker use and very low equestrian and mountain bike use. Dispersed camping is low to moderate and occurs primarily during hunting season. The primary recreation activities within the area are hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, and white water paddling. There are 4 recreation special use permits issued within the area. If this area were designated wilderness, the Greenbrier Trail would be closed to mountain bike use; but current use is low. In addition, trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be limited to non-mechanical equipment. Any non-conforming special use permit would be terminated.

Fisheries: The East Fork Greenbrier area includes the upper East Fork Greenbrier River main stem and tributaries between Five-mile Hollow and Bennett Run. The fish community is diverse within the area and is dominated by native non-game species. Twenty species of fish have been reported in or adjacent to the area. Native brook trout are found throughout the area, and non-native brown and rainbow trout have also been collected there. The State currently stocks brown trout fingerlings in the area. Species of concern within or adjacent to the area include candy darter, Kanawha minnow and Appalachia darter that are Regional Forester sensitive species. Mountain red-belly dace, considered S3 by the state, has also been collected within the area. Geologies sensitive to acid deposition are limited in the area, and water chemistry is generally considered to be good.

Wildlife: The area provides diversity for a variety of wildlife species. Ruffed grouse, black bear, wild turkey and white-tailed deer are common within the entire area, and gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, and raccoon inhabit the lower slopes. Beaver populations are increasing and most are commonly found at the headwaters of streams. The higher elevations provide habitat for snowshoe hare and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. The WVDNR currently maintains 35 acres in wildlife openings, 12.8 miles of linear seeded roads, 2.6 miles of trails, and 6 waterholes in the area. In addition, there are a large number of orchards and hawthorn thickets maintained by wildlife personnel. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 8 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are only mildly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within MP 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Portions of the IRA within MP 6.1 permit timber harvesting, and an estimated 405 acres have

been harvested in the last decade. The entire area contains an estimated 244,028 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 10,153 acres (100 percent) of the area are considered tentatively suited timberlands and an estimated 7,928 acres (78%) are considered to be prime timberland. Under a wilderness designation, the economic value associated with 58,566 CCF from 2,428 (MP 6.1) acres of tentatively suited timberlands would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area. However, there are 10,050 acres in federal gas leases. Ninety percent of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 25% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre, and 10% have a 12.5% chance of gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. None of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on known information, mineable coal is not present within the IRA. Potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is low because of the combination of U.S. control over managing minerals (existing leases are subject to a no surface occupancy stipulation) and the relative uncertainty regarding the occurrence of valuable natural gas. The value from future mineral development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are 12 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 10% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are 5 recreation and 1 non-recreation special use permits issued within the area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, fishing, recreation events, and a weather station.

Disturbances: The East Fork Greenbrier area is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35-100+ year frequency and mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced), and Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high severity (greater than 75% of dominant overstory vegetation replacement). The area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historic range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access are important in this area due to the private land to the northeast, north, and northwest.

Botanical Characteristics: The white monkshood and the lance-leaf grapefern, which are on the Regional Forester Sensitive Species List, are located within the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 20-30 air miles north and northeast of the area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are within 2-6 air miles north of the IRA, and the Cranberry Wilderness is about 35 air miles to the southwest. The area is 4 air miles northeast of Bartow, 20 air miles southeast of Elkins and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Bartow, Durbin, Dailey, and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Subsection (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high with minor low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Mostly high with minor moderate exceptions
Special Features	T&E species habitat
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 58,566 CCF of timber, mountain biking, a special use permit operation, 35 acres of maintained wildlife openings, over 15 miles of maintained linear openings, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, fire suppression, and fish stocking.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	10,153	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	7,637	10,153	10,153	0	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	2,516	0	0	0	10,153

Gaudineer
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092108
6,727 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Gaudineer area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Greenbrier Ranger District, Pocahontas and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. National Forest System lands border the area on the eastern and western perimeters and private lands make up a major portion of the northern and southern boundaries. Nearby communities include Wildell (1 air mile north), Durbin (5 air miles south), Glady (8 air miles north) and Bartow (12 air miles southeast), West Virginia. The area is about 5 miles in length and 1.5 to 2 miles wide and is found primarily within the Wildell USGS quadrangle map. Primary vehicle access is provided by Forest Road 27, which makes up the western boundary and Forest Road 44 along the eastern boundary. There are 14.5 miles of system trail and 4.6 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads located within the area.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Gaudineer area ranges in elevation from 2,900 feet along the West Fork of the Greenbrier River to almost 4,200 feet along the ridge top. Slopes are generally steep along the mid slopes, with more gradual slopes along the rivers and toward the main ridges. The geologic formations are primarily Mauch Chunk and Pottsville. Generally, the lower three fourths of the slopes are of the Mauch Chunk Formation with the upper one fourth of the mountain being capped by the coal-bearing Pottsville formation. Soils include the Teas and Meckesville series. The vegetation consists of an overstory of northern and mixed hardwoods and red spruce with an understory of rhododendron, small trees and shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under MPs 4.0 and 6.1. MP 4.0 emphasizes conifer management. MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: There has been no timber harvesting within the area within the past 10 years. Natural processes dominate over much of the area. Although there are 4.6 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads within the Gaudineer IRA, they are all located in the southwest portion of the area and are beginning to heal. There are also 25 acres of wildlife openings and 2 orchards maintained by WVDNR. For these reasons, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over most of the area, and low near current signs of development.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Gaudineer area is 6,727 acres in size, provides an estimated 2,305 acres of core solitude (34% of the area), and is located entirely on National Forest System lands. There is an active railroad west of the area, Forest Road 27 is on the western boundary, and Forest Road 44 is on the eastern boundary of the area. The area is relatively small, with a relatively low percentage of core solitude. Level 1 and 2 roads are still evident within the southwestern portion of the area, thus reducing the opportunity to experience primitive recreation throughout this portion of the area. Visitor use of the area is considered low to moderate most of the year. There are 14.5 miles system trails, including the Allegheny Trail, that access the area, and 4.6 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads that provide non-motorized access within the southwestern portion of the area. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is moderate, although higher during hunting and the primary fishing seasons. The opportunity to experience remoteness is low to moderate. There is potential to hear noise from the railroad to the west and from Forest Roads 27 and 44. For these reasons, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are considered moderate.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for three federally listed species. The Gaudineer Scenic Area borders the area to the south.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage this area as wilderness. The relatively small size and shape (5.5 miles long, 2 miles wide) of the Gaudineer area make its preservation potential marginal to moderate. National Forest System lands border the area on the east and west, but there is low to moderate potential for additional development along the northern and southern boundaries over the next 10-20 years. There is moderate potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses from adjacent private land along the northern and southern boundaries. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate because nearby gas reserves were deemed to have insufficient quantity to be economically viable. Based on these reasons, the overall manageability of this area for wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are 5 designated system trails totaling 14.5 miles and 4.6 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads that provide access throughout the area. The Johns Camp shelter is located along the Allegheny Trail within the area. The area receives moderate hiker, backpacking, hunting, fishing, and mountain bike use. Equestrian use is low. Dispersed camping is moderate from May- November and low the remainder of the year. The primary recreation activities within the area are hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. There are 11 outfitter/guide recreation special use permit issued for the area. These outfitting and guiding activities include; hunting, fishing, backpacking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, wagon rides and canoeing.

Fisheries: The Gaudineer area straddles Shavers Mountain just north of Gaudineer Knob. The IRA is bordered on the west by the Shavers Fork and to the east by the West Fork Greenbrier River. Streams within the area include Glade Run, Old Road Run and several unnamed tributaries. Fish communities in the Shavers Fork and West Fork Greenbrier River are diverse and dominated by native non-game species, including several species of concern. Cheat minnow, mountain redbelly dace, candy darter, Kanawha minnow, New River shiner, Appalachia darter, tongue-tied minnow, bigmouth chub, green floater and elktoe have all been collected in waters adjacent to or downstream of the area. Native game species include brook trout, smallmouth bass and rock bass. Glade Run and Old Road Run support populations of native brook trout. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use in this area, which is currently low. Also, the Johns Camp shelter would have to be removed or destroyed, and trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

The western slope of Shavers Mountain is underlain by geology that is sensitive to acid deposition and streams in the area are susceptible to acidic conditions. The Shavers Fork and Glade Run are on the 303d list of impaired streams due to biological impairment and are treated with limestone sand to mitigate the effects of acid deposition. Wilderness designation would restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams to help maintain or improve fish habitat.

Wildlife: Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles. TES species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander, Indiana bat, and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. Currently the WVDNR manages 25 acres of wildlife openings, 2 orchards, and 1 trail within the area. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 7 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area, although the West Fork of the Greenbrier River is just east of the eastern boundary, and the Shavers Fork is just outside the western boundary of this area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: This area is currently managed under Management Prescription 4.0 which is managed for softwood fiber and lumber, and 6.1, which is managed primarily for wildlife habitat. Commercial timber harvesting is permitted although no acres have been harvested in the last decade. The area contains an estimated 147,229 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 6,344 acres (94 percent) of the area are considered tentatively suited lands, and an estimated 4,107 acres (61 percent) are considered to be prime timberland. The economic value of 147,229 CCF on 6,344 acres of tentatively suited timberlands would be foregone under a wilderness designation.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area, and there are 5,756 acres in Federal gas leases. All lands within the area are estimated to have a 25% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Forty-three percent of the area has privately owned mineral rights. Based on available information, 20 percent of the area has mineable coal identified and documented, 30 percent may have mineable coal but economic viability is unknown, and 50 percent of the area has no mineable coal. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate because nearby gas reserves were deemed to have insufficient quantity to be economically viable. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from future development of the private mineral estate because 43 percent of the area has privately owned gas and oil mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in a variety of low to high probability cultural resource zones. There are 19 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. All of the area has been surveyed and the quality of these surveys is considered good.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are 11 outfitter/guide recreation special use permit issued for the area. Any permit involving mechanized transport or uses would need to be discontinued or modified under a wilderness designation.

Disturbances: The Gaudineer area is within Fire Regime V. This regime has a 200+ year frequency and high severity (greater than 75% of dominant overstory vegetation replacement). This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. This class is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access are important in this area because of the adjacent private land to the west and south.

Botanical Characteristics: There are two Regional Forester's sensitive species, large-flowered Barbara's Button and long-stalked holly, within the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road and trail corridors have a variety of non-native invasive species within them.

NEED

The Otter Creek Wilderness is 18 air miles to the north, Dolly Sods Wilderness is 29 air miles northeast, and the Laurel Fork Wildernesses are 3 air miles to the east of Gaudineer. The Cranberry Wilderness is about 30 air miles to the southwest. Nearby communities include Wildell (1 air mile north), Durbin (5 air miles south), Gladys (8 air miles north) and Bartow (12 air miles southeast), West Virginia and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Durbin, Bartow, Wildell, Valley Head, Daily, Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has not been any public interest in this area becoming wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition did not recommend this area in their 2004 wilderness proposal. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. However, this area is a relatively recent addition to the roadless area inventory. This IRA was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Mostly high with minor low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Moderate
Special Features	T&E species habitat, adjacency to scenic area
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 147,229 CCF of timber, mountain biking, 25 acres of wildlife openings, 2 orchards, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, stream liming, and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. There has been little public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this IRA for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	6,727	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5)	0	6,727	6,727	0	6,727
Low to Moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	6,727	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 6.1, 3.0, 4.0, 2.0, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Gauley Mountain East
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092109
7,780 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Gauley Mountain East area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Greenbrier Ranger District, Pocahontas and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. National Forest System lands border the area to the north and south, and private lands make up a major portion of the eastern and western boundaries. Nearby communities include Slaty Fork (.1 air miles east), Webster Springs (13 air miles west), and the Snowshoe and Silver Creek developments (6 air miles southeast), West Virginia. The area is about 6 miles in length and 1 ½ to 2 miles wide and is found primarily within the Sharp Knob USGS quadrangle map. Primary vehicle access is provided by Forest Road 24, which makes up the western boundary of the area and State Route 60 along portions of the northeastern boundary. There are no system trails or improved roads located within the IRA. An estimated 4.2 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads are located within the IRA.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Gauley Mountain East area ranges in elevation from 2,600 feet along the Elk River to over 4,400 feet at Bradshaw Hill. Slopes are generally steep along the mid slopes, with more gradual slopes along the rivers and toward the main ridges. The geologic formations are primarily Mauch Chunk and Pottsville. Generally, the lower three fourths of the slopes are of the Mauch Chunk Formation with the upper one fourth of the mountain being capped by the coal-bearing Pottsville formation. Soils include the Teas and Meckesville series. The vegetation consists of an overstory of northern hardwoods and red spruce with an understory of rhododendron, small trees and shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under MP 6.1, which emphasizes wildlife habitat management through commercial timber harvesting.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Past timber harvesting and the associated 4.2 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads are still evident within Gauley Mountain East. There have been an estimated 681 acres of timber harvested in the area over the past 10 years. Harvest impacts are still evident on the ground, although vegetation is recovering. Illegal ATV occurs within the area, and there are 3 communication towers in the area. For these reasons, overall natural integrity and appearance are considered low in areas of development, and moderate elsewhere.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: Gauley Mountain East is 7,780 acres in size, provides an estimated 2,622 acres of core solitude (34% of the area), and is located entirely on National Forest System lands. The relatively moderate size of the area and only 2,622 acres of core solitude--combined with State Highway 60 on the eastern boundary with Forest Road 24 to the west--limit opportunities for solitude. Previous logging and Level 1 and 2 road construction is still evident on the landscape, thus reducing the opportunity to experience primitive recreation throughout much of the area. Illegal ATV occurs within the area. Visitor use of the area is considered low to moderate most of the year and is limited primarily to hunters, anglers, and mountain bikers. Equestrian and hiker use is low. There are no system trails that access the area, although Level 1 and 2 roads do provide some limited access. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is low, except during hunting and primary fishing seasons when the likelihood increases to moderate. The opportunity to experience remoteness is moderate. There is potential to hear noise from State Road 60 and Forest Road 24.

Overall, opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered low to moderate throughout the area.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for three federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage this area as wilderness. The size and shape (6 miles long, 1.5-2 mile wide) of Gauley Mountain East, combined with ownership and current use patterns, make its preservation potential marginal. The eastern and western boundaries have a low to moderate potential for additional development over the next 10-20 years. There is a moderate to high potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses from adjacent private land. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas discovery coincident with private mineral rights. The overall manageability of the area as wilderness is considered low to moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There is no designated system trail within the area although a fairly extensive system of Level 1 and 2 roads (4.2 miles) provides access throughout the area. The area receives low to moderate hiker and equestrian use. Some mountain bike use occurs along the boundary roads, but they are not considered part of the area. Dispersed camping is low to moderate and occurs primarily during hunting season. The primary recreation activities within the area are hunting and fishing. There is one outfitter/guide (wagon rides) recreation special use permit issued for the area. Illegal ATV use is occurring within the area.

Fisheries: Gauley Mountain East is located on the east side of Gauley Mountain north of Slaty Fork, WV. It is bordered on the east by the main stem of the Elk River. Major tributaries within the area include Chimney Rock Run, Big Run, Props Run and the lower reaches of Laurel Run. All support populations of native brook trout and/or non-native rainbow or brown trout. The Elk River is a popular trout fishery and the portion adjacent to the area is managed as a catch and release fishery. Water quality is generally good, but productivity may be impaired by fine sediment in some of the tributaries. No species of concern are known to occur in the waters of the area. Creek chubsuckers, listed by the WVDNR as S3, have been collected in the main stem of the Elk River just downstream of the area.

Wildlife: Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles. ESA-listed species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander, Indiana bat, and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. Currently there are no WVDNR managed wildlife openings within the area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 4 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area, although the Elk River forms the eastern boundary of this area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: This area is currently managed under MP 6.1. Commercial timber harvesting is permitted and 681 acres have been harvested in the last decade. The area contains an estimated 191,128 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 7,780 acres (100 percent) of the area are considered tentatively suited timberlands, and an estimated 6,535 acres (84%) are considered to be prime timberland. Under a wilderness designation, economic value associated with 191,128 CCF would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area and there are no acres in federal gas leases. All lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. All of the area has privately owned gas and oil mineral rights. Based on available information, 70% of the area has no mineable coal present and 30% of the area may have some coal present but the economic viability is unknown. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas coincident with privately owned mineral rights. The privately owned gas and oil mineral rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in a variety of low to high probability cultural resource zones. There are 15 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. Although all of the area has been surveyed, the quality of these surveys ranges from very poor to good.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There is one recreation and 3 non-recreation special use permits issued for the area. The recreation permit is for an outfitter/guide, and the 3 non-recreation permits are for communications sites located on the southwest perimeter of the area.

Disturbances: Gauley Mountain East is within Fire Regime V. This regime has a 200+ year frequency and high severity (greater than 75% of dominant overstory vegetation replacement). This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. This class is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private land to the north and east.

Botanical Characteristics: There is one plant (white monkshood) species within the area that is on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species

NEED

The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 40-54 air miles north and northeast of Gauley Mountain East. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are within 26 air miles northeast of the area, and the Cranberry Wilderness is about 6 air miles to the southwest. The area is .1 air miles west of Slaty Fork, 13 air miles east of Webster Springs and 6 air miles northwest of the Snowshoe and Silver Creek developments, West Virginia, and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Slaty Fork, Webster Springs, Upper Mingo, Valley Head, Marlinton, and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been little public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. However, this area is a relatively recent addition to the roadless area inventory. This area

was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Moderate, but low in developed areas
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Low to moderate
Special Features	T&E species habitat
Manageability	Low to moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include 191,128 CCF of timber, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for stream liming and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. There has been little public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNA)	0	7,780	7,780	7,780	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	7,780
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	7,780	0	0	0	0

Gauley Mountain West
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092110
6,624 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Gauley Mountain West area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Greenbrier Ranger District, Pocahontas, Webster and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. National Forest System lands border the area. Nearby communities include Slaty Fork (2 air miles southeast), Webster Springs (10 air miles west), and the Snowshoe and Silver Creek developments (8 air miles southeast), West Virginia. The area is about 4 miles in length and 2 to 2 1/2 miles wide and is found primarily within the Sharp Knob USGS quadrangle map. Primary vehicle access is provided by Forest Road 24, which makes up the eastern boundary of the area. There are no system trails or improved roads located within the area. An estimated 7.0 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads are located within the IRA.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Gauley Mountain West ranges in elevation from 3,200 feet along Leatherwood Creek to about 4,200 along Forest Road 24. Slopes are generally steep along the mid slopes, with more gradual slopes along the rivers and toward the main ridges. The geologic formations are primarily Mauch Chunk and Pottsville. Generally, the lower three fourths of the slopes are of the Mauch Chunk Formation, with the upper one fourth of the mountain being capped by the coal-bearing Pottsville formation. Soils include the Teas and Meckesville series. The vegetation consists of an overstory of northern hardwoods and red spruce, with an understory of rhododendron, small trees and shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under MP 6.1 which emphasizes wildlife habitat management through commercial timber harvest.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Past timber harvesting and the associated 7.0 miles of Level 1 and 2 roads are still evident within the area. There have been 526 acres of timber harvested in the area over the past 10 years, and 1,147 acres over the past 12 years. Harvest impacts are still evident on the ground, although vegetation is recovering. For these reasons, the overall natural integrity and appearance of the area are considered low in developed areas, and moderate elsewhere.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: Gauley Mountain West is 6,624 acres in size, provides an estimated 4,178 acres of core solitude (63% of the area), and is located entirely on National Forest System lands. Although the area is relatively small in size it does have a high percentage of core solitude. Forest Road 24 and the Forest Proclamation Boundary lie to the west. Previous logging and Level 1 and 2 road construction is still evident on the landscape, thus reducing the opportunity to experience primitive recreation throughout a good portion of the area. Illegal ATV is occurring within the area. Visitor use of the area is considered low to moderate most of the year and is limited primarily to hunters, anglers, and mountain bikers. Equestrian and hiker use is low. There are no system trails that access the area, although Level 1 and 2 roads do provide some limited access. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is low to moderate, except during hunting and primary fishing seasons when the likelihood increases to moderate to high. The opportunity to experience remoteness is moderate. The potential to hear noise from Forest Road 24 and private property to the west is low to moderate. Overall, opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered low to moderate throughout the area.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area as wilderness. The size and shape (5 miles long, 2-3 miles wide) of Gauley Mountain West, combined with ownership and current use patterns, make its preservation potential marginal. The western boundary has a low to moderate potential for additional development over the next 10-20 years. There is a moderate to high potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses from adjacent private land. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is high because of the potential for mineable coal and natural gas discovery coincident with private mineral rights. The overall manageability of the area as wilderness is considered low to moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are no designated system trails within the area. A fairly extensive system of Level 1 and 2 roads (7.0 miles) that provide access throughout the area. The area receives low to moderate hiker and equestrian use. Some mountain bike use occurs along the boundary roads, but they are not considered part of the area. Dispersed camping is low to moderate and occurs primarily during hunting season. The primary recreation activities within the area are hunting and fishing. There is one recreation special use permit (outfitter/guide) issued for the area. Illegal ATV use is occurring within the area.

Fisheries: Gauley Mountain West is located on the west side of Gauley Mountain from Rose Run south to near Leatherwood Creek. Major tributaries draining the area include Rose Run, Big Run and Bergoo Creek. Fish communities are simple within these streams. Big Run supports native brook trout and non-native brown trout (fish sampling data on file at the S.O.), and Bergoo Creek contains native brook trout and blacknose dace. Rose Run is fishless. No species of concern are known to occur within the area, but creek chubsuckers, listed by the WVDNR as S3, have been collected in the main stem of the Elk River just upstream of the area. Geologies sensitive to acid deposition are present in much of the area and may impair stream productivity and diversity, especially in the upper stream reaches. Stream contact with other geologic types appears to buffer streams in the lower reaches.

Wildlife: Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles. Threatened and endangered species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. Currently there are no WVDNR managed wildlife openings within the area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 5 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area, although the Elk River forms the eastern boundary of the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: This area is currently managed under MP 6.1, which allows commercial timber harvest. There have been an estimated 526 acres (8%) of timber harvest in the Gauley Mountain West area over the past decade and a total of 1,147 acres (17%) harvested over the last 12 years. The area contains an estimated 164,543 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 6,593 acres (100%) of the area are considered tentatively suited timberlands, and an estimated 5,697 acres (86%) are considered to be prime timberland. Under a wilderness designation, the economic value associated with 164,543 CCF would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area and there are no acres in federal gas leases. All lands within the area are estimated to have a 25% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. All of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information, mineable coal is not present within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate because, even though there is potential for some natural gas discovery coincident with private gas ownership, nearby gas reserves were deemed to have insufficient quantities to be economically viable. The privately owned gas and oil mineral rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in a variety of low to high probability cultural resource zones. There are 16 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. Although all of the area has been surveyed, the quality of these surveys ranges from very poor to good.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There is 1 recreation and no non-recreation special use permits issued for the area. Permit activities include outfitter/guide wagon rides.

Disturbances: The area is within Fire Regime V. This regime has a 200+ year frequency and high severity (greater than 75% of dominant overstory vegetation replacement). This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. This class is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private land to the south and west.

Botanical Characteristics: There is one plant (white monkshood) species within the area that is on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 40-54 air miles north and northeast of Gauley Mountain West. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are within 26 air miles northeast of the area, and the Cranberry Wilderness is about 6 air miles to the southwest. The area is 0.1 air mile west of Slaty Fork, 13 air miles east of Webster Springs and 6 air miles northwest of the Snowshoe and Silver Creek developments, West Virginia, and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Slaty Fork, Webster Springs, Upper Mingo, Valley Head Marlinton, and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been no public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. However, this area is a relatively recent addition to the roadless area inventory. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Moderate but low in developed areas
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Low to moderate
Special Features	T&E species habitat
Manageability	Low to moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include 164,543 CCF of timber, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for stream liming and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Environmental organizations have not specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	0	6,624	6,624	6,624	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	6,624	0	0	0	6,624

Middle Mountain
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092111
12,197 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Middle Mountain area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Marlinton and White Sulphur Ranger District, Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia. This area is located west of State Road 92 between Rimel and Neola, and east of State Road 23 and Forest Road 96. Private land borders the entire eastern and portions of the western boundary of the IRA. The remainder of the area is bordered by National Forest System lands. The area is an estimated 10 air miles southeast of Marlinton and 16 air miles northeast of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Primary access includes State Roads 23 and 96. Access on the eastern boundary is limited due to private ownership. This area is an estimated 9 miles long and 2.5 miles wide and is found within portions of the Alvon, Denmar, and Lake Sherwood USGS quadrangle maps. There are 6 miles of Level 1 and 2 (unimproved) roads and 14 miles of trail within the area. Forest Road 790 is currently used as a Class Q road for disabled hunters.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Middle Mountain area ranges in elevation from 2,400 feet in the valley bottoms to 3,300 feet along the ridges. The geology is a series of steep, parallel, uninterrupted ridges and narrow valleys with moderately deep to shallow soils that formed in material weathered largely by shale. Surface rock is Devonian origin and consists of red beds, shale, sandstone, limestone, and chert. Vegetation consists primarily of mixed oak/hickory on the moister slopes and a mixture of pine and hardwoods on the drier slopes, with an understory of rhododendron, mountain laurel, blueberries, huckleberries and a variety of shrubs. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under MPs 6.1 and 6.2. MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments. MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Past management activities within the Middle Mountain area are evident. Maintained wildlife openings, linear openings, and low-level developed roads for administrative use and disabled hunter access are present. Evidence of timber harvesting and illegal ATV use is noticeable within portions of the area. For these reasons, natural integrity and appearance are considered moderate.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Middle Mountain area is 12,197 acres including 6,189 acres of core solitude (51% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. Private land/rural development make up the entire eastern boundary of the area, and intermingled private lands are also along the western perimeter. Management activities, including timber harvesting in Prescription 6.1, are noticable, and maintenance of wildlife openings is evident, especially along the Middle Mountain Trail. Recreation use of the area is considered low, therefore the potential of encountering other recreation users is low. The potential to hear and see evidence of human use from adjacent private lands and roads is moderate. Overall, the opportunities for solitude and for challenging primitive recreation are generally considered high in the core area, and moderate near developed areas and adjacent private lands.

Special Features: There are no identified special features associated with the Middle Mountain area.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area as wilderness. The size and shape (an estimated 9 miles long and 2.5 miles wide) of the Middle Mountain area, combined with the amount of private land and development on the eastern and western boundaries, increase the potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. These factors, along with wildlife management activities within the area, make the preservation potential marginal to average. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is moderate because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas. Overall, the manageability of the area for future wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are 2 trails totaling 14 miles within the area. The Middle Mountain Trail travels north-south through the middle of the area, and the Allegheny Mountain Trail traverses the area from northwest to southeast, from trailheads at State Roads 23 and 92. These trails receive relatively low hiker use and very low equestrian and mountain bike use. The Middle Mountain Trail currently provides motorized access for management of the existing wildlife openings. Recreation use is considered low except for the area around “The Dock” which receives moderate use during hunting season. Dispersed camping is primarily around The Dock, and is moderate to high during hunting season. The primary recreation activities within the area are hiking and hunting. There are streams within the area that likely support trout, but fishing pressure is low. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use, but current use is very low. The opportunity to use Class Q roads that provide access for disabled hunters would be eliminated. Trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: The Middle Mountain area straddles Middle Mountain between the North Fork of Anthony Creek to the northwest and Anthony Creek to the southeast. Streams within the area are typically small, high-gradient systems with limited stream flows. No fisheries data is available within the area, but native brook trout were observed in the headwaters of Douthat Creek, which flows out the north side of the area.

Wildlife: This area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. There are historic records of large populations of wild turkey and gray squirrel. Wild turkeys have been reintroduced and populations are increasing. This area is considered to be one of the better squirrel areas in West Virginia due to the consistently large amount of mast. Major game species include whitetail deer, gray squirrel, wild turkey and black bear. Lesser game species include grouse, raccoon, red fox, and groundhogs. Beaver populations are increasing along rivers and streams. There are 24 areas totaling 26 acres in wildlife openings, 7.8 miles of road and trail linear openings, and 3 waterholes currently maintained by the WVDNR. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 15 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are mildly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Portions of the area within Prescription 6.1 permit commercial timber harvest, and an estimated 115 acres have been harvested in the last decade. The area contains an

estimated 203,912 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 11,953 acres (98 percent) of the area are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,003 acres (33%) are considered to be prime timberland. The economic value associated with 65,251 CCF in MP 6.1 would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area and there are no acres in Federal gas leases. Lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Sixty percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information, mineable coal is not present within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is moderate because of the potential for some natural gas discovery coincident with private gas ownership. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from development of the private mineral estate because 60% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are three known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 5% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There is one recreation (outfitter and guide hunting) and one non-recreation special use permit issued within the area.

Disturbances: The Middle Mountain area is located within Fire Regimes I and IV. Fire Regime I has a 0-35 year frequency of low (surface fire most common) to mixed (less than 75% of the dominant over-story replaced) severity and Fire Regime IV has a 35-100+ year frequency and high (greater than 75% of dominant over-story vegetation replacement) severity. Most of the area's fire regimes are in Condition Class 3, which has a high departure from its historic range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. This area would be a good candidate to re-introduce fire in order to restore oak ecosystems and reduce stand densities and undesired species composition. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of adjacent private land and the potential for using prescribed fire.

Botanical Characteristics: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants that are known to occur in the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 75-80 air miles northeast of the Middle Mountain area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are about 50 air miles to the northeast and the Cranberry Wilderness is 10 air miles northwest of the area. The area is 16 air miles northeast of White Sulphur Springs and 8 air miles southeast of Marlinton. The area is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, and a 4-5 drive Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of White Sulphur Springs, Marlinton, Richwood, and Summersville, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wilderness, and the Eastern Allegheny Mountain and Valley Section (M221Bd), which is not represented on the Forest in existing wilderness but is represented in other roadless areas.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Individuals and environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but it is in the 2004 wilderness proposal of the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Moderate
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	High in core area, moderate elsewhere
Special Features	None
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 65,251 CCF of timber, mountain biking, 26 acres in wildlife openings, 7.8 miles of road and trail linear openings, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, prescribed fire, and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Individuals and environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	12,197	0
Very Low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5)	8,175	12,197	12,197	0	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	4,022	0	0	0	12,197

Roaring Plains East
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092112
2,962 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Roaring Plains East area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Potomac Ranger District, Pendleton and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. The area is located to the southeast of the Dolly Sods Wilderness, separated by Forest Road 75. Private land borders the area to the southeast and northeast, and National Forest System lands lie to the northwest and southwest. Nearby communities include Seneca Rocks (about 5 air miles southeast), and Harman (about 7 air miles west), West Virginia. Canaan Valley State Park is about 7 miles northwest of the area. The area is an estimated 4 miles in length and 1-2 miles wide and is found within the Hopeville USGS Quadrangle. Primary access is from the South Prong Trail, Forest Road 75 and Forest Road 70 (gated, but open during hunting season). There are no miles of road within the area, and 4 miles of system trail.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Roaring Plains East ranges in elevation from 2,400 feet along the eastern perimeter of the area to over 4,000 feet along the Red Creek Plains. Slopes within the area range from 10-60%. Geologic formations are diverse and include portions of the Devonian, Hampshire, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian systems. Soils are primarily in the Calvin and Dekalb series. The vegetation is diverse and consists of mixed hardwoods, red spruce and brush, with an understory of bogs, grasses and rhododendron. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good, though a number of open areas exist.

Current Management: Roaring Plains East is currently managed under MPs 6.2, 6.1, and 3.0. MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities, MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management, and MP 3.0 emphasizes Vegetative Management.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Roaring Plains East is small in size, encompassing 2,962 acres; however, the area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of the area is regaining its natural untrammeled appearance, and natural ecological processes are the primary factors affecting the area. Overall, natural integrity and appearance are considered moderate to high over most of the area, with exceptions adjacent to Forest Roads 70 and 75 and the pipeline right-of-way.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: This area is 2,962 acres in size and provides an estimated 132 acres of core solitude (5% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. Private land makes up portions of the eastern and southern boundaries of the area. Roaring Plains East did not qualify for the Roadless Area Inventory originally because of its small size and lack of core solitude. It has been added to the inventory because it is part of a high-elevation plateau that forms a natural buffer to the sights and sounds of development that may occur around and below it. Roaring Plains East, North, and West comprise nearly 13,000 acres of relatively remote backcountry that provide a good opportunity to experience solitude. Overall recreation use of the area is considered low to moderate within Roaring Plains East, and the likelihood of encountering other recreation users is also low to moderate. The potential to hear and see evidence of human use from adjacent private lands and Forest roads is moderate to high around the periphery of the area, but low elsewhere, resulting in an overall moderate opportunity for solitude.

Special Features: Exceptional views, topography, and the plains ecosystem are special features identified within this area. The area also provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: The current boundaries, which include roads, transmission line, and private land, could be used for the most part to manage the area as wilderness. The area is very small, and provides only about 132 acres of core solitude. However, the area's high elevation and plateau features help buffer portions of it from outside activities. The private lands bordering the area to the northeast and southeast have some potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values are considered moderate to high because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas. Overall, the manageability of this area as a potential wilderness is considered low due to its small size and adjacent private land.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are segments of 2 trails totaling about 4 miles within the area. These trails connect with other portions of the Roaring Plains area, as well as the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, nature watching, cross-country skiing and dispersed camping are popular activities within the area. Equestrian use is considered low. Mountain bikes and special use events are currently permitted along Forest Road 70; however this road is not considered part of the area. Recreation use could increase substantially over the next 10-15 years in the vicinity with the completion of Corridor H, which will provide interstate access from Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to the north-central counties in West Virginia. Trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: Roaring Plains East is centered on Red Creek Plains, which forms the divide between the Cheat River and Potomac River drainages. The western half of the area drains towards the South Fork of Red Creek (see Roaring Plains North for additional information), and the eastern half drains towards the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River (NFSBP). Streams within the area are limited, although the headwaters of several tributaries to the NFSBP are located along the eastern boundary. These include, from north to south, Moyer Run, High Ridge Run, Mill Run, Zeke Run and Shafter Run. Several of these support native brook trout, and Moyer Run, High Ridge Run and Zeke Run are on the presumptive list of Tier 2.5 streams. Geologies sensitive to acid deposition occur in parts of the area, but streams draining to the NFSBP are not known to be impaired by acid deposition.

Wildlife: Wildlife species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, bobcat and a variety of birds and reptiles. TES species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain Salamander, West Virginia northern flying squirrel, and northern water shrew. WVDNR maintains no wildlife openings in this area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 6 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Some streams in the western portion of the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Roaring Plains East is located in Management Prescriptions 6.2, 6.1, and 3.0. Timber harvesting is not currently allowed within Management Prescription 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. MP 3.0 emphasizes vegetative management. Portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.1 allow

commercial timber harvesting, although no harvest has occurred over the past decade. The area contains an estimated 79,364 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. All (100%) of the lands are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 546 acres (18%) are considered to be prime timberland.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas or coal operations within the area. However, there are 1,335 acres of producing federal gas leases located east of the Allegheny Front escarpment. Natural gas is produced from gas wells located down slope within these leases. There is potential for the gas field to extend under the portion of the Roaring Plains area that is leased, and therefore potential also exists from gas operations to be developed within the leased area. Fifty percent of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre, and 50% have a 25% chance of gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Nine percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information; 90% of the area may have mineable coal present in some areas but the economic viability is unknown, and 10% has mineable coal present. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is high east of the Allegheny Front escarpment because of the potential for expansion of natural gas production from the existing, producing Foreknobs gas field leases, and the potential is much lower west of the Allegheny Front escarpment because the potential for some natural gas discovery is coincident with privately owned natural gas, and most of the mineable coal potential is not coincident with private coal rights. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from development of the private mineral estate because 9% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall moderate probability cultural resource zone. There are four known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 75% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are two recreation and no non-recreation special use permits issued within the area, although there are 5 non-recreation permits that either occur immediately adjacent or on the boundaries of this area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, and recreation events. Wilderness designation could preclude large recreation events.

Disturbances: Roaring Plains West is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35–100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity, and Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high stand replacement severity. The area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of adjacent private lands to the southeast and northeast.

Botanical Characteristics: The State sensitive balsam fir and gold thread are located within the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing trail corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Dolly Sods Wilderness is directly northwest of the area, separated by Forest Road 75, and the Otter Creek Wilderness is about 12 air miles to the west. The Laurel Fork North and South Wildernesses are 19-25 miles to the southwest, and the Cranberry Wilderness is an estimated 65 air miles to the southwest. Roaring Plains East is 12 air miles west of Petersburg, 20 air miles southeast of Parsons, 25 air miles east of Elkins, and is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Petersburg, Parsons and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but it is in the 2004 wilderness proposal of the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY**Capability Summary:**

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Moderate to high with some exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Low to moderate small size and adjacent private lands
Special Features	Vistas, high plains ecology, T&E species habitat
Manageability	Low, small size and adjacent private lands

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 79,364CCF of timber, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Environmental organizations, have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	2,062	2,962	2,962	2,962	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	100	0	0	0	1,403
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	800	0	0	0	1,560

Roaring Plains North
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092112
3,119 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Roaring Plains North area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Potomac Ranger District, Pendleton and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. The area is located to the south of the Dolly Sods Wilderness separated by Forest Road 75. Private land borders the area to the northwest, with National Forest System lands making up the remainder of the perimeter. Nearby communities include Seneca Rocks (about 5 air miles southeast), and Harman (about 7 air miles southwest), West Virginia. Canaan Valley State Park is about 4 miles northwest of the area. The area is an estimated 2 miles in length and 3 miles wide and is found within portions of the Hopeville and Laneville U.S.G.S Quadrangles. Primary access is from the South Fork Trail, Forest Road 75 and Forest Road 70 (gated, but open during hunting season). There are no miles of road within the area, and 7 miles of system trail.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Roaring Plains North ranges in elevation from about 2,800 feet along the northern perimeter of the area to over 4,200 feet in the Flatrock Plains area. Slopes within the area range from 10-60%. Geologic formations are diverse and include portions of the Devonian, Hampshire, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian systems. Soils are primarily in the Calvin and Dekalb series. The vegetation is diverse and consists of mixed hardwoods, red spruce and brush, with an understory of bogs, grasses and rhododendron. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good, though a number of open areas exist.

Current Management: Roaring Plains North is currently managed under MPs 6.1, 6.2, and 8.0. MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments, MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities, and 8.0, or Opportunity Area 832, emphasizes protection of suitable habitat for the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, an endangered species.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Roaring Plains North is small in size, encompassing 3,199 acres; however, the area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of the area is regaining its natural untrammeled appearance, and natural ecological processes are the primary factors affecting the area. Overall, natural integrity and appearance are considered moderate to high over most of the area, with exceptions adjacent to Forest Roads 70 and 75, and the pipeline right-of-way.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: This area is 3,199 acres in size and provides an estimated 853 acres of core solitude (27% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. Private land lies adjacent to the northwestern perimeter, but the remaining perimeter is National Forest ownership. Roaring Plains North did not qualify for the Roadless Area Inventory originally because of its small size and lack of core solitude. It has been added to the inventory because it is part of a high-elevation plateau that forms a natural buffer to the sights and sounds of development that may occur around and below it. Roaring Plains North, East, and West comprise nearly 13,000 acres of relatively remote backcountry that provide a good opportunity to experience solitude. Overall recreation use of the area is considered low to moderate within Roaring Plains North, and the likelihood of encountering other recreation users is also low to moderate. The potential to hear and see evidence of human use from adjacent private lands and Forest roads is moderate to high around the periphery of the area, but low elsewhere, resulting in an overall moderate opportunity for solitude.

Special Features: Exceptional views and the plains ecosystem are special features identified within this area. The area also provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: The current boundaries—which include roads, transmission line, and private land—could be used for the most part to manage the area as wilderness. The area is very small, and provides only 853 acres of core solitude. However, the area’s high elevation and plateau features help buffer it from outside activities. The private land bordering the area to the northwest has some potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is moderate because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas. Overall, the manageability of this area as a potential wilderness is considered moderate due to its small size and some adjacent private land.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are segments of 2 trails totaling about 7 miles within the area. These trails connect with other portions of the Roaring Plains area, as well as the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, nature watching, cross-country skiing and dispersed camping are popular activities within the area. Equestrian use is considered low. Mountain bikes and special events are currently permitted on Forest Road 70; however this road is not considered part of the area. Recreation use could increase substantially over the next 10-15 years in the vicinity with the completion of Corridor H, which will provide interstate access from Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to the north-central counties in West Virginia. Trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: Roaring Plains North is located in the South Fork of Red Creek subwatershed. Fisheries information is relatively limited within the area, but species composition and abundance are likely impaired due to acidic conditions. Native brook trout have been reported in the South Fork of Red Creek, and other native non-game species may occur there as well. Geologies sensitive to acid deposition occur in parts of the area, and the South Fork of Red Creek is currently on the EPA 303d list of impaired streams due to acid-related biological impairment. The WVDNR is currently treating the South Fork of Red Creek with limestone sand to mitigate the impacts.

Wildlife: Wildlife species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, bobcat and a variety of birds and reptiles. TES species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, and northern water shrew. WVDNR maintains no wildlife openings in this area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 3 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Some streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Roaring Plains North is located in Management Prescriptions 6.1, 6.2, and 8.0. Portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.1 permit commercial timber harvesting, although no harvest has occurred over the past decade. Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Commercial timber harvest is heavily restricted in the Opportunity Area 832 of 8.0. The area contains an estimated 53,081 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of

merchantable timber. All (100%) of the lands are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 936 acres (35%) are considered to be prime timberland.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area, and there are no acres in Federal gas leases. All of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Eight percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information; 70% of the area may have mineable coal present in some areas but the economic viability is unknown, 20% do not have mineable coal present, and 10% has mineable coal present. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate based on the potential for some natural gas discovery coincident with privately owned natural gas, and most of the mineable coal potential is not coincident with private coal rights. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from development of the private mineral estate because 8% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall moderate probability cultural resource zone. There are two known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 75% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are two recreation and no non-recreation special use permits issued within the area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, and recreation events. Wilderness designation may eliminate recreation events.

Disturbances: Roaring Plains West is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35–100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity, and Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high stand replacement severity. The area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of adjacent private lands to the northwest.

Botanical Characteristics: The white monkshood, a Regional Foresters Sensitive Species, and the State Sensitive small crabnberry and gold thread are located within the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road trail corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Dolly Sods Wilderness is directly north of the area, separated by Forest Road 75, and the Otter Creek Wilderness is about 12 air miles to the west. The Laurel Fork North and South Wildernesses are 19-25 miles to the southwest, and the Cranberry Wilderness is an estimated 65 air miles to the southwest. Roaring Plains North is 12 air miles west of Petersburg, 20 air miles southeast of Parsons, 25 air miles east of Elkins, and is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Petersburg, Parsons and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but it is in the 2004 wilderness proposal of the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	Moderate to high
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Low to moderate; small size, adjacent private lands
Special Features	Vistas, high plains ecology, T&E species habitat
Manageability	Low to moderate; small size, adjacent private land

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 53,081 CCF of timber, and mechanized equipment or vehicle use for trail work and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	1,119	0	3,119	3,199	3,119
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	400	3,119	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	1,400	0	0	0	0

Roaring Plains West
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092112
6,825 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Roaring Plains West area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Potomac Ranger District, Pendleton and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. The area is located an estimated 3 miles southwest of the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Private land borders the area to the south, east and west, and National Forest System lands lie to the north. Nearby communities include Seneca Rocks (about 5 air miles southeast), and Harman (about 4 air miles west), West Virginia. Canaan Valley State Park is about 2 miles north of the area. The area is an estimated 4 miles in length and 3 miles wide and is found within portions of the Laneville U.S.G.S Quadrangle. Primary access is from the Flat-rock Run Trail and Forest Road 70 (gated, but open during hunting season). There are 2 miles of unimproved roads within the area, and 4 miles of system trail.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Roaring Plains West ranges in elevation from 3,700 feet along the southern perimeter of the area to over 4,700 feet at the top of Mt. Porte Crayon. Slopes within the area range from 10-60%. Geologic formations are diverse and include portions of the Devonian, Hampshire, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian systems. Soils are primarily in the Calvin and Dekalb series. The vegetation is diverse and consists of mixed hardwoods, red spruce and brush, with an under-story of bogs, grasses and rhododendron. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good, though a number of open areas exist.

Current Management: Roaring Plains West is currently managed under MPs 6.1 and 6.2. MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments. MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Roaring Plains West is relatively small in size, encompassing 6,825 acres; however, the area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of the area is regaining its natural untrammelled appearance, and natural ecological processes are the primary factors affecting the area. A microwave tower and a heli-spot are located within the northeastern perimeter of the area. Overall, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over most of the area, with low exceptions around the tower, heli-spot, and pipeline right-of-way.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: This area is 6,825 acres in size and provides an estimated 4,706 acres of core solitude (69% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. Private land makes up the western and southern boundaries of the area. Roaring Plains East, North, and West comprise nearly 13,000 acres of relatively remote backcountry that provide a good opportunity to experience solitude. Overall recreation use of the area is considered low to moderate within the Roaring Plains West area, and the likelihood of encountering other recreation users is also low to moderate. The potential to hear and see evidence of human use from adjacent private lands is moderate, especially at vistas, and increasing with ongoing development along the western boundary. Overall, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are considered high in much of the core area and moderate at vistas and adjacent to private lands.

Special Features: Mt. Porte Crayon, exceptional views, topography, and the plains ecosystem are special features identified within this area. The area also provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used for the most part to manage the area as wilderness. Although the area is relatively small, it has a high percentage of core solitude, and its high elevation and plateau features help buffer it from outside activities. The private land bordering the area has potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. Development on private land has increased recently, with housing tracts at Cherry Ridge and Canaan Crossing, and there also is a large four-season resort in the planning stages that would abut the area along three miles of the western boundary. Although mountain bikes are currently permitted, use is low and should not be difficult to eliminate if wilderness designation occurs. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is moderate because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas. Overall, the manageability of this area as a potential wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are segments of 3 trails totaling 4 miles within the area. These trails connect with other portions of the Roaring Plains area, as well as the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, nature watching, cross-country skiing and dispersed camping are popular activities within the area. Mountain biking and equestrian use are considered low. Recreation use is expected to increase substantially over the next 10-15 years in the vicinity with the completion of Corridor H, which will provide interstate access from Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to the north-central counties in West Virginia. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain biking, but current use is low. Trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be generally limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: Roaring Plains West is located on the divide between the Cheat River and Potomac River drainages. The South Fork of Red Creek and Flatrock Run flow north into the Dry Fork of the Cheat River. Long Run is formed by the confluence of the North Fork and South Fork of Long Run and flows south into the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. Native brook trout are reported in Flatrock Run, South Fork Red Creek and Long Run. Geologies sensitive to acid deposition occur in parts of the area, and the South Fork of Red Creek is currently on the EPA 303d list of impaired streams due to biological impairment.

Wildlife: Wildlife species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, bobcat and a variety of birds and reptiles. TES species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander, West Virginia northern flying squirrel, and northern water shrew. WVDNR maintains no wildlife openings in this area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for 8 cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Some streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.1 permit commercial timber harvesting, although no harvest has occurred over the past decade. The area contains an estimated 107,585 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. All (100%) of the lands are

considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 2,424 acres (37%) are considered to be prime timberland. The economic value associated with 300 acres (MP 6.1) of tentatively suited timberlands containing 5,379 CCF would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area, and there are no acres in Federal gas leases. Ninety five percent of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre, and 5% have a 25% chance of gas production of 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Forty percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information; 50% of the area may have mineable coal present in some areas but the economic viability is unknown, 30% does not have mineable coal present, and 20% has mineable coal present. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate based on the potential for some natural gas discovery coincident with private ownership and most of the mineable coal potential is not coincident with private coal rights. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from development of the private mineral estate because 40% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are four known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 15% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are four recreation and one non-recreation special use permits issued within the area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and recreation events. Wilderness designation would eliminate recreation events related to mountain biking or large groups.

Disturbances: Roaring Plains West is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35–100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity, and Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high stand replacement severity. The area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of adjacent private lands to the south, west, and north.

Botanical Characteristics: The white monkshood, a Regional Forester's sensitive species, is known to occur in the area. A portion of the area is within a Botanical Area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Dolly Sods Wilderness is about 2 air miles north of the IRA, and the Otter Creek Wilderness is within 10 air miles to the west. The Laurel Fork North and South Wildernesses are 17-22 miles to the southwest, and the Cranberry Wilderness is an estimated 63 air miles to the southwest. Roaring Plains West is 14 air miles west of Petersburg, 15 air miles southeast of Parsons, 20 air miles east of Elkins, and is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local

communities of Petersburg, Parsons and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Mountain Section (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but it is in the 2004 wilderness proposal of the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	High with minor low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	High in core area, moderate near vistas, private lands
Special Features	Vistas, high plains ecology, T&E species habitat
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 5,379 CCF of timber, mountain biking, recreation events, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Environmental organizations, have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	6,825	6,825	6,825	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	6,025	0	0	0	6,825
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	500	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	300	0	0	0	0

Seneca Creek
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092113
24,974 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Seneca Creek area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Potomac Ranger District, Pendleton and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. The area is located southwest of Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. National Forest System lands border an estimated 50% of the area, with intermingled private land making up the other 50% of the perimeter. Nearby communities include Seneca Rocks (4 air miles northeast), Circleville (3 air miles southeast), and Elkins (18 air miles northwest), West Virginia. The area is about 8 miles in length and 5 mile wide and is found primarily within portions of the Circleville, Onego, Spruce Knob, and Whitmer USGS quadrangle maps. Primary vehicle access is provided by State Road 29 from the west, Forest Road 112 from the south, and Forest Road 274 from the east. A natural gas pipeline borders the area to the north. There are 10 miles of unimproved road within the area. There is also an extensive 57-mile trail system, located within the area. The 10 miles of unimproved road are currently serving as recreation trails and administrative access in the area.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Seneca Creek area ranges in elevation from 2,500 feet along Gandy Creek to 4,600 feet along the ridges of Spruce Mountain. Slopes within the area range from 10-60%. The geologic formations are primarily those of the Devonian and Hampshire systems. Soils include the Calvin-Dekalb-Hazleton and the Mandy-Trussel-Gauley series. The vegetation is diverse and consists of mixed hardwoods, red spruce and balsam fir with an understory of blueberries, huckleberries, mosses, and rhododendron. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good, though open areas occur at higher elevations.

Current Management: The Seneca Creek area is currently managed under MP 3.0 and 6.2. MP 3.0 emphasizes age class diversity through timber management, and MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: There has been 446 acres of timber harvesting within Management Prescription 3.0 over the past 10 years. Evidence of the unimproved roads still remains, and most of these roads are managed as linear wildlife openings, and used by the WVDNR to access and manage 85 acres of wildlife openings within the area. Most of the area appears natural, and the numerous streams, waterfalls, and vistas give this area an overall excellent appearance. For these reasons, both natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area, and low near managed roads, openings, and harvest units.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Seneca Creek area is 24,974 acres including 13,771 acres of core solitude (55% of the area). The entire area is located on National Forest System lands. This is by far the largest area being evaluated for wilderness potential on the Forest. Current recreation use is moderate to high, and there are many diverse recreation opportunities. Based on the size of the area and the amount of recreation use, the opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered high within much of the area, but only moderate near private lands and on the extensive trail system, particularly during hunting and peak fishing seasons when encounters can be high.

Special Features: Seneca Creek and many of its tributaries provide some of the best trout fishing in West Virginia. The area also provides known or potential habitat for three federally listed species.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area as wilderness, or they could be adjusted to exclude some of the wildlife roads and openings. The size and shape (an estimated 8 miles long and 5 miles wide) and large core solitude of the Seneca Creek area provides relatively high preservation potential. However, the amount of intermingled private land and development along the perimeter of the area increases the potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. Plus, the current mountain bike use in the area would be controversial to eliminate, as would the extensive wildlife management areas. Overall, the manageability of this area as a potential wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are 15 trails totaling 57 miles located within the area. Mountain biking use on these trails is moderate and well-established. Equestrian use is currently low to moderate but is increasing. Spruce Knob Lake Recreation Area is located along the southern perimeter of the area, and Gandy Creek, a popular dispersed roadside camping area, borders the area to the west. The Gatewood Group Campground is located within the southern boundary of the area. Recreation use within and adjacent to the area is considered moderate to high. Other popular recreation activities include fishing, hiking, backpacking, camping, and hunting. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use within the area, which would be controversial. Four recreation and 3 non-recreation special use permits would have to be terminated or modified. In addition, trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: The Seneca Creek area contains a wide range of fishery resources and fishing opportunities. The area is bisected by Seneca Creek, which supports a number of native species. Game fish include native brook trout and nonnative rainbow trout. Seneca Creek was identified by Trout Unlimited as one of the top 100 trout fishing streams in America in 1999. The area is bordered on the west by Gandy Creek, which is also a popular fishing stream with easy road access. Gandy Creek supports a variety of native fish species, primarily non-game species, and native game fish include brook trout and small mouth bass. Non-native game fish in Gandy Creek include rainbow trout and brown trout. Tributaries to Gandy Creek that originate in the area tend to have simpler fish communities indicative of coldwater systems. Species common in the tributaries include native brook trout, black-nose dace, long-nose dace and mottled sculpin. Water quality is considered to be good for the streams in the area and geologic conditions that are highly sensitive to acid deposition are relatively limited. No species of concern have been collected within the area, but pearl dace, a Regional Forester's sensitive species, have been collected in Gandy Creek upstream of the area, and American eel, listed by the WVDNR as S2, have been collected in Seneca Creek just downstream of the area. Wilderness designation would restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams or restore watershed conditions to maintain or improve water quality and fish habitat.

Wildlife: Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles. Threatened or endangered species that may be found within or adjacent to the area include the Cheat Mountain salamander and the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. Currently the WVDNR maintains 85 acres of wildlife openings, 22 miles of linear road/trail openings (50 acres), 6 acres of apple and sod openings, and 18 waterholes. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains segments including the headwaters for 14 cold water streams within the the Seneca and Gandy Creek watersheds. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No

water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are acidic.

Range: There is one livestock range allotment located in the upper northwest corner of the area. There are no additional grazing lands identified within the area. Wilderness designation would likely prohibit mechanical means or motorized access to manage the allotment.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within MP 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Portions of the area within MP 3.0 do permit commercial timber harvesting and an estimated 446 acres have been harvested in the last decade. The area contains an estimated 497,801 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 23,955 acres (96 percent) of the area are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 7,720 acres (32%) are considered to be prime timberland. The economic value associated with 109,516 CCF in MP 3.0 would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area. However, there are 2,389 acres in federal gas leases. Sixty percent of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 25% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre, and 40% have a 12.5% chance of total gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. Ten percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on known information, mineable coal is not present within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is low because of the combination of federal control over managing most of the minerals, existing leases are subject to a no surface occupancy stipulation, the relative uncertainty regarding the occurrence of valuable natural gas, and the location of private mineral rights near the outside boundaries of the area. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from development of the private mineral estate because 10% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are 18 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 30% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands within the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There are 13 recreation and 3 non-recreation special use permits issued within the area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, recreation events, and roads.

Disturbances: The Seneca Creek area is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35–100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity. Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. The area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of adjacent private land to the north and west.

Botanical Characteristics: Buffalo running clover, an endangered species, white monkshood, a Regional Foresters sensitive species, and blackgirdle bulrush, a State rare plant, are known to occur in the

area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

The Otter Creek Wilderness is 10 air miles northwest and the Dolly Sods Wilderness is 10 air miles north of the Seneca Creek area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are within 3-4 air miles west of the area, and the Cranberry Wilderness is about 40 air miles to the southwest. The area is 4 air miles southwest of Seneca Rocks, 3 air miles northwest of Circleville and 18 air miles southeast of Elkins, and is within a 3-4 hour drive of Charleston, Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Seneca Rocks, Circleville, Whitmer, and Elkins, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Northern High Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Northern High Allegheny Subsection (M221Ba), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but it is in the 2004 wilderness proposal of the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent naturalness and natural integrity	High with many low exceptions
Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation	Mostly high, but moderate along borders and trails
Special features	T&E species habitat, excellent fishing opportunities
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 109,516 CCF of timber, mountain biking, 85 acres in wildlife openings, 22 miles of road and trail linear openings, 6 acres of apple and sod management, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for trail work, watershed restoration, stream liming, and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wildernesses. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	24,974	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5)	19,661	24,974	24,974	0	24,974
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	1,000	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	4,313	0	0	0	0

Note: Alternatives 2-4 include 8.1 NRA acres that would be managed as SPNM.

Spice Run
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092114
6,171 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Spice Run area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, White Sulphur Springs Ranger District, Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia. The entire area is located on National Forest System lands. The area is located south of Calvin Price State Forest. State Road (SR) 16 borders the area to the east and SR31 is about ½ to 1 mile west of the area boundary. Nearby communities include Neola, about 8 miles to the southeast, and Droop, 7 miles to the northwest. The area is about 2 miles in length and 3.5 miles wide and is found within portions of the Alvon, Anthony, Denmar, and Droop USGS quadrangle maps. The primary vehicle access is from SR16 and Forest Road 720, which is gated but currently open during hunting season. Visitors can also access the area from the Calvin Price State Forest. There are no improved roads within the area. Forest Road 720, which forms portions of the southern boundary of the area, has a permanent easement for access by private landowners and is open to the general public during hunting season. There are no system trails within the area.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: Spice Run ranges in elevation from 2,000 feet along the Greenbrier River to over 2,800 feet throughout interior portions of the area. Slopes within the area range from 10-60%. The geologic formations within the area are variable and include Chemung group, Braillier Formations, Millboro Shade, Ridgely Sandstone, Huntersville Chert, Helderberg Group, Cayugan series, Clinton Groups and Tuscarora sandstone. Vegetation consists of oak, hickory, maple, and some pockets of hemlock with an understory of rhododendron, mixed shrubs, grasses, and ferns. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is generally good.

Current Management: This area is currently managed under Management Prescription 6.2, which emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Natural processes are operating within the area and the area is minimally affected by outside forces. Most of Spice Run is regaining its natural untrammelled appearance; however, some evidence of previously logging activity from the 1980s is still evident, and there are 22 acres of maintained wildlife openings, and 7 miles of maintained linear openings on roads and trails. For these reasons, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area but low in areas of noticeable management.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Spice Run area is 6,171 acres in size and provides over 3,200 acres of core solitude (52% of the area). It is located entirely on National Forest System lands. The Calvin Price State Forest borders the area to the north, private land makes up the western and southeastern boundaries, and the remaining boundaries are adjacent to National Forest System lands. Visitor use of the area is considered low most of the year and is limited primarily to hunters and anglers accessing the area from adjacent private land and the Calvin Price State Forest. There are no system trails with the area. The likelihood of encountering other visitors within the area is low and the opportunity to experience remoteness is high. There is potential to hear noise and or view development or management activities from the State Forest to the north and private land to the west. For these reasons, opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered high over most of the area, and moderate near private lands and minor inclusions of development.

Special Features: There are no identified special features associated with the Spice Run area. The opportunity to experience the feeling of remoteness due to limited encounters with other recreation visitors is the primary feature of this area.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area as wilderness, or they could be adjusted somewhat to exclude some of the managed openings and roads. Private ownership that make up the western boundary and private in-holdings along the southern boundary increase the potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses. These factors, along with management activities from the State Forest to the north, including a sliver of state land that travels into the core of the area, make the preservation potential of the area average. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is moderate because of the potential for natural gas discovery coincident with private gas. Overall, the manageability of this area as potential wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: The Spice Run area provides a fine setting within the Monongahela National Forest for visitors to experience semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Recreation use within the area is low to very low, primarily due to the limited road access and no trail development. The area is primarily used for undeveloped recreation activities including hunting and fishing. There are several hunting camps on private and state land adjacent to the area. Spice and Davy Run and portions of the Greenbrier River within the area receive light to moderate fishing pressure. Wilderness designation would have little effect on current recreation uses or opportunities.

Fisheries: Little information exists for the streams in the Spice Run area. The area is bordered on the west by the Greenbrier River, which runs along the western boundary, and the area is bisected by Spice Run, Davy Run and Kincaid Run. No fish sampling information is available, but unidentified fish were observed in each of the streams during habitat surveys in 1991. No species of concern have been identified in the area and no streams are listed on the EPA 303d list of impaired streams, although much of the area is underlain by geology that is considered sensitive to acid deposition.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey and a variety of birds and reptiles. There have been no threatened, endangered and regional sensitive species identified within or adjacent to the area. The WVDNR currently maintains 22 acres of wildlife openings, and 7 miles of linear road/trail openings in the area. Maintaining these areas or creating new areas, by mechanical means would not be allowed under a wilderness designation.

Water: This area contains the headwaters for two cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. There has not been any significant timber harvesting in this area since the early 1980s. The area contains an estimated 110,361 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 6,171 acres (100 percent) are considered

tentatively suited timberlands, including an estimated 2,160 (35%) acres that are considered to be prime timberland.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the IRA and there are no acres in federal gas leases. Lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural gas production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre. All of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information, mineable coal is not present within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is moderate based on the potential for some natural gas discovery coincident with private gas ownership. Under a wilderness designation there could be value received from future development of the private mineral estate because 100% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall moderate probability cultural resource zone. There are five known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. None of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area, although a “sliver” of state owned land penetrates into the core of the area from the north. It is recommended that this sliver be excluded if the area is recommended for wilderness. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. Private land in-holdings and road easements border the area to the south. There are currently no special use permits issued in the area.

Disturbances: The Spice Run area is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35–100+ year frequency and a mixed (less than 75% of the dominant overstory replaced) severity. Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. The area’s fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private and state lands.

Botanical Characteristics: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants that are known to occur in the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that abandoned road corridors and other disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 75-80 air miles northeast of the Spice Run area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are approximately 50 air miles to the northeast and the Cranberry Wilderness is 10 air miles north of the area. The area is 16 air miles north of White Sulphur Springs and 12 air miles southwest of Marlinton. The area is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, and a 4-5 drive Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of White Sulphur Springs, Marlinton, Richwood, and Summersville, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing

wildernesses, and the Eastern Allegheny Mountain and Valley Section (M221Bd), which is not represented in existing wildernesses on the Forest but is represented in existing roadless areas.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but it is included in the 2004 wilderness proposal from the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	High with minor low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	High except near private/state lands, development
Special Features	None
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include 22 acres of maintained wildlife openings, 7 miles of linear road/trail openings, and mechanized equipment/vehicle use for fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in wilderness. Environmental organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness recommendation in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	6,171	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.18.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	6,171	6,171	6,171	0	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	0
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	6,171

Tea Creek Mountain
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092115
8,272 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Tea Creek Mountain area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Marlinton Ranger District, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. The area is located north of the Williams River Road and the Cranberry Wilderness. Private land borders a small segment of the area on the northwest, National Forest system lands border the remainder of the area. Nearby communities include Marlinton (10 air miles southeast), Webster Springs (13 air miles northwest), and Richwood (18 air miles southwest), West Virginia. The area is about 4 miles long and 3 miles wide, and is found within portions of the Bergoo, Sharp Knob, Webster Springs, and Woodrow USGS quadrangle maps. Primary vehicle access is provided by the Highlands Scenic Highway and the Williams River Road from the south, and Forest Road 135 from the north.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The area ranges in elevation from 2,900 feet along the Williams River at Tea Creek Campground to over 4,400 feet along the ridge tops. The area is a deeply dissected high plateau with sharp valleys and many peaks. The topography is characterized by steep mountain slopes, broad benches and moderately wide to narrow valleys. The geology of the area ranges from Kanawha and New River formations of the Pottsville Group on the ridge tops to Mauch Chunk on the lower slopes. The vegetation consists of red spruce, hemlock, and intermingled cherry, mountain ash and aspen at the highest elevations to a northern hardwood mix of maple, beech and birch throughout the rest of the area. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is good. The understory consists of various small trees and shrubs.

Current Management: The Tea Creek Mountain area is currently managed under MPs 3.0, 6.1 and 6.2. MP 3.0 emphasizes age class diversity through timber management, MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments, and MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Although no timber harvesting has occurred within the Tea Creek Mountain area within the past 10 years, there is still some evidence of management actions. There is also an extensive 40-mile trail system. Overall, however, much of the area is dominated by natural ecological processes and it has regained an untrammelled appearance. For these reasons, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over much of the area.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Tea Creek Mountain area is 8,272 acres including 6,308 acres of core solitude (77% of the area). The entire area is located on National Forest System lands. An estimated 15% of the area is bordered by private land, with the remaining boundary being National Forest. Overall recreation use is moderate to high. The area provides good opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, but encounters with other users can be moderate to high, especially along trail corridors and streams. Based on the size of the area and the amount of recreation use, the opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered high away from the extensive trail system, streams, and the interface with private lands.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species. The area is just north of the Cranberry Wilderness, the largest wilderness area in the state.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area as wilderness. Established high use by mountain bikers and existing special use permits for mountain bike events and outfitting and guiding within the area would be difficult to eliminate if the area is designated wilderness. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is moderate because of the potential for mineable coal may be tempered by data suggesting it maybe in small pockets which would limit economic viability within the privately owned mineral rights. Overall, the manageability of the area as potential wilderness is considered low.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: There are 14 trails totaling 40 miles located within the area. Mountain biking use on these trails is very popular and well-established. Equestrian use is currently low but is increasing. Four recreation special use permits (mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking and backpacking, and hunting) are issued for use within the area. Tea Creek Campground is located just southwest of the area, and the Highlands Scenic Highway borders the area to the south. Recreation use within and adjacent to the area is considered moderate to high. Other very popular recreation activities include camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting. Wilderness designation would eliminate mountain bike use, which is moderate to high and well-established. Eliminating this use would be very controversial. Special use permits would need to be modified to exclude any non-conforming uses on trail segments within the designated area. In addition trail maintenance, construction, and reconstruction would be limited to non-mechanical equipment.

Fisheries: The Tea Creek Mountain area essentially encompasses the Tea Creek watershed. Tea Creek is a popular fishery, but acidic conditions have impaired its productivity. The main stem of Tea Creek is currently on the EPA 303d list of impaired streams due to biological impairment. The WVDNR proposes to add limestone sand to the upper reaches of the main stem to mitigate these impacts and improve water chemistry. Red Run, a tributary to the Right Fork of Tea Creek is also acidic. Tea Creek supports a diverse fish community, including candy darter, a Regional Forester sensitive species, and bigmouth chub that are listed S3/S4 by the WVDNR. Native brook trout and non-native brown trout are the primary game fish, but small mouth bass and rock bass have also been collected in the main stem of Tea Creek. Wilderness designation would restrict the use of mechanized equipment or transport to add lime to streams to maintain or improve water quality and fish habitat.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. At the present time black bear and whitetail deer are abundant and are increasing in numbers. The area also provides habitat for the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, snowshoe hare, eastern small-footed bat, and the Cheat Mountain salamander. The WVDNR currently manages no wildlife openings within the area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters of five cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within Management Prescription 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Portions of the area within MPs 3.0 and 6.1 permit commercial timber harvesting, although there has not been any significant timber harvesting in the past decade. The area contains an estimated 172,256 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 8,123 acres (98 percent) are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,523 acres (55%)

are considered to be prime timberland. The economic value associated with 3,911 acres (MPs 3.0 and 6.1) of tentatively suited timberlands containing 80,960 CCF would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area and there are no acres in federal gas leases. All lands within the area are estimated to have virtually no potential for natural gas production. Ninety percent of the mineral rights within the area are privately owned. Based on available information, sixty percent of the area has mineable coal that may be present in some areas but the economic viability is unknown. The remaining 40% of the area does not have mineable coal present. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and roadless area values is moderate because the potential for some mineable coal may be tempered by data suggesting it may be in small pockets, which would limit the economic viability within the privately owner mineral rights. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from development of the private mineral estate because 90% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There are 19 known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. An estimated 60% of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. Private land borders a small portion of the area on the northwestern perimeter. There are four recreation and no non-recreation special use permits issued within the area. Permit activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking and hunting.

Disturbances: The Tea Creek Mountain area is within Fire Regime V. Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. This area's fire regime is in Condition Class 1. Condition Class 1 is within the historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in this area because of the adjacent private land to the northwest.

Botanical Characteristics: The long-stalked holly, a Regional Forester sensitive species, is known to occur in the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 50-55 air miles northeast of the Tea Creek Mountain area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are about 30 air miles to the northeast, and the Cranberry Wilderness is 0.1 air miles south of the area (the Williams River Road separates the IRA from the Cranberry Wilderness). The area is 18 air miles northeast of Richwood and 10 air miles northwest of Marlinton. The area is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, and a 4-5 drive of Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Marlinton, Richwood, Summersville, and Webster Springs, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Southern Middle High Allegheny Subsection (M221Bc), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wilderness.

Public Interest: No organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness in response to public scoping. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act, or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition did not include this area in their 2004 wilderness proposal.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	High with low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Mostly high but moderate near trails, streams, private
Special Features	T&E species habitat, nearness to Cranberry Wilderness
Manageability	Low

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 80,960 CCF of timber, and mechanized equipment or vehicle use for trail work and fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wilderness. No organizations have specifically suggested this area for wilderness in response to public scoping.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	10,358	8,272	8,272	8,272	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	8,272
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Alternative 1 includes 1986 total acres for both Tea Creek Mountain and Turkey Mountain in MP 6.2

Turkey Mountain
Inventoried Roadless Area No. 092116
6,111 Acres

DESCRIPTION

Location, Vicinity, and Access: The Turkey Mountain area is located on the Monongahela National Forest, Gauley Ranger District, Pocahontas and Webster Counties, West Virginia. The area is located north of the Williams River Road and the Cranberry Wilderness. Private land borders the entire northern perimeter of the area, with National Forest System lands bordering the remainder of the area. Nearby communities include Marlinton (12 air miles southeast), Webster Springs (8 air miles northwest), and Richwood (15 air miles southwest), West Virginia. The area is about 5 miles long and 1 mile wide and is found within portions of the Bergoo, Sharp Knob and Webster Springs USGS quadrangle maps. Primary vehicle access is provided by the Williams River Road from the south and State Road 42 from the north. There are two miles of unimproved road and the Bannock Shoals Trail forms the eastern boundary of the area.

Topography, Geology, and Vegetation: The Turkey Mountain area ranges in elevation from about 2900 feet along the Williams River to over 4,400 feet along the ridge tops. The area is a deeply dissected high plateau with sharp valleys and many peaks. The topography is characterized by steep mountain slopes, broad benches and moderately wide to narrow valleys. The geology of the area ranges from Kanawha and New River formations of the Pottsville Group on the ridge tops to Mauch Chunk on the lower slopes. The vegetation consists of red spruce, hemlock, and intermingled fire cherry, mountain ash and aspen at the highest elevations, to a northern hardwood mix of maple, beech and birch in the remainder of the area. Most stands are in the mid-to-late successional stage, and vegetative screening is good. The understory consists of a variety of small trees and shrubs.

Current Management: The area is currently managed under MPs 6.1 and 6.2. MP 6.1 emphasizes wildlife habitat management through vegetation treatments, and MP 6.2 emphasizes backcountry recreation opportunities.

CAPABILITY

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Although no timber harvesting has occurred in the Turkey Mountain area within the past 10 years, there is still evidence of past management actions. The remains from coal mining that occurred in the northern portion of the area are still evident on the landscape. There are 2 miles of low standard roads. However, much of the area is dominated by ecological processes and has regained an untrammelled appearance. For these reasons, natural integrity and appearance are considered high over most of the area, and low near localized areas of management disturbance.

Opportunities for Solitude and Challenging Primitive Recreation: The Turkey Mountain area is 6,111 acres including 3,734 acres of core solitude (61% of the area). The entire area is located on National Forest System lands. The entire northern boundary is bordered by private land, and the remaining boundary being National Forest. Overall recreation use is low to moderate. The area provides good opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities due to its limited access. Although the area is relatively small, it does have a fairly high percentage of core solitude. Overall, the opportunities for solitude and challenging primitive recreation are considered high in much of the area, and moderate near the private land interface and past development.

Special Features: The area provides known or potential habitat for two federally listed species. The area is just north of the Cranberry Wilderness, the largest wilderness area in the state.

Manageability and Boundaries: Existing boundaries could be used to manage the area for wilderness. The potential for encroachment and non-conforming uses from private land to the north is moderate to high. Illegal ATV use is known to occur within the area. The potential conflict between mineral exploration and development and wilderness values is moderate because of the potential for some natural gas discovery and information suggesting that mineable coal may have already been extracted. Overall, the manageability of the area for potential wilderness is considered moderate.

AVAILABILITY

Recreation: Recreation use within and adjacent to the area is considered low, with moderate use occurring adjacent to the area. The primary recreation activities within the area are fishing and hunting. Illegal ATV use is occurring, especially in the northern portion of the area. There is only one system trail near the area (Bannock Shoals Trail). This trail serves as the eastern boundary of the area. Wilderness designation would have little effect on current recreation uses or opportunities.

Fisheries: The area is located on the southern flanks of Turkey Mountain, between Upper Bannock Shoals Run to the east and Little Elbow Run to the west, and drains to the Williams River along its southern boundary. There is little information available for the streams draining the area. The Williams River adjacent to the area is a popular sport fishery with native brook trout, small mouth bass and rock bass present. It also supports non-native rainbow trout and brown trout. Species of concern collected in the Williams River within the area include candy darter and Appalachia darter, which are Regional Forester's sensitive species, and bigmouth chub that are listed by the WVDNR as S3/S4. The dominant geologic type in the area is highly sensitive to acid deposition, but no streams are listed on the EPA 303d list of impaired waters. Upper Bannock Shoals Run is considered to be a reference stream by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. At the present time black bear and whitetail deer are abundant and are increasing in numbers. The area also provides habitat for the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, snowshoe hare, and the Cheat Mountain salamander. The WVDNR currently manages no wildlife openings within the area. Wilderness designation would have little effect on current wildlife management in the area.

Water: This area contains the headwaters of four cold water streams. There are no major rivers or navigable waters within the area. No water storage needs or existing water-related special use permits are identified at this time. Streams in the area are highly acidic.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits or range allotments. There are no capable grazing lands identified within the area.

Timber: Timber harvesting is not currently permitted in the portions of the area within MP 6.2 except for dispersed recreation objectives, public safety, insect and disease control, timber salvage, or restoration of areas. Portions of the area within MP 6.1 permit commercial timber harvesting, although there has not been any significant timber harvesting activities in the past decade. The area contains an estimated 145,499 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of merchantable timber. An estimated 6,066 acres (99 percent) are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 5,390 acres (88%) are considered to be prime timberland. The economic value associated with 30,555 CCF in MP 6.1 would be foregone.

Minerals: There are no active private or federal gas leases or coal operations within the area and there are no acres in federal gas leases. Eighty percent of the lands within the area are estimated to have a 12.5% chance of natural production at 1.56 million cubic feet per acre, and the remaining 20% has virtually no potential for natural gas production. Ninety percent of the area has privately owned mineral rights. Based on known information, 80% of the area has mineable coal that may be present in some areas but the economic viability is unknown. The remaining 20% of the area does not have mineable coal present. The potential conflict between mineral exploration/development and roadless area values is moderate because of the potential for some natural gas discovery and information suggesting that mineable coal may already have been extracted. The value from future development of the federal mineral estate, which might include natural gas or coal, would likely be foregone. However, there could be value received from future development of the private mineral estate because 90% of the area has privately owned mineral rights. These rights remain valid and could be exercised regardless of wilderness designation.

Cultural Resources: This area is located in an overall high probability cultural resource zone. There is one known historical or archaeological sites that have been identified within the area. None of the area has been surveyed.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Monongahela National Forest administers all lands in the area. There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the area. There is currently one recreation special use permit (outfitter and guide) issued for the area.

Disturbances: The Turkey Mountain area is located within Fire Regimes III and V. Fire Regime III has a 35-100+ year frequency of mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced). Fire Regime V has a 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity. The area's fire regimes are in Condition Classes 1 and 2. Condition Class 1 is within its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Condition Class 2 has a moderate departure from its historical range of variability, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Wilderness designation would restrict mechanized fire control techniques. Motorized equipment and access is important in the area because of adjacent private lands to the north.

Botanical Characteristics: The long-stalked holly, a Regional Foresters sensitive species, is known to occur in the area. Although there are no inventoried locations of non-native invasive species within the area, it is likely that existing road corridors and disturbed areas have a variety of non-native invasive species.

NEED

Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and Population Centers: The Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wildernesses are 50-55 air miles northeast of the Turkey Mountain area. The Laurel Fork Wildernesses are about 30 air miles to the northeast, and the Cranberry Wilderness is .1 air miles south of the area (Williams River Road separates the area from the Cranberry Wilderness). The area is 14 air miles northeast of Richwood and 12 air miles northwest of Marlinton. It is within a 3 hour drive of Charleston, and a 4-5 hour drive of Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. As a designated wilderness, the area would serve the local communities of Marlinton, Richwood, Webster Springs, and Summersville, and population centers such as Morgantown, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C.

Biological: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221) and more specifically the Southern Middle High Allegheny Sub-section (M221Bc), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wilderness.

Public Interest: There has been public interest in this area becoming wilderness. This area was not recommended for wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act or 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act or 1983 West Virginia Wilderness Act, but the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition has included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal.

WILDERNESS EVALUATION SUMMARY

Capability Summary:

Apparent Naturalness And Natural Integrity	High with localized low exceptions
Opportunities For Solitude And Primitive Recreation	Mostly high, moderate near private land, development
Special Features	T&E species habitat, nearness to Cranberry Wilderness
Manageability	Moderate

Determination of Availability or Unavailability: Potential values foregone under a wilderness designation include the federal mineral estate, 30,555 CCF of timber, and mechanized equipment or vehicle use for fire suppression.

The area does not meet any of the criteria listed in FSH 1909.12.7.22a. Therefore, it is available for wilderness designation.

Biological and Social Need: The area is in the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province Ecological Unit (M221), which is represented regionally, nationally, and on the Forest in existing wilderness. The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition has included this area in its 2004 wilderness proposal.

ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Management Disposition by Alternative: The following table displays management disposition for this area under each alternative in estimated acres. These values represent the relative development potential from managing the area based solely on its management prescription (MP).

Management Disposition	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 2M	Alt 3	Alt 4
Recommended Wilderness (MP 5.1)	0	0	0	6,111	0
Very low potential for development (MP 6.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 CRNAs)	10,358	6,111	6,111	0	0
Low to moderate potential for development (MP 4.1, 6.3, 7.0)	0	0	0	0	6,111
Available for full range of development (MP 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.1, 8.6)	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Alternative 1 includes 1986 total acres for both Tea Creek Mountain and Turkey Mountain in MP 6.2

ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE AREAS

The Forest Service Roadless Conservation (RACR) Final Environmental Impact Statement, November 2000, included 21 areas on the Monongahela NF that totaled an estimated 181,248 acres. Most of these 21 areas were assigned Management Prescription 6.2 or 6.1 in the 1986 Forest Plan. Some of these areas had some combination of small size, private land intrusions, and internal or adjacent development, and therefore they did not qualify for the updated roadless area inventory.

The following tables display the Management Prescription disposition of the 21 RACR areas by alternative in the Forest Plan Revision EIS.

Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas Management Disposition by Alternative Alternative 1

Management Prescription	2.0	3.0	4.1	5.0	5.1	6.1	6.2	8.0	Total
RACR Area	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Canaan Loop							7,800		7,800
Cheat Mountain		270				860	7,030		8,160
Cranberry Addition	5,900	650					4,550		11,100
Cranberry Glades								780	780
Dolly Sods/Roaring Plains		550				4,200	8,620		13,370
Dry Fork						960			960
East Fork Greenbrier						80	7,080		7,160
Falls of Hills Creek		4,380				2,530			6,910
Gauley Mountain						13,260			13,260
Glady Fork						3,230			3,230
Laurel Fork		1,170							1,170
Little Allegheny Mountain		440				6,970	3,090		10,500
Little Mountain							8,160		8,160
Marlin Mountain						9,330			9,330
McGowan Mountain		160				10,300			10,460
Middle Mountain						10,888	8,130		19,018
North Mountain/Hopeville						6,500			6,500
Seneca Creek		2,610					19,650		22,260
Spice Run						150	6,090		6,240
Tea Creek Mountain						2,040	6,230		8,270
Turkey Mountain						2,480	4,130		6,610
Totals	5,900	10,230	0	0	0	73,760	90,560	780	181,248

Note: The above acres include National Forest System lands only, private acres are not included.

**Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas
Management Disposition by Alternative
Alternative 2**

Management Prescription	2.0	3.0	4.1	5.0	5.1	6.1	6.2	8.0	Total
RACR Area	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Canaan Loop							7,800		7,800
Cheat Mountain			205		7,955				8,160
Cranberry Addition			5,160		5,940				11,100
Cranberry Glades								780	780
Dolly Sods/Roaring Plains			5,243		6,825	1,302			13,370
Dry Fork			199		761				960
East Fork Greenbrier		50					7,110		7,160
Falls of Hills Creek			4,270			2,490		150	6,910
Gauley Mountain			600				12,660		13,260
Glady Fork			140			3,090			3,230
Laurel Fork		1,170							1,170
Little Allegheny Mountain						10,500			10,500
Little Mountain						8,160			8,160
Marlin Mountain						9,330			9,330
McGowan Mountain						10,460			10,460
Middle Mountain						6,821	12,197		19,018
North Mountain/Hopeville								6,500	6,500
Seneca Creek		290					10,029	11,941	22,260
Spice Run						150	6,090		6,240
Tea Creek Mountain							8,270		8,270
Turkey Mountain		399	100				6,111		6,610
Totals	0	1,909	10,764	0	21,481	51,001	76,385	19,780	181,248

Note: The above acres include National Forest System lands only, private acres are not included.

**Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas
Management Disposition by Alternative
Alternative 2M**

Management Prescription	2.0	3.0	4.1	5.0	5.1	6.1	6.2	8.0	Total
RACR Area	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Canaan Loop							7,800		7,800
Cheat Mountain			205		7,955				8,160
Cranberry Addition			5,160		5,940				11,100
Cranberry Glades								780	780
Dolly Sods/Roaring Plains					6,825		6,545		13,370
Dry Fork			221		739				960
East Fork Greenbrier		50					7,110		7,160
Falls of Hills Creek			4,270			2,490		150	6,910
Gauley Mountain			600				12,660		13,260
Glady Fork			140			3,090			3,230
Laurel Fork		1,170							1,170
Little Allegheny Mountain						10,500			10,500
Little Mountain						8,160			8,160
Marlin Mountain						9,330			9,330
McGowan Mountain						10,460			10,460
Middle Mountain						6,821	12,197		19,018
North Mountain/Hopeville								6,500	6,500
Seneca Creek		290					10,029	11,941	22,260
Spice Run						150	6,090		6,240
Tea Creek Mountain							8,270		8,270
Turkey Mountain		399	100				6,111		6,610
Totals	0	1,909	10,764	0	21,481	51,001	76,385	19,780	181,248

Note: The above acres include National Forest System lands only, private acres are not included.

**Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas
Management Disposition by Alternative
Alternative 3**

Management Prescription	2.0	3.0	4.1	5.0	5.1	6.1	6.2	8.0	Total
RACR Area	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Canaan Loop			20				7,780		7,800
Cheat Mountain					7,955		205		8,160
Cranberry Addition					5,940		5,160		11,100
Cranberry Glades								780	780
Dolly Sods/Roaring Plains					6,825		6,545		13,370
Dry Fork					761	199			960
East Fork Greenbrier		50			7,110				7,160
Falls of Hills Creek							6,760	150	6,910
Gauley Mountain							13,260		13,260
Glady Fork						320	2,910		3,230
Laurel Fork		240					930		1,170
Little Allegheny Mountain						1,260	9,240		10,500
Little Mountain							8,160		8,160
Marlin Mountain							9,330		9,330
McGowan Mountain							10,460		10,460
Middle Mountain					12,110	6,850	40		19,018
North Mountain/Hopeville								6,500	6,500
Seneca Creek					21,410		300	550	22,260
Spice Run					6,090	120	30		6,240
Tea Creek Mountain							8,270		8,270
Turkey Mountain		399	100		6,111				6,610
Totals	0	689	120	0	74,312	8,749	89,380	7,980	181,248

Note: The above acres include National Forest System lands only, private acres are not included.

**Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas
Management Disposition by Alternative
Alternative 4**

Management Prescription	2.0	3.0	4.1	5.0	5.1	6.1	6.2	8.0	Total
RACR Area	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Canaan Loop			7,800						7,800
Cheat Mountain			270				7,890		8,160
Cranberry Addition			5,160				5,940		11,100
Cranberry Glades								780	780
Dolly Sods/Roaring Plains			1,540			440	9,380	2,010	13,370
Dry Fork						200	760		960
East Fork Greenbrier		50	7,110						7,160
Falls of Hills Creek			4,270			2,490		150	6,910
Gauley Mountain		4,900	8,360						13,260
Glady Fork			140			3,090			3,230
Laurel Fork		1,170							1,170
Little Allegheny Mountain						10,500			10,500
Little Mountain						8,160			8,160
Marlin Mountain						9,330			9,330
McGowan Mountain						10,460			10,460
Middle Mountain						19,018			19,018
North Mountain/Hopeville								6,500	6,500
Seneca Creek		300					10,029	11,941	22,260
Spice Run						6,090			6,090
Tea Creek Mountain			8,270						8,270
Turkey Mountain			6,610						6,610
Totals	0	6,420	49,530	0	0	69,760	33,590	21,780	181,248

Note: The above acres include National Forest System lands only, private acres are not included.