

PROFILES OF PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS ROADLESS AREAS

Prepared by the
USDA Forest Service,
Rocky Mountain Region

July 23, 2008



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PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS

Aspen Ridge #37 (11,900 acres)

1. Description

This Colorado Roadless Area (CRA), is approximately 8 miles north of the town of Salida in Chaffee and Park Counties on the east side of the Arkansas River, above Brown's Canyon. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. National Forest System Road (NFSR) 184 cuts into this CRA from Turret, near the southern boundary. Access is from NFSR 184 which cuts through the CRA from Turret north for three miles. The CRA is the National Forest System (NFS) portion of the larger Brown's Canyon proposed wilderness area. Portions of the northern and southern boundaries are Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range and some portions are managed for general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). Several private land parcels abut the CRA on the south and east sides. The town site of Turret is near the south end of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,000 feet to 10,000 feet. The topography is rolling, broken country with many rock outcrops and open meadows. Vegetation on the western slopes includes pinyon-juniper; eastern slopes are covered with aspen and various species of pine. Approximately 40% is mixed conifer, 37% pinyon-juniper, 9% mountain grassland, 8% ponderosa pine, and 2% aspen forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA has a rich diversity of lower and mid-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. It provides important elk and deer winter range and reproductive areas. Unique rocky outcrops and canyons provide habitats for many birds of prey, such as falcons, golden eagles, and a variety of hawks. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has determined that this CRA has important habitats for wildlife species including, but not limited to, black bear, bighorn sheep, common hog-nosed skunk, elk, golden eagle, mountain lion, mule deer, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, Townsend's big-eared bat. Hawks, owls, woodpeckers, Neotropical migrant birds, and other wildlife species are found.

Most of the CRA shows little or no disturbance from human use. There is evidence of historic mining, railroading, and livestock grazing. Immediately south of this area, there are extensive mining operations. This CRA provides a spectacular view of the southern Collegiate Peaks wilderness and the fourteeners south along the Sawatch Mountain Range. From the boundary road along Aspen Ridge there are spectacular views in all directions. To the west, from high above the Arkansas River valley, the Sawatch Range lines the horizon with its high barren peaks. The Reef is a dramatic rock outcrop visible and recognizable for many miles. Gargantuan rock formations drop precipitously toward the Arkansas River.

The CRA is being considered as a proposed wilderness area with the exception of the portion south of Stafford Gulch. NFSR 184 has been excluded from the CRA by "cherry stemming" the road for three miles through the CRA from Turret north, providing an opportunity for semi-primitive motorized recreation. Hunting has been a popular use for this land. Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. For a CRA in the upper Arkansas Valley, this area is relatively untrammeled, due largely to the difficult access. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Several private land parcels abut the CRA on the south and east sides. Outfitter and guide activities for hunting, hiking, and horseback riding are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs however, it is limited due to a scarcity of water. There are no range improvements. Approximately 3,380 acres or 28% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Most of the suitable timber is in small patches between rock outcrops. Very little of the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the mid- to lower elevations, and the aspen stands on the east side along NFSR 185, are commercially available. There is notable firewood harvesting along the roaded portion of the CRA. In 2001, about 191 acres were treated for natural regeneration site preparation with prescribed fire. Approximately 3,000 acres or 25% of this CRA lie within the WUI. Near the south end of the CRA, the townsite of Turret has recently been subdivided with new homes going in annually.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
262 Rare2 – 15,600	11,900	
5 Rare2 – 600		Acreage removed: no longer met the CRA criteria, (east side of NFSR184).
Total: 16,200	11,900	Acreage added: New areas met the CRA criteria.

Badger Creek #38 (14,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is located mostly in Fremont County seven miles east of Salida and four miles north of the Arkansas River. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. Badger Creek, a perennial stream and the largest south-flowing tributary of the Arkansas River is fed by several small streams as it winds its way for eight miles through the CRA between Buena Vista and Cañon City. Forest Service lands intermixed with private occur along the northern boundary. The Forest Service lands are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range and general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). Adjacent lands along the southern and eastern boundary are BLM and private. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 10,700 feet. This rugged CRA is an ecological transition zone between the Arkansas River Canyon and higher country in South Park. Vegetation communities include pinyon-juniper woodland, grass and aspen-covered upland ridges, ponderosa pine, and rare narrow-leaf cottonwood forests along streams. This is the very south end of the Mosquito Range. This CRA contains a rich diversity of lower and mid-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Approximately 37% is in mixed conifer, 33% pinyon-juniper, 20% mountain grassland, 5% aspen, and 2% ponderosa pine forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is very remote and access is limited. The CDOW has determined that this CRA has important habitats for the following species: bald eagle, beaver, black bear, bighorn sheep, Brazilian free-tailed bat, common hog-nosed skunk elk, golden eagle, hawks, mountain lion, mule deer, and Townsend's big-eared bats. Neotropical migrant birds are found here. Badger Creek provides usually clear, sometimes muddy, water to the Arkansas River. The steep draws and rocky soils are susceptible to erosion. This CRA is very natural in appearance. There is very little to suggest human management. It features dramatic views from the uplands with complete solitude in the valley below. Evidence of historic prospecting activities is scattered throughout the CRA. Cattle grazing have been the primary historical use.

This area is known more for its gulch's and not for any mountain peaks. It is largely nondescript and rugged country. The ridge tops do provide good views of the northern end of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. This CRA is semi-primitive non-motorized, except the road accessing a private inholding at the confluence of Badger and Two Creeks. Recreation includes backpacking, fly-fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain climbing, nature study. This area includes the proposed Badger Creek Colorado Natural Area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Many private land parcels abut and are included in the CRA. Pasture and grazing permits cover most of the CRA. There are outfitter-guide permits for hunting. There is some mining in Two Creek drainage, and evidence of many prospecting holes. Approximately 3,400 acres or 24% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Approximately 2,170 acres or 15% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
263 Rare2- 14,400 acres	14,400	Small reductions made to accommodate Forest Service and private road easements.

Boreas #40 (9,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in Park County on the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District. It is north of the town of Como; it borders Boreas Pass Road and the Tarryall Creek headwaters on the eastern edge and the Michigan Creek headwaters on the western edge. The northern boundary stretches along the Continental Divide from Boreas Pass to Mount Guyot. The southeastern corner of the CRA is adjacent to private land and beyond that, the Teter State Wildlife Area. Forest Service lands along the eastern and western boundaries are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range and some portions are managed for general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). The CRA was expanded by 4,515 acres along the Boreas Pass Road (Park County Road 33) from Boreas Pass on the eastern edge, and along the Forest boundary on the south and southeast boundary. The eastern boundary was expanded to follow the ridgelines above 11,000 feet from the southeastern edge above Volz Gulch, north to Mount Guyot. An area surrounding French Creek on the east was excluded along the route of an administrative use road (NFSR 804), that has since been converted to a non-motorized trail (NFST 651).

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 9,700 feet on the southern boundary to 13,000 feet on the northern boundary. Dominate features include Boreas Mountain, Boreas Pass, Black Powder Pass and

French Pass, along the Continental Divide. Vegetation along the central rocky spine of the area CRA is alpine tundra, running south from the Continental Divide, with subalpine and montane riparian forests of Englemann spruce, bristlecone and lodgepole pine, fir, and aspen on either side of the Divide.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The southern and eastern portions have suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Part of the CRA is in the Georgia Pass linkage area of the Kenosha Pass lynx analysis unit (LAU). This linkage is one of the best forested and undeveloped habitat connections that provide for north-south movements of lynx from South Park across the Continental Divide to Summit County. The CRA also has bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, and the rare plant species Hoosier Pass ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis globularis*). The CRA is in the summer range of elk, moose, mule deer, and the summer and winter range of mountain goat. It also provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion, ptarmigan, and bighorn sheep.

The CRA and Boreas Mountain are visible from State Highway 285, with high scenic quality. In the fall, the aspen groves provide spectacular fall foliage. Evidence of the logging is apparent along the Boreas Pass Road. Recreational use is almost entirely non-motorized. There is only one NFST in the CRA. Approximately 1.5 miles of NFST 651 (French Pass Trail) crosses through the northeastern portion of the CRA, following French Creek to French Pass. The French Pass Trail is designated and managed for foot, horse, and mountain bike use. There are a few popular non-system routes from Boreas Pass to Black Powder Pass and Boreas Mountain. Most use on these routes is from foot traffic. During the winter months, backcountry ski use is popular adjacent to Boreas Pass. Users often travel into the CRA for off-trail backcountry skiing and to access a ski hut atop Boreas Pass. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Most special uses in the CRA are recreation. There is a Granger–Thye permit for use of Forest Service-owned facilities at the top of Boreas Pass as a winter ski hut. Approximately 2,500 or 26% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. A majority of these areas are on slopes greater than 35% and would require roads to access. Little timber harvesting has occurred in the CRA since the turn of the century when it was harvested mainly for mining purposes. Approximately 5,800 acres or 59% of the CRA is in the WUI that surrounds the community of Como.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
342 Rare2 – 5,300	9,800	Acreage added met the CRA criteria.

Buffalo Peaks East #35 (5,200 acres)

1. Description

Buffalo Peaks East CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. It runs southeast along the eastern boundary of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness, from Weston Pass, along the west side of the South Fork of the South Platte, to Rough and Tumbling Creek and the headwaters of Lynch Creek. It is separated from the Weston Peaks CRA on the northeast by the river corridor and county Road 22. The main access is possible through Weston Pass Road (Park County Road 22), following the South Fork of the South Platte River on the West to Weston Pass, or through NFSR 431 (Buffalo Springs Road) to the Lynch Creek trailhead. Trail access is limited to non-motorized use through NFST 617 (Rich Creek Trail), out of the Weston Pass Campground on NFST 656, or from NFSR 618 (Lynch Creek Trail). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 12,000 feet along Weston Pass to 9,600 feet in the lower elevations along Tumbling Creek. This CRA includes the headwaters of the South Fork of the South Platte River, and portions of its major tributaries, Rough and Tumbling Creek, Lynch Creek and Willow Creek. Vegetation is primarily a subalpine forest dominated by spruce-fir and lodgepole pine. Riparian communities are along the South Fork of the South Platte River. Aspen stands are adjacent to the Rough and Tumbling Creek area; stands of bristlecone pine are along the margin of Rich Creek. There is a minor component of limber pine. Above the tree line, an expanse of alpine tundra extends into the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is in the Buffalo Peaks LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). It also has bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, northern goshawk, and the rare plant species Hoosier Pass ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis globularis*), which are listed as sensitive species within the Rocky Mountain Region. The CDOW has determined that this CRA is within the summer range of elk, moose, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat; it provides habitat for American beaver, black bear, mountain lion, and ptarmigan; the southern portion is within the range of wild turkey.

The varied topography offers both gentle and challenging terrain for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, as well as ample stream reaches for fishing. Approximately 3.7 miles of trails pass through the CRA, by three trailheads, offering opportunities for non-motorized use. NFST 656 (Ridgeview Trail) starts at the Weston Pass Campground, passes through the CRA and connects with NFST 616 (Rich Creek Trail) in the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. The Rich Creek Trail begins at the Rich Creek trailhead, on Weston Pass Road, and travels into the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. NFST 617 (Tumble Creek Trail) also begins at the Rich Creek trailhead, traveling 2.7 miles through the CRA before entering the wilderness. Finally, NFST 618 (Salt Creek Trail) continues from the Lynch Creek trailhead through the CRA before connecting with the Rich Creek Trail at the wilderness boundary. Several opportunities for off trail non-motorized use off of Weston Pass, above treeline, occur within the CRA. Numerous off-trail opportunities exist along the Weston Pass Road or on old logging roads in the Lynch Creek drainage which may provide access for hikers and horseback riders. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The southern portion is included in a cattle grazing allotment; the permit authorizes 400 cow/calf pairs for 4.5 months on over 60,000 acres. The portion of this allotment in the CRA is the Jones Hill pasture, which typically is grazed 10 to 30 days a year on a rotational basis. Approximately 2,500 acres or 49% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production; the majority is in the south and southeast portions of the CRA in the Tumbling Creek and Lynch Creek drainages. The majority of suitable timber grows on slopes greater than 35% and would require access roads for harvesting. The last timber harvesting that took place in the CRA was in the 1980s. Wildland-urban interface (WUI): Approximately 2,100 acres or 41% of this CRA lie within WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
250 Rare2 – 18,200	Buffalo Peaks East – 5,200 Buffalo Peaks South – 7,600 Buffalo Peaks West – 8,000	Acres removed due to recent timber harvest/logging roads and buffer around an historic recreation residence; acres added include areas with CRA characteristics (South Fork/Lynch Creek drainages).
Total – 18,200	Total – 20,800	

Buffalo Peaks South #36 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County, and in the San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District, in Chaffee County. It is contiguous with the southern boundary of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. Marmot Peak, elevation 11,730 feet, is the dominate feature and rises just south of East Buffalo Peak. This CRA is on the divide between the Arkansas and South Platte River drainages. Access to the CRA is through NFSR 375 (Fourmile Road) from the west, the Sevenmile Creek Road from the south or NFSR 435 (Salt Creek Road) from the west. Non-motorized travel within the CRA is possible through NFST 1413 (Davis Meadow Trail) or NFST 618 (Salt Creek Trail). This CRA is also adjacent to the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness, and serves as a buffer for the south end of the wilderness. NFSR 311 and 309A provide the primary access. NFSR 375 is nearby to the southwest. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Vegetation is primarily subalpine forest dominated by spruce/fir and lodgepole pine, interspersed with stands of aspen, and bristlecone pine and limber pine. There are riparian communities along the North Fork of Sevenmile Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Due to the elevation range and the differences in aspects, this area contains a wide range of both plant and animal species. The CRA is within the Buffalo Peaks LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). There have been probable lynx sightings in the CRA. The CRA also has and provides habitat for Abert's squirrel, bighorn sheep (lambing, severe winter area), black bear, elk (calving and severe wintering), mountain lion, mule deer (concentration, severe winter and winter concentration), ptarmigan, and wild turkey. This is an extremely important area for a bighorn sheep herd that uses portions of this CRA year-round. Goshawks nest in this CRA. The CRA is used by bald eagles for hunting and roosting. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages.

This area feeds clean water into Fourmile Creek as it flows from the wilderness toward the Arkansas River. Much of the area was disturbed during the installation of the aqueduct from Antero pump station leading eastward. The CRA has scenic views of rugged and rocky Marmot Peak, the Buffalo Peaks, and the Collegiate Peaks to the west. The CRA has a high scenic value. A natural arch in the Little Fourmile Creek drainage in the southern portion of the CRA is a unique feature that draws many visitors. Davis Meadows and the old tie-hack camp site are unique to this area. Recreation includes hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing,

viewing scenic vistas and seeking solitude. Non-motorized trail travel is possible within the CRA on NFST 1413 (Davis Meadow Trail) or 618 (Salt Creek Trail). This area is semi-primitive, non-motorized. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Several outfitter and guide activities are permitted hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and hunting. The CRA includes active livestock grazing allotments. Active range management by one of the permittees and his manager has earned them the Society for Range Management’s “Excellence in Range Conservation” award for 2007. Adjacent ownership is a combination of both NFS and private inholdings. A section of private property (a patented mining claim) is in the extreme northeast portion of the CRA. Approximately 350 acres in this CRA are identified as suitable for timber production. The timber grows on slopes greater than 35% and would require access roads for harvesting. Approximately 7,600 acres or 100% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
250 Rare 2 – 18,200	Buffalo Peaks East – 5,200 Buffalo Peaks South – 7,600 Buffalo Peaks West – 8,000	
Total – 18,200	Total – 20,800	Added acres met the CRA criteria.

Buffalo Peaks West #34 (8,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is east of Twin Lakes, on the Leadville Ranger District. The CRA is in Lake and Chaffee counties. It is bordered by the Weston Pass Road and forms a horseshoe shape around the northern tip of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. It is bordered by BLM and private along portions of the southwestern boundary. The remainder of the outer boundaries is Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range, and general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). The Mosquito Range is a reference landscape for the area. Access is from the Weston Pass Road (County Road 7) and from NFSR 422, 423, 380, 97 and 396. The outer western edge of the CRA was once used as a stage coach route from Leadville to Buena Vista, Colorado. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Physical characteristics include steep mountainous terrain with numerous valleys and draws leading up to the tops of the Mosquito Range. Plant communities include alpine, lodgepole pine, sagebrush, aspen, Douglas fir, spruce/fir, bristlecone and limber pine, and willow.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Animal communities include an elk production area and winter range, bighorn sheep production area and winter range, white-tailed ptarmigan habitat and mountain lion habitat. Recreation is semi-primitive motorized with limited dispersed recreation due to the relatively steep terrain. There is hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits are issued for outfitters and guides, and for recreation events. Approximately 350 acres or 4% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The suitable timber resources are in the extreme southwest corner of the CRA. Approximately 4,300 acres or 53% of this CRA lie within WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
250 Rare 2 – 18,200	Buffalo Peaks East – 5,200 Buffalo Peaks South – 7,600 Buffalo Peaks West – 8,000	
Total – 18,200	Total – 20,800	Improved mapping capabilities.

Burning Bear #48 (19,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Park County, five miles NW of Grant, Colorado. The CRA is separated from Mt Evans Wilderness by the river corridor (North Fork of the South Platte) and County Road 64 along the eastern boundary. The Continental Divide is the Northwestern boundary, NFSR 60 is the western boundary and CR 285 is the southern boundary. The adjoining Forest Service lands are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range. Access is provided by NFSR 600 and 607 from South Park and Burning Bear trails, and from NFSR 118E and NFSR 565 off County Roads 62 and 60. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations range from 9,000 to 13,000 feet. The CRA is alpine tundra, subalpine forest, and riparian habitats. Cover includes forbs, grasses, rushes, sedges, rock, willow, aspen, Douglas-fir, spruce, and bristle cone, lodgepole pines. Vegetation includes forbs, grasses, rushes, sedges, rock, shrubs, willow, aspen, bristlecone pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, spruce and fir. Both fens and unique iron fens have been mapped in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Within the CRA are three Colorado Natural Heritage Program's Potential Conservation Areas ranked as very high or high in biodiversity significance. Fens and rare iron fens are present. Approximately 36% of the CRA (12,500 acres) is considered habitat for the federally listed Canada Lynx (threatened) and 18% of the area (1,700 acres) is within a linkage area. Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. The CRA also provides potential habitat for boreal toads, a Forest Service sensitive species and at least 7 sensitive plants. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas. The CRA has expansive intact natural views of mountain terrain covered with tundra, conifers, and aspen, with foregrounds of open grass and willow covered riparian areas. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are several reference landscapes within the CRA: Geneva Park PCA is a stream valley of willow carrs, wet meadows, and grasslands; Sullivan Mountain characteristic high alpine slopes, and Jefferson Hill unique for the largest bristlecone stand ever documented (3,630 ac). This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the USP Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area. Buno Gulch tributary is affected by metal contamination. There are 200 meters (0.1 mile) of Beneva Creek, Scott Gomer Creek to the North Fork of the South Platte River, within the Burning Bear CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Geneva and Kenosha grazing allotments are in this CRA. There is 0.7 mile of administrative road within the CRA, which is under permit to Denver Water. There are possible base and precious metal deposits near Red Cone and Geneva Creek headwaters. About 3,600 acres or 19% of this CRA is suitable for timber production. There have been 355 acres of timber management accomplished in this area in the past. Approximately 7,000 acres or 37% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
251 Rare 2 – 17,700	19,100	Improved mapping capabilities.

Chipeta #23 (28,700 acres)

1. Description

The Chipeta CRA is located approximately 8 miles west of Poncha Springs, in Chaffee County. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. It is located between Monarch Pass and Marshall Pass. Its western boundary is the Continental Divide. The northeastern boundary is adjacent to the town of Maysville, BLM and private land. The remaining boundaries are Forest Service lands, managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation/big game winter range, and general forest activities (timber and aspen management, livestock grazing, etc.). Several roads are cherry-stemmed into the CRA and provide recreation access; NFST 1412 (Green Creek Trail) is open to motorized use. The Colorado Trail follows Fooses Creek up to the Continental Divide where it joins the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. On the south boundary, the Marshall Pass Road follows the former railroad.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is alpine tundra, spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, and riparian species. The CRA is dominated by a high mountain ridge which includes Pahlone Peak, Chipeta Mountain and Mount Ouray. Devils Armchair, a huge cirque on the east flank of Mount Ouray is visible from many vantage points. O'Haver Lake, just off the Marshall Pass road is a popular camping and fishing spot. This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Approximately 33% is spruce fir, 21% lodgepole pine, 12% alpine tundra, 10% rock and bare soil, 9% aspen, 5% mixed conifer, 4% mountain grassland, and 2% bristlecone-limber pine forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx have been frequently documented. This CRA is one of the few identified lynx linkage areas in Colorado for movement across the Continental Divide (it is a major component of the Monarch Pass-Kenosha Pass lynx linkage); the CRA is in the Canada lynx Monarch Pass LAU. The CRA provides habitat for federally listed Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly (endangered) and the following Forest Service sensitive species: bighorn sheep, Townsend's big-eared bat, boreal toad, goshawk, and Gunnison sage grouse. The CRA is immediately adjacent to a Gunnison sage grouse reintroduction site in the Poncha Pass area. This CRA contains severe winter range and winter concentration areas for elk, and mule deer. An important salt lick for bighorn sheep is located here. A new and expanding population of moose is also present. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others can be found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk, various woodpeckers, Neotropical migrant birds, and other wildlife species are also found in the CRA. There have been undocumented sightings of bald eagles.

The area provides views of the Continental Divide and the south end of the Sawatch Range including Mt. Ouray, Chipeta and Pahlone Peaks. It provides primarily semi-primitive non-motorized recreational opportunities; however, there are several motorized trails. There is evidence of previous management activities. Mining and logging have occurred over time and many of the drainages have imprints of old roads. The CRA continues to be a focal point for recreation and hunting because of the easy access and proximity to Highway 50. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Grey Creek feeds O'Haver Lake, part of the Salida municipal water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is an active livestock grazing allotment. Roughly 2,700 acres or 9% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,400 acres or 15% of this CRA lie within the Little Cochetopa Subdivision wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
358 Rare2 – 19,500		
5,800 acres of 3a		Acreage removed: past timber sale and roads occur in this area. Acreage
Total – 25,300	28,700	added: areas meet CRA criteria (McClure Creek, Camp Creek, Pass Creek).

Cuchara North # 13 (8,200 acres)

1. Description

Cuchara North CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County, southwest of the town of LaVeta in the Culebra Range. The western and part of the eastern boundaries are adjacent to private land. The northern boundary is adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation and big game winter range. The southern boundary is adjacent to Cuchara South CRA. The Cuchara South CRA was split from the Cuchara North CRA along the NFSR 423 (Bonnett Park road). Public access is by NFSR 421 (Indian Creek Road) and NFST 1300 (Indian Creek Trail). The lack of public easements through the private lands bordering the east and west boundaries of the CRA restricts public access to much of the CRA. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The dominant landscape feature in this CRA is Raspberry Mountain. Elevations rise from roughly 8,500 feet on the east side of the CRA, to 11,000 feet along the western boundary. The terrain is moderately varied with broad forested slopes. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, and Gambel oak fields on south-facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most of this CRA. Stands of aspen surround the Bonnett Park area. Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine and bristlecone pine forests can be found at higher elevations. Stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine and Gambel oak are common along the lower fringes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A lynx linkage area lies between the Culebra Range and Spanish Peaks. Habitat suitable for lynx wintering and denning is common throughout this CRA. Northern goshawk nesting sites have been identified near this CRA. Rare plant species include mountain whitlow-grass (*Draba rectifurcata*) and both the pale and western moonworts (*Botrychium pallidum* and *B. hesperium*). Wildlife values include summer and fall concentrations of black bear; summer range for mule deer and elk, with some deer and elk winter range in the Indian Creek drainage. Other wildlife game species present include mountain lion and wild turkey. Approximately six miles of NFST 1300 (Indian Trail) passes through the western edge. Foot, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on this trail. Over the past decade ATV riding has become the dominant mode of travel on this trail. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use.

There is evidence of past logging in the Price Canyon drainage. Logging activities probably occurred in this part of the IRA during the 1940s and 1950s. The old logging roads have since revegetated with small trees. This CRA is within a state defined source

water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 7,190 meters (4.5 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Cuchara North CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A household spring development and water line is permitted in the extreme southeast corner. The Indian Creek and Lakes livestock grazing allotments are in this CRA. There has been an expression of interest to lease for oil and gas in the Indian Creek drainage. The potential lease area includes a portion of the CRA. Approximately 870 acres or 11 % of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. A small fuels reduction project is planned for just outside the northern border of the CRA, along the Indian Creek Road (NFSR 421). Approximately 7,300 acres or 89% of the CRA are within the WUI that surrounds the community of Cuchara, and the Forbes Trinchera subdivision on the western boundary. Low-density residential developments are expanding along both the eastern and western boundaries.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
273 Rare 2 – 18,200	Cuchara North – 8,200 Cuchara South – 7,500	The Cuchara North and South IRA were split along the NFSR 423. Livestock Grazing permittee has administrative access to NFSR 423. Acres on northern boundary removed due to past timber harvesting and planned fuels treatment projects.
Total – 18,200	Total – 15,700	

Cuchara South # 12 (7,500 acres)

1. Description

The Cuchara South CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, west and south of the town of Cuchara in the Culebra Range. The western boundary is private land. The eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to Forest Service lands managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation and big game winter range. The northern boundary is adjacent to Cuchara North CRA. The Cuchara South CRA was split from the Cuchara North CRA along the NFSR 423 (Bonnett Park road). Public access is by the Spring Creek trailhead on Highway 12 just south of Cuchara, and from the Bear Lake trailhead on the Blue and Bear Lakes Road (NFSR 422). The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The dominant landscape feature is the line of peaks and saddles that form the ridgeline of the Culebra Range. Elevations range from 9,000 feet on the east side to over 12,000 feet along the western boundary. The visual character of the landscape is distinctive for the mountainous regions of southern Colorado. The terrain is highly varied between alternating alpine peaks and saddles along the Culebra Range skyline, with steep forested valleys below. The vegetation pattern offers moderately high contrast between alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and several large subalpine parks. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate. Large stands of aspen are below Napoleon Peak and in the Baker Creek area. White fir, Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forests can be found at lower elevations in the Dodgeton Creek area. There are several large stands of old growth bristlecone pine and limber pine, most notably in the Teddy’s Peak area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A lynx linkage area is between the Culebra Range and Spanish Peaks, radio-collared lynx have been documented; habitat suitable for lynx wintering and denning is common in this CRA. Rare plant species include both the pale and western moonworts (*Botrychium pallidum* and *B. hesperium*). Wildlife values include summer and fall concentrations of black bear, summer range for mule deer and elk, with some deer winter range. Other wildlife game species present include bighorn sheep, mountain lion, and wild turkey.

There is some evidence of past logging in the Dodgeton Creek drainage. The most recent logging activities probably occurred in this part of the CRA during the 1940s and 1950s. The old logging roads have since revegetated with small trees. Nearly six miles of NFST 1300 (Indian Trail) passes through the CRA from north to south. Another six miles of trails, NFST 1302 (Dodgeton) and 1301 (Baker Trails) connects the Indian Trail to the Spring Creek trailhead, just south of the town of Cuchara. Foot, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on these trails. Short day trips from the Spring Creek trailhead and the Bear Lake Campground are popular with hikers. ATV-riding is more common for longer distance trips on the Dodgeton and Indian Trails. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use. The public has a comparatively high level of access to most of this CRA from these three trails.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 6,850 meters (4.3 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Cuchara South CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 2,400 acres or 32% of the CRA are identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Small fuels treatment projects are currently being evaluated immediately west of the town of Cuchara, in the extreme northeast corner. Approximately 4,000 acres or 54% of this CRA are within the WUI that borders the town of Cuchara and the resort area at the base of the Cuchara Ski Area.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
273 Rare 2 – 18,200	Cuchara North – 8,200 Cuchara South – 7,500	The Cuchara North and South IRA were split along the NFSR 423. Livestock grazing permittee has administrative access to NFSR 423. Acres were removed due to the Cuchara Ski Area permit and Cuchara Water and Sanitation District water storage tanks/ pipelines at two locations just inside the National Forest boundary.
Total – 18,200	Total – 15,700	

Elk Mountain-Collegiate North #28 (32,900 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is south of Twin Lakes Reservoir and south of Clear Creek Reservoir between Highway 24 and the Collegiate Peaks wilderness. Pine Creek flows out of the wilderness and across the CRA. This CRA lies within both Lake and Chaffee counties on the Leadville Ranger District and is bordered by Twin Lakes Village and the town of Granite. This CRA is bordered to the east by the old railway and 1800’s stage road that ran from Buena Vista to Leadville. The Clear Creek reservoir is located to the north. The Historic mining towns of Vicksburg and Winfield are also located to the north of this CRA. The main portion of the CRA is accessed by SH 82 and Clear Creek Road. NFSR 387 and 387A have been excluded from the CRA by “cherry-stemming” the roads within the CRA. NFSR 387 ends near the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness boundary. NFSR 386 separates the CRA from Frenchman Creek to the south, and this route provides access to another wilderness trail. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail run north and south through the middle of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The terrain surrounding the Elk Mountain-Collegiate North CRA is high alpine mountains with 14,000 foot peaks and rocky canyon country in the lower elevations. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Lodgepole pine dominates the vegetation type. Plant communities include a mix of sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, alpine tundra, and alpine wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The entire CRA is lynx habitat with an east-west linkage between Pine Creek and across the valley to Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. Quality lynx habitat is found on the forested portions. Big game species include elk, mule deer and bighorn sheep. The area provides a mule deer winter range, along the eastern edge of the CRA. Elk have both summer and winter range and two production areas. A substantial elk migration corridor runs from east of Mount Elbert to south of North Cottonwood Creek. Additional migration corridors are on two other sides of the CRA. Bighorn sheep winter range is present in the Pine Creek drainage, and a large lambing area that follows the valley extends well into the wilderness. The south side of the CRA is bighorn sheep winter range. The alpine areas provide white-tailed ptarmigan habitat. Recreation opportunities include fishing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding. The recreation opportunity spectrum is semi-primitive non-motorized. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits are issued for outfitters and guides, and for recreation events. This CRA incorporates numerous private land inholdings south of Twin Lakes. Roughly 2,000 acres or 6% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. A timbered area is scheduled for treatment adjacent to the northeast corner of the CRA (outside of the CRA). Approximately 22,800 acres or 69% of this CRA lie within the WUI. A WUI area inside the CRA boundary is scheduled for treatment around the Interlaken Historical Site in the next two to three years. Activities will be limited to hand treatments and pile burning only. WUI treatments have taken place in the past adjacent to the CRA, south of Pine Creek.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
180 Rare 2 (Elk Mountain-Collegiate) – 18,300	Elk Mountain-Collegiate North – 32,900	
15,200 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain – Collegiate North	Elk Mountain-Collegiate South – 6,600	
1,300 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain – Collegiate South		
Total – 34,800	Total – 32,900	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Elk Mountain-Collegiate South #27 (6,600 acres)

1. Description

The Elk Mountain–Collegiate South CRA is on the southeastern boundary of the Collegiate Peaks wilderness. This CRA is located on the Salida and Leadville Ranger Districts, San Isabel NF, Chaffee County. The Heckendorf State Wildlife Area is located immediately to the east of this CRA. On the north side, NFST 1449 goes into the Collegiate Peak Wilderness and the Colorado Trail cuts across the northwest corner before it too enters the wilderness area. The CRA is adjacent to the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, and provides views into the east side of the wilderness. The Collegiate Peaks are a reference landscape and Mt. Columbia and Mt. Yale form a backdrop for this area to the west.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush shrublands, pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, spruce-fir, and aspen. The Sawatch Mountain Range is situated immediately to the west of this CRA. This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Approximately 27% is lodgepole pine, 27% spruce-fir, 13% aspen, 10% mixed conifer, 6% alpine tundra, 6% limber/bristlecone pine, 5% mountain shrub, 2% piñon-juniper, and 2% mountain grasslands. North Cottonwood Creek and several other streams provide good riparian habitat.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Canada lynx have been frequently documented; the CRA is part of the second lynx denning and concentration core area in the state. This CRA is in the Canada lynx Cottonwood Pass LAU. The CRA also provides habitat for the following Forest Service sensitive species: boreal toad and northern goshawks. It contains a portion of the most important boreal toad breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present. The CRA provides mule deer winter range and sever winter range; it also provides elk and bighorn sheep summer and winter range and production areas. This CRA also provides habitats for the following species: black bear, mountain lions, and mountain goats. A new and expanding population of moose is also present. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as many Neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found.

The CRA is semi-primitive, non-motorized except along NFSR 365. Recreation includes hiking and wildlife viewing, and viewing scenic vistas, and solitude. This area has had limited prospecting in the past and the landscape shows some modification and soil disturbance from those mining activities. Some personal wood gathering and limited timber harvesting have also left their marks. The old Stage road from the late 1800 that ran from Buena Vista to Leadville can be seen from this CRA. The creeks all flow year round with good quality water. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). North Cottonwood Creek provides water for the Buena Vista municipal water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is heavily-populated private land along the east boundary and outfitter-guide permits for hunting. Roughly 50 acres or 1% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,900 acres or 59% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
180 Rare 2 (Elk Mountain-Collegiate) – 18,300	Elk Mountain-Collegiate North – 32,900	
15,200 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain-Collegiate North	Elk Mountain-Collegiate South – 6,600	
1,300 acres of 3a in Elk Mountain-Collegiate South		Added acres meets the CRA criteria and improved mapping capabilities.
Total – 34,800	Total – 32,900	

Elk Mountain-Collegiate West #29 (5,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is bordered by the Collegiate Peaks wilderness southwest of Mount Elbert and by Independence Pass to the north. It lays within both Lake and Chaffee counties on the Leadville Ranger District. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Access is provided by Highway 82 and NFSR 391. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. High alpine mountains surround this CRA. Plant communities include spruce/fir in the lower elevations, lodgepole pine, aspen, willow, and alpine habitats

2. Roadless Characteristics

High quality lynx habitat occurs throughout the CRA and there is documented boreal toad breeding near the CRA. Wildlife habitat includes, but is not limited to, elk and mountain goat production areas and white-tailed ptarmigan habitat. Although the CRA is not heavily used for recreation, there are mountaineering opportunities, with a rough trail to La Plata Peak and another trailhead into the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness in Sayre's Gulch. The CRA is in an old silver and gold mining area. Evidence of old silver and gold mining is very prevalent around this CRA. Surface water is affected by natural acid drainage from Red Mountain in the South Fork of Lake Creek. There are 880 meters (0.5 miles) of the South Fork Lake Creek, source to Lake Creek, identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Special use permits are for general utility rights-of-ways and intercontinental water diversions and tunnels. There are numerous private land inholdings. Recreation special use permits are issued for outfitters-guides and recreation events. Dispersed recreation includes hiking, biking, camping and horseback riding. Limited mining activities take place in this CRA today. Approximately 2,700 acres or 47% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
50 acres of 8c		
400 acres of 5 Rare 2		
1,400 acres of 3a		
Total – 1,850	5,800	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Farnum #42 (11,100 acres)

1. Description

The Farnum CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. Located west of the Lost Creek wilderness in the northern end of the Puma Hills, this CRA is bordered by the Tarryall Road (Park County Road 77) on the northeast, Packer Gulch on the west and Allen Creek on the southeast. The Tarryall Reservoir is just north of the CRA. Farnum Peak dominates the landscape. The major access routes to the CRA are the CR 77, NFSR 144 (Packer Gulch Road) and NFSR 235 (Allen Creek Road). There are no National Forest system trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is primarily subalpine forest dominated by spruce/fir, interspersed with stands of limber pine in proximity to Puma Hills. Stands of lodgepole pine occur above Bridge Gulch; stands of ponderosa pine occur on the eastern portion of the CRA. Grassland habitats and a narrow band of riparian vegetation are along Parker Gulch. A minor component of aspen and bristlecone pine are also in the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA is located within the Lost Creek LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for Canada lynx. The eastern and northwestern portions of the CRA contain mule deer and elk severe winter areas, respectively. A mule deer winter concentration area is located within the eastern portion of the CRA. It also provides summer and winter range of elk and mule deer. The CRA contains bighorn sheep and the northeast portion of the CRA is within the range of bighorn sheep. The CRA is within the winter range of pronghorn. The CRA also provides habitat for black bear and mountain lion. There are no NFSTs. Hikers use non-system routes to access Farnum Peak. Rock climbing is also popular in a few areas in the northeast portion. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Private land borders the CRA adjacent to most of northeastern boundary along the Tarryall Road. There are also two large private land parcels on the southeastern boundary along Allen Creek and Burns Park. Permitted recreation special uses include hiking and rock climbing. The CRA is within the Puma, Packer and Rishaberger C and H active livestock (cattle) grazing allotments. Approximately 1,400 acres or 12% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The last occurrence of timber harvesting in these area was in the 1980s. Approximately 6,400 acres or 58% of the CRA is within the WUI that surrounds several private land parcels in Webber Park.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,000 acres of 3a		Acres added in upper Allen Creek drainage and on the north slope of
343 Rare 2 – 1,400		Schoolmarm Mountain. Acres removed (along NFSR 233) due to high use
Total – 7,400	11,100	dispersed camping overflow from the Tarryall State Wildlife Area.

Green Mountain #53 (11,000 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Jefferson County, five miles northwest of Buffalo Creek, Colorado. It can be accessed from NFSTs 1776 and 772 and NFSRs 211, 560, and 546. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 6,900 to 10,190 feet. This CRA provides a near-pristine example of a transition zone between a montane and subalpine forest. Cover includes forbs, grass, rushes, sedges, rock, shrubs, mountain mahogany, aspen, blue spruce, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, spruce and fir. The 2002 Hayman fire burned approximately 3,000 acres of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed species: Pawnee montane skipper habitat, Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat and critical and restricted acres of Mexican spotted owl habitat. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas in the CRA. Recreation is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. The area offers intact natural views of conifer and aspen covered mountains. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Craig Meadows and Wigwam livestock grazing allotments are in this CRA. Seven acres are approved for watershed restoration and hazardous fuels treatment within the Upper South Platte Watershed. There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz, and amazonite in the CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 1,620 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Green Mountain CRA. About 2,700 acres or 25% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. There have been 1,534 acres of timber management accomplished in this area in the past. Under the Upper South Platte Project, 1% of the area is approved for watershed restoration and fuels treatment. Approximately 8,300 acres or 76% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
254 Rare 2 – 10,200	11,000	Added acres met the CRA criteria.

Greenhorn Mountain: Badito Cone to Dry Creek # 8 (1,800 acres)

1. Description

The Greenhorn Mountain: Badito Cone to Dry Creek CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is on the south and southwest flanks of the Greenhorn Mountain wilderness, about seven miles east of the community of Gardner. Public access is limited to the Badito Cone Road (NFSR 438), which is very rough and sometimes impassable after washouts from summer thunderstorms. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations range from 7,200 feet to 8,400 feet. Badito Cone's distinctive volcanic cone is a landmark for much of the surrounding area, as are the much higher peaks of Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness just to the north. Santana Butte is another distinctive mid-elevation mountain, which is five miles northwest of Badito Cone. Primary vegetation types are pinyon and juniper forests, broken by an occasional ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir, with small grasslands of mostly Arizona fescue. The predominantly dry southwest-facing aspects within this CRA favor vegetative communities that would typically be found at lower elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA includes foraging habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) and Mexican spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). This CRA provides winter range for mule deer, elk, mountain lion and bighorn sheep. The visual character of the landscape is common to minimal for the foothills regions of Southern Colorado. The terrain is moderately varied with sharp ridges and common exposures of lighter colored soils and rocks that contrast with the open grown conifer forests. Several of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape. Recreational use of this CRA is light to non-existent. About 1/2 mile of the old Santana Trail crosses the northern part of this CRA. This trail has been abandoned as a National Forest System Trail. The western terminus originated on the

ajoining private lands that no longer allow public access. The eastern half of this trail was destroyed in the Maes Creek fire of 1978 and was never rebuilt. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are currently no livestock grazing allotments. No part of this CRA is suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 700 acres or 42% of this CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
1,600 acres of 270 Rare 2		The 2001 boundaries of this CRA were modified in 2007 to 1) exclude a rock quarry, county-owned radio tower and access road on the south and east sides of Badito Cone, 2) exclude the Maes Creek ditch and service road, and 3) exclude the Santana Springs water development, pipeline and service road.
200 acres of 8b		
Total – 1,800	1,800	

Greenhorn Mountain: Cisneros Creek to Upper Turkey Creek #9 (2,400 acres)

1. Description

The Greenhorn Mountain: Cisneros Creek to Upper Turkey Creek CRA is located on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is contiguous with the northwest flank of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness. It is about 10 miles north of the community of Gardner. Old logging roads are found along the edge of the CRA, but the Forest Service has closed many of these spurs, and at the end of the logging spurs the forest is relatively undisturbed. Access to the northern part is from NFSR 369 (Greenhorn Road), and to the southern part from NFSR 637 (Turkey Creek road).

The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations range from 8,500 feet in the southern section to 11,000 feet in the northern section. Turkey Creek Canyon is the dominant landscape feature. The two parts of the CRA adjoin the north and west flanks of Turkey Creek Canyon. The visual character of the landscape in the CRA is common for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The terrain is moderately varied with broad forested slopes. The rock formations within the CRA are generally not distinctive or unusual in appearance or color. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, and Gambel oak shrublands on south-facing slopes. Vegetation in the southern section transitions from pinyon and juniper forests at the lowest elevations, to Gambel oak shrublands intermixed with ponderosa pine, to white and Douglas-fir forests. In the northern section, the vegetation is almost entirely Engelmann spruce, with a few large aspen stands and riparian wetlands.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican Spotted owl (threatened). The northern section provides suitable denning and winter habitat for lynx. The southern section offers suitable nesting and roosting habitat for Mexican spotted owls. Segments of Turkey Creek have been identified as potential sites for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. Reflected moonwort (*Botrychium echo*) is a rare plant of the CRA. The CRA provides summer and winter range for elk and mule deer. The mid-elevations are an identified elk calving area that extends across the southwest flank of the Wet Mountains. Mountain lion, bear, and wild turkey also frequent this area.

Approximately three miles of NFST 1314 (Cisneros Trail) passes through the center of this CRA from north to south. Pedestrian, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on this trail. About two miles of NFST 1315 (Turkey Creek Trail) passes through the northern section of the CRA from east to west. Pedestrian, horse, and mountain bike travel is authorized on this trail. The Turkey Creek Trail originally connected with the Cisneros Trail; however there is no public easement for a short section of trail that crosses a private inholding. The current landowners have restricted public access across their land and the Turkey Creek Trail is falling into disuse. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the primary recreational use of this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA is in the Greenhorn livestock grazing allotment. About 270 acres or 11% of the CRA is suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 2,300 acres or 96% of this CRA is in WUI that borders the residential developments on lower Turkey Creek.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
300 acres of 270 Rare 2		Acres removed due to historic and more current timber harvesting activities and logging access roads; Acres added to include adjoining lands with roadless area characteristics (Custer Creek drainage).
500 acres of 5 Rare 2		
Total – 800	2,400	

Greenhorn Mountain: Graneros Creek to Section 10 #7 (4,800 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo and Huerfano Counties and includes the rugged and remote areas between the east side of Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness and the National Forest boundary. The only public easement through the private lands borders the CRA on the eastside is at the Bartlett trailhead, about four miles south of the town of Rye. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations range from 8,000 feet along the eastern border to 9,500 feet on the western perimeter. The dominant landscape features of this CRA are the deeply incised drainages that pour out of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness onto the plains below. Graneros Creek, Little Graneros Creek and the two forks of Apache Creek form the major valleys that cut through the rugged east facing granite slopes of this CRA. The terrain is highly varied with sharp ridges and common exposures of lighter colored soils and rocks showing on cliffs and at the lower elevations. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests in the valleys and on north facing aspects, with oak shrublands on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas fir forests dominate most of this CRA. Ponderosa pine, limber pine and Gambel oak shrublands are on south facing aspects and other dry or rocky sites. Pinyon and juniper woodlands are scattered along lower elevations in the southern part.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides suitable nesting and roosting habitat for federally listed Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Mexican spotted owls have been sighted in the CRA. Peregrine falcon nesting sites are located in this CRA. Black swift habitat exists at Apache Falls. North and South Apache Creeks have been determined to be suitable streams for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*). The cutthroat trout that currently occupy these streams have been genetically tagged as Colorado River cutthroat trout, a threatened species native to the west slope of Colorado. Mountain lion, wild turkey and black bear can be found across the area in all seasons. Bighorn sheep have winter range here, although they likely go to the higher elevations in the wilderness area in the summer. Mule deer and elk have summer and winter range across most of the area.

Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. About one mile of the Bartlett Trail (NFST 1310) passes through the northern part of this CRA. Foot and horse travel is authorized on this trail. One mile of the Apache Trail (NFST 1311) crosses the central section this CRA. However, this trail originates on private lands east of the National Forest boundary. There is no public easement across the neighboring private land; this trail is slowly falling into disuse. Foot and horse travel is authorized on these trails. The lack of public easements through the private lands east of the CRA restricts public access to much of the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 5,120 meters (3 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, CF&I diversion to the Arkansas River, within the CRA on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

About 140 acres or 3% of this CRA were identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,500 acres or 95% of this CRA are in the WUI that borders the town of Rye.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
4,800 acres of 270 Rare 2	4,800	No change.

Greenhorn Mountain: Little Saint Charles Creek to Greenhorn Creek # 6 (5,300 acres)

1. Description

The Greenhorn Mountain: Little Saint Charles Creek to Greenhorn Creek CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo County and is contiguous with the northeast flank of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness. This CRA is located about six miles west of the community of Rye. Access is by the Greenhorn, Millset and Snowslide trails. Trailheads for these three trails are located along State Highway 165 from the east and along NFSR 369 (Greenhorn Road) from the west.

The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations rise from 8,000 feet near the southeastern border to 11,500 feet on the ridgeline that forms the western perimeter of this area. The dominant landscape feature is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Wet Mountains. The landscape drops off very steeply from this relatively flat and broad ridge down to Highway 165. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate most of this Little Saint Charles Creek to Greenhorn Creek CRA. White fir, Douglas fir and aspen forests can be found at lower elevations and on south facing aspects. There are many stands of large old-growth spruce and fir within this CRA. There are scattered stands of limber and bristlecone pine along ridgelines and wetland habitats adjacent to the larger streams.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for federally listed species such as Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owls (threatened). Habitat for lynx foraging and denning is found through this CRA, except at the lower eastern fringes. The lower elevations offer suitable habitat for Mexican spotted owls. Upper Greenhorn Creek has been determined to be a suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. Reflected moonwort is a rare plant found in this CRA. This CRA provides summer ranges for elk, deer, bear, mountain lion and wild turkey. There are several small elk calving areas, and some winter range for mule deer. The visual character of the landscape within this CRA is common for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between extensive forested slopes, sharp ridges and deep valleys. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, riparian wetlands and rock outcrops. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape.

About six miles of trail traverse this CRA from east to west. NFST 1317 (Millset Trail) passes through the center of this CRA; NFST 1318 (Snowslide Trail) skirts the northern boundary; and NFST 1316 (Greenhorn Trail) marks the southern boundary. Pedestrian and horse trail use is authorized on NFST 1317 and 1316. Pedestrian, horse, mountain bike, and motorized trail bikes are allowed on NFST 1318. Recreation includes hiking, wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use. This whole area is rugged and little visited except along the trail corridors. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 13,300 meters (8 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, CF&I diversion to the Arkansas River, within this CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 1,500 acres or 28% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,850 acres or 72% of the CRA are in the WUI that borders the residential developments along State Highway 165 and the community of Rye.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
4900 acres of 270 Rare 2		The 2001 boundaries of this CRA were modified in 2007 to 1) better reflect timber harvesting activities and logging access roads dating from the 1960s and 1970s along the western perimeter of the CRA, and 2) exclude old logging roads, timber harvest areas, and two residential spring developments with pipelines in the Little Saint Charles drainage.
2400 acres of 3a		
Total – 7,300	5,300	

Gunbarrel #54 (8,400 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Jefferson County, one mile north of Deckers. Access is from County Roads 97 and 67. There is a trail to the summit of Long Scraggy Peak. Trail work was approved in the Rampart Range Recreation Area Motorized Roads and Trail Decision Notice. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 6,200 to 8,585 feet. Long Scraggy is a dominate granite rock feature with jagged outcrops and conifer covered side-slopes. It is an impressive scenic element from many viewpoints in the South Platte River Valley. Little Scraggy is a near-pristine example of a xeric ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest covering rugged granitic terrain. Vegetation includes montane forest, forbs, grasses, mountain mahogany, aspen, blue spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole and ponderosa pines. The 1996 Buffalo Creek Fire burned 10% of this area (490 acres) and the 2002 Hayman Fire burned 34% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) ranked the South Platte River corridor an area of general biodiversity interest. This CRA has important habitat for mountain lions and black bears. There is one sensitive plant; and habitat for the following federally

listed (threatened) species: Pawnee montane skipper habitat and Preble’s meadow jumping mouse habitat (of which some is designated critical habitat). Water quality within Saloon Gulch and Gunbarrel Creek and tributaries is degraded by excess sediment from the Buffalo Creek and Hayman fires. There is minimal human activity in the CRA, however, there is substantial erosion caused by these wildfires. Recreation is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. Long Scraggy summit is a popular hiking destination. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA has the following grazing allotments: Buffalo Creek/Craig Meadows and Wigwam. The CRA contains possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite. Under the Upper South Platte Watershed Restoration and Protection Project, 2,400 acres or 28% of the CRA is approved for watershed restoration and fuels treatment. This project was approved prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule designation, with implementation continuing in the area under the requirements of the 2001 Roadless Rule. Prior to 2001, there were 3,239 acres of timber management accomplished in this CRA. About 2,700 acres or 32% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Approximately 7,900 acres or 94% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
345 Rare 2 – 8,800	8,400	Acres removed due to past resource activities and associated roads.

Hardscrabble #3 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

The Hardscrabble CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Custer County, in the Wet Mountains about six miles southwest of the community of Wetmore. Public access is from State Highway 96, NFSR 386 (South Hardscrabble road) (NFSR 386), and NFST 1327 (Rudolf Mountain Trail). The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations rise from 7,400 feet along the lower eastern boundary to over 10,000 feet on Rudolf Mountain. The dominant landscape features are the valleys and steep ridges formed by the three forks of Hardscrabble Creek. The terrain is moderately varied with broad forested slopes. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak fields on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most landscapes. Stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine, and Gambel oak are on south-facing aspects and along the lower fringes of the area. Stands of aspen and spruce are on the higher ridgelines near Rudolf Mountain. Colorado blue spruce is found infrequently along riparian areas that are dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood and Rocky Mountain maple.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat in the higher areas for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Habitat for Mexican spotted owls (threatened) is found throughout this CRA. The north side of the CRA is potential peregrine falcon habitat. Black bear and mountain lion are found here. Elk and deer use the higher elevation areas in the summer and the lower elevations in the winter. Mountain lion, bear, and wild turkey are present year round. The inaccessibility of much of this CRA allows ample security for wildlife.

There are a few signs of historic (late nineteenth and early twentieth century) logging and prospecting activities along the lower perimeters of this CRA. The remains of a Civil Conservation Corp (CCC) camp may be seen near the Rudolf Mountain trailhead, otherwise there is very little evidence of human activities or disturbance. NFST 1327 extends roughly four miles from the South Hardscrabble Road to the slopes of Rudolf Mountain, providing pedestrian and horse access to the southwestern corner of this CRA. This trail is little used, except during hunting seasons. Hunting, especially spring turkey season and the fall big game seasons, is the most popular recreation use. The lack of public easements through the private lands along the eastern and western flanks of this CRA greatly restricts public access to much of the Hardscrabble CRA. The historic trail up Middle Hardscrabble Creek originated on adjacent private lands. There are no public easements across these private lands, and this trail has fallen into disuse. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A household spring development and waterline are permitted near the southwest corner. Approximately 3,900 acres or 53% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 6,100 acres or 82% of the CRA are in WUI that surrounds the community of Wetmore and nearby residential developments.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
339 Rare 2 – 7,500	7,400	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Highline #2 (12,400 acres)

1. Description

The Highline CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Freemont and Pueblo Counties, at the north end of the Wet Mountains and about 10 miles southwest of the town of Florence. Public access from the east is principally from the Newlin and Lewis Creek trailheads, and from the west by NFSR 274 and NFSR 336. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). Elevations rise from 7,000 feet along the lower eastern boundary to 9,800 feet on Mock Hill. The dominant landscape feature is the broad Highline ridge and forested slopes dropping steeply to the plains on the eastern flank of this CRA. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and shape. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands, and Gambel oak fields on south-facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most of landscapes. There are stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine, and Gambel oak on south-facing aspects and along the lower fringes of the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) and Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Mexican spotted owls have been sighted and suitable nesting and roosting habitat is found throughout the CRA. The southern half of the CRA provides suitable lynx denning habitat. Peregrine falcon nesting sites are found in this CRA. Bighorn sheep, black bear, elk, mountain lion, mule deer, and wild turkey are found here. Bighorn sheep lambing areas are in the southern foothills of this CRA. Degener beardtongue (*Penstemon degeneri*), a Forest Service sensitive plant is found in and near this CRA. Newlin Creek has been determined to be suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*).

There are a few signs of historic (late nineteenth and early twentieth century) logging and prospecting activities along the lower perimeters of this CRA. The remains of a Civil Conservation Corp (CCC) camp may be seen near the Rudolf Mountain trailhead, otherwise there is very little evidence of human activities or disturbance. Approximately 4.5 miles of NFST 1331 (Lewis Creek Trail) passes through the southern portion of this CRA. Pedestrian, horse, mountain bike, and motorized trail bike travel are authorized on this trail. The trail is not wide enough for ATV travel. The popular NFST 1335 (Newlin Creek Trail), extends roughly three miles from the Florence Mountain Park to the Herrick sawmill site, providing pedestrian and horse access to the northern part of the CRA. Hunting, especially during the fall big game seasons, is the second highest recreation use of the CRA.

There is limited public access to much of the eastern flank of the CRA. Historic trails on Mineral and Four-mile Creeks originated on adjacent private lands. Public access across these lands to access the trails has become increasingly restricted by private residential developments over the past two decades; as a result the trails have fallen into disuse. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Most of this CRA is included in the municipal watershed for the City of Florence. The headwaters of Newlin Creek, Mineral Creek, and Adobe Creek are part of this municipal watershed. Three small municipal water diversion structures are located along the eastern perimeter of this CRA. The Herrick sawmill site along Newlin creek dates from 1887. The site has several historic features still intact and includes an interpretive display for hikers.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is one vacant cattle allotment (Newlin livestock grazing allotment) within the northern perimeter of this CRA. Leases for oil and gas exploration were issued for the eastern flank of this CRA in the 1980s and 1990s. However, there are currently no active leases for oil and gas exploration or development. Approximately 5,160 acres or 42% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting along the western perimeter. Approximately 9,200 acres or 75% of the CRA are within the WUI that surrounds the community of Wetmore and nearby residential developments. Low-density residential developments are expanding along the eastern and boundaries.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
338 Rare 2 – 12,300	12,400	Acres modified to reflect timber harvesting activities/ logging access roads; to exclude the small dams and diversion structures on Newlin and Mineral Creeks that are under permit to the town of Florence; and to incorporate adjoining lands with CRA characteristics in the Newlin and Mineral Creek drainages.

Holy Cross #32 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

The Holy Cross CRA is contiguous with Holy Cross wilderness and extends east to the Forest boundary near Leadville. It is in Lake County on the Leadville Ranger District. Access is by Highway 24 and NFSR 45 (Slide Lake Road). Several roads and old mining scars are present; the CRA is part of the Camp Hale training area from the World War II era. Past mining activity is present just to the south of this CRA in the St. Kevin drainage. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Plant communities are almost entirely of forested habitats with spruce/fir and lodgepole pine.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides good lynx habitat and also part of a large lynx linkage from Holy Cross wilderness east to Chicago Ridge. The CRA provides habitat for wildlife species including, but not limited to, bighorn sheep, black bear, elk, mule deer, and ptarmigan. This CRA has exceptional scenic integrity values. Ski Cooper is located east of the CRA across highway 24. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail go through the CRA. Along the Colorado Trail are many recreation opportunities associated with Uncle Bud's Cabin in the south and the Tenth Mountain Division Hut in the north. Other huts are in nearby areas (outside of the CRA). There's also recreation opportunities associated with other trails into Holy Cross Wilderness. Recreation opportunities have been classified as semi-primitive motorized. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits are issued for year round outfitters-guides and recreation events. Approximately 1,400 acres or 23% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. The suitable timber land is near the center of the area and 300 acres of timber management were accomplished in the past. Approximately 2,800 acres or 46% of this CRA lie within the WUI. Fuel treatments are planned outside of the CRA in the area of the Home Stake Trout Club.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
170 Rare 2 – 6,400	6,000	Improved mapping capabilities. Acres were not included in CRA that were within the Copper Ski Area.

Jefferson #41 (10,700 acres)

1. Description

The Jefferson CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District and the South Platte Ranger District, in Park County. It rises from the edge of South Park, northwest of the town of Jefferson, to the Continental Divide, between Michigan Creek and the North Fork of the South Platte River. The predominant access points are through the Jefferson Lake Recreation Area on NFSR 37 and NFSR 54 (Michigan Creek Road) and Park County Road 54. NFST 1776 (Colorado Trail) and NFST 643 (West Jefferson Trail) both cross the area between Kenosha Pass and Georgia Pass and can be accessed off County Road 37. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,100 to 13,000 feet. Vegetation is primarily subalpine forest dominated by spruce/fir. Riparian communities exist along the margins of Gibson, Jefferson, and Jefferson Lake Creeks, in Deadman and Guernsey Gulch, and adjacent to the shoreline of Jefferson Lake. Above the tree line, an expanse of alpine tundra extends to the Continental Divide. Stands of lodgepole and bristlecone pine are also found within the southern portion of the CRA. There are small lakes in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides suitable winter, denning and movement habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. It is within the Georgia Pass linkage area of the Kenosha Pass LAU. This linkage is one of the best forested and undeveloped habitat connections that provide for north-south movements of lynx from South Park across the Continental Divide to Summit County. There are 1,280 acres of lynx linkage and 2,530 acres of lynx habitat. A portion of the CRA is in a concentration area for moose. The southern and southeastern portions of the CRA have mule deer and elk severe winter areas, respectively. A mule deer winter concentration area is also located within the southern portion of the CRA; an elk summer concentration area is in the northern portion. The CRA also contains mountain goats, bighorn sheep and ptarmigan. It has habitat for black bear and mountain lion, while the western and central portions of the CRA are in the range of bighorn sheep, and the southern portion of the CRA is within the range of wild turkey. There is habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan above 11,200 feet. One Forest Service sensitive plant occurs in the area.

The CRA provides intact natural landscape of tundra and forest covered mountains. Human activity and disturbed areas are minimal. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program identified the Jefferson Hill Potential Conservation Area as the largest bristlecone

stand ever documented (3,630 ac). Recreation opportunities are primarily semi-primitive non-motorized and include backpacking, camping, hiking, and horseback riding. Non-motorized recreation along the Colorado Trail and the West Jefferson Trail is popular for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Motorized and non-motorized watercraft use is popular on Jefferson Lake, which is surrounded by the CRA. Jefferson Lake is a popular recreation fee area, containing developed campgrounds and picnic areas, reached by a long cherry-stemmed road (NFSR 37).

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area. Jefferson Lake serves as drinking water storage and a domestic water supply for the City of Aurora. Jefferson Lake is located at the center of the CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is a large amount of permitted recreational special use for outfitters-guides along the Colorado Trail for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The CRA contains a portion of the Kenosha livestock grazing allotment. Approximately 2,000 acres or 19% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The last timber harvesting in this area occurred in the 1980s. Treatments for mountain pine beetle infestations are planned in areas outside the southeast corner of the CRA. Approximately 2,000 acres or 19% of the CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that surrounds the private residences in Hall Valley.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
143 Rare 2 – 7,100		
1,400 acres of 5 Rare 2		
Total – 8,500	10,700	Acres excluded because of previous timber harvesting and existing roads.

Kreutzer-Princeton #26 (40,900 acres)

Description

The Kreutzer-Princeton CRA is approximately 10 miles west of the town of Nathrop, in Chaffee County. It is administered by the Salida Ranger District. It is within a horseshoe-shaped configuration, with Mount Kreutzer along the Continental Divide and Gladstone Ridge on the north arm, and Mount Princeton and its western ridges on the south arm. Between these two high alpine ridges, South Cottonwood Creek forms a deep forested basin. Reference landscapes include Continental Divide, the south end of Collegiate Peaks, and the south end of the Sawatch Range. The CRA provides spectacular views of the Upper Arkansas Valley, the Buffalo Peaks across the valley, Mount Princeton, Mount Harvard and the Continental Divide. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, and Douglas-fir, and riparian species along the streams. High elevation timber in the western portion is Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Other areas include lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine in the lower elevations. The Princeton chalk cliffs, and the Princeton Creek and Cottonwood Creek hot springs are well known throughout the region. Approximately 31% is alpine tundra, 27% spruce-fir, 12% rock and bare soil, 11% aspen, and 5% mixed conifer forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA is within the Canada lynx Cottonwood Pass LAU and provides potential habitat for this federally listed species. The Cottonwood Linkage Area in the CRA is one of the few movement corridors in the state for lynx across the Continental Divide. Lynx presence has been frequently documented in the CRA which is part of the second lynx denning and concentration core area in Colorado. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species) breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages; limited surveys to determine presence have been completed throughout this area. The CRA provides winter, summer and production areas for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer within the major drainages. In addition, elk and mule deer winter concentration areas and severe winter range are also present. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including Northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species), golden eagle, peregrine falcon (Forest Service sensitive species), prairie falcons, owls, and hawks as well as many neotropical migrant birds and various woodpeckers can be found. Mountain lion, black bear, mountain goat, and other wildlife species are also found there. A number of rare plant species are located here.

Three major drainages in or adjacent to the CRA provide water to Buena Vista. There is minor soil disturbance from motorized travelways in areas like the Poplar Gulch Trail or because of private property access. There are limited prehistoric Native American sites within the CRA. Mining and prospecting activities were prevalent in Mineral Basin and scattered along the South Cottonwood drainage. Historic logging and timber removal uses in the South Cottonwood area. The townsite of St. Elmo and associated Chalk Creek mining district along with the Denver, South Park and Pacific railroad grade are highly visible features. The area provides primarily

semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation with some roaded natural area along the north side of the CRA (Jones Creek, Ptarmigan Creek, and Grassy Gulch drainages). The Colorado Trail is on the eastern boundary. The Poplar Gulch Trail is semi-primitive, motorized trail connecting Chalk Creek with South Cottonwood Creek. There are many recreation opportunities including camping and fishing at Cottonwood Lake, hiking various trails, and scenic drives to Cottonwood Pass and the St. Elmo area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Cottonwood Creek contributes to the Buena Vista municipal water supply.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is heavy development along the eastern boundary (many new homes and subdivisions). The Chalk Creek drainage on the south side of the CRA has many private residences. There are some inholdings east of Mount Princeton, north of St. Elmo, and along South Cottonwood Creek. There are several recreational outfitter-guide permits issued for snowmobiling, hunting, horseback riding, and hiking. There are no known active mining claims. There is some geothermal source development associated with both Mount Princeton Hot Springs and Cottonwood Hot Springs. Roughly 2,800 acres or 7% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. The eastern edge has opportunities for fuels management in the WUI. There has been past harvesting in the Jones Creek and Ptarmigan Creek drainages. Approximately 16,800 acres or 41% of this CRA lie within the WUI. Because the north, east, and south edges are bordered by developed private ownership, the only part of the CRA not in a WUI is the western edge along the Continental Divide.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
205 Rare 2 – 29,000		
2,500 acres of 3a		
7,600 acres of 5 Rare 2		
Total – 39,100	40,900	Acres eliminated due to timber activity, and presence of roads. Acres with CRA characteristics added.

Lost Creek East #47 (14,200 acres)

1. Description

This CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Park and Jefferson counties, next to the northwest border of Lost Creek Wilderness. Access is provided from NFSTs 606, 607, 603, 126, 211, 543, 558, 560, and County Road 64, and State Highway 285. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 7,800 to 12,000 feet. Cover includes subalpine and montane forest, grass, shrubs, aspen, Douglas-fir, limber pine, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine. The 2002 Hayman Fire burned 16% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Approximately 50% is considered suitable habitat, and/or part of linkage habitat. Lynx presence has been documented. There is one USFS sensitive plant within the CRA. The CRA is characterized as an intact natural landscape of forest and aspen covered mountain-sides. There are several tributaries degraded by excess sediment. The CRA primarily provides semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are several non-motorized trails that access the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Uses within the CRA include the Buffalo Creek/Craig Meadows grazing allotment and water/irrigation diversions on several tributaries. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 740 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Lost Creek East CRA. About 2,330 acres or 16% of this CRA is suitable for timber production. Between 1966 and 1999, there were 607 acres of timber management accomplished in this area. No timber or fuels reduction projects are planned. Approximately 12,400 acres or 87% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
252 Rare 2 – 25,800	Lost Creek East – 14,200	
2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 is part of Lost Creek South	Lost Creek West – 12,300	
	Lost Creek South – 5,900	
Total – 28,200	Total – 32,400	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Lost Creek South #45 (5,900 acres)

1. Description

The Lost Creek South CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District in Park County. It borders the extreme south and southwestern boundary of the Lost Creek wilderness two miles north of Ute Creek to Pilot Peak in the south. The boundary follows the Forest boundary and the Tarryall River along the southwest and the Matakak Road (Park County Road 211) in the south. Access to this CRA is by the Tarryall Road (Park County Road 77) and the Matakak Road. Trail access is by three major routes that cross the CRA from three separate trailheads along the Tarryall Road into the Lost Creek wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The predominate landscape features range from lower elevation riparian areas and meadows adjacent to the Tarryall Creek (8,200 feet) to higher elevation forested and rocky environments in the Lost Creek Wilderness (10,624 feet). Vegetation is primarily a montane forest of ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas-fir, which extends to the boundary of the Lost Creek wilderness. Riparian communities exist along Ute and Sand Creeks; stands of limber pine are adjacent to Beaver Dam Creek. A minor component of bristlecone pine, aspen, and spruce/fir are in the CRA. Portions of the south end of the CRA were burned in the 2002 Haymen Fire.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). The CRA is in the Lost Creek LAU and provides suitable winter and movement habitat for Canada lynx. The central portion of the CRA contains a bighorn sheep lambing area, and a summer-winter concentration area. A bighorn sheep migration corridor is in the northern portion of the CRA. The CRA is in a summer concentration area for black bear; the southern portion of the CRA is within a fall concentration area. The CRA provides summer and winter range for elk, and mule deer. The northwest and southern portions provide mule deer severe winter and winter concentration areas, respectively. The southern portion of the CRA is within the range of wild turkey.

Recreational uses range from hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and mountain biking, to some dispersed OHV use in the southern portion. The dispersed recreation includes motorized and non-motorized uses. Non-motorized use occurs predominately on National Forest system trails crossing through the CRA into the Lost Creek Wilderness. NFST 629 (Ute Creek Trail) begins at the Ute Creek trailhead, crossing the CRA 1.2 miles before entering the wilderness; NFST 607 (Brookside-McCurdy Trail) begins at the Twin Eagles trailhead, crosses the CRA 4.5 miles before entering the wilderness; and NFST 658 (Lizard Rock Trail) begins at the Spruce Grove trailhead, crosses the CRA 2.2 miles before entering the wilderness. Dispersed motorized recreation takes place in the southern portion on non-system routes beginning from the Matakak Road (Park County Road 211). Types of uses are predominately ATV and motorcycle riding. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Many recreation special use authorizations are permitted on National Forest system routes and non-system routes, ranging from hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing and mountain biking, ATV, and motorcycle riding. The southern portion of the CRA is in the Matakak pasture of the Wigwam C and H livestock grazing allotment, currently permitted. There is no active livestock grazing in the northern portion of CRA. The southern portion of the CRA is popular for crystal mining; several plans of operations and claims are established in and adjacent to the CRA. Approximately 1,060 acres or 18% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,100 acres or 88% of the CRA is within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
252 Rare 2 – 25,800 2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 is part of Lost Creek South	Lost Creek East – 14,200 Lost Creek West – 12,300 Lost Creek South – 5,900	Acres with CRA characteristics were added (north of Ute Creek to the southern boundary); acres reduced due to timber treatment activities, previously roaded areas and permitted gemstone mining operations.
Total – 28,200	Total – 32,400	

Lost Creek West #46 (12,300 acres)

1. Description

The Lost Creek West CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This 12,300 acre CRA features both montane and parklands ecosystems, following the Tarryall Mountains from Sugar Loaf Mountain in the south to North Tarryall Peak, to Kenosha Pass in the North. Dominate landscape features include, North Tarryall Peak at 11,902 feet, located in the northwestern end of the Tarryall Mountains. This CRA is split; the majority of it is separated by Park County Road 56 /NFSR 56 (Lost Park Road) from an area in the extreme north adjacent to the Lost Creek Wilderness, running from Kenosha Creek, south through the

Johnson Gulch drainage to Rock Creek. A small isolated area of 373 acres adjacent to the Lost Park Wilderness, just southeast of NFST 609 (Long Gulch) trailhead, is also included. On the southern end, the CRA includes Sugarloaf Mountain (9,951 feet) and is directly adjacent to the Lost Creek Wilderness. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The vegetation is predominately Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir mixed with stands of bristlecone pine and limber pine. There are some areas of aspen and ponderosa pine mixed with Douglas-fir in the lower elevation areas to the southwest. Old House Creek and many other tributaries of Tarryall Creek have their headwaters in this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is located within the Kenosha Pass and Lost Creek LAUs and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx. The far northern portion of the CRA is in the Kenosha Pass linkage area, which provides for north-south and east-west movements of lynx near Kenosha Pass. The CRA also has bighorn sheep and northern goshawk, and is located adjacent to sites of the plant Porter’s feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*). The CRA is in the summer and winter range of elk and mule deer, while the central and southern portions of the CRA are within the summer-winter range of bighorn sheep. The CRA is directly west of elk calving and bighorn sheep lambing areas in the Lost Creek Wilderness. A severe wintering area for mule deer and a bighorn sheep migration corridor are also in the far southern portion of the CRA. The CRA also contains habitat for black bear and mountain lion.

Dispersed camping is popular along NFSR 56 (Lost Park Road), particularly during fall big game hunting season, as well as off of old timber roads in the area northeast of North Tarryall Peak. Recreation opportunities exist for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking through the CRA along NFST 655 (Nate Stultz Trail), or along NFST 1776 (Colorado Trail) in the northeast corner. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is livestock grazing in the Lost Park and Craig Park C and H livestock grazing allotments. These allotments are run together under a single permit. Ten of the 15 pastures of these two allotments are in the CRA. Approximately 6,000 acres or 49% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production.. During the 1980s and 1990s, timber harvesting occurred within this CRA. Approximately 4,430 acres or 36% of the CRA is in the WUI that surrounds private land and residences along Park County Road 77.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
252 Rare 2 – 25,800	Lost Creek East – 14,200	
2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2 is part of Lost Creek South	Lost Creek West – 12,300	
	Lost Creek South – 5,900	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.
Total – 28,200	Total – 32,400	

Methodist Mountain #20 (7,000 acres)

1. Description

The Methodist Mountain CRA is at the northernmost end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, north and west of the summit of Methodist Mountain and east of Poncha Pass. The CRA is immediately south of Salida and very visible from town. It is in Chaffee County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. The CRA boundary extends to the Forest boundary on the north. On the east, the CRA is bounded by an unpaved road accessing the summit of Methodist Mountain; except for this road corridor, the CRA is essentially contiguous with the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. Reference landscapes include the north end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the south end of the Upper Arkansas valley. The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F) with elevation ranges from 7,500 to 14,000 ft. Landforms include mountains and a few valley plains. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are this sections major landform feature. This CRA has a rich diversity of lower, mid, and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation types range from pinyon-juniper at lower elevations to Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and Douglas-fir in the upper elevations. Approximately 26% is mixed conifer, 16% spruce-fir, 13% aspen, 13% ponderosa pine, 12% mountain shrub, 11% bristlecone/limber pine, and 7% pinyon-juniper forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened) which is in the Canada lynx Sangre LAU. Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. Unsurveyed northern goshawk suitable habitat is found within this CRA. Gunnison sage grouse likely use portions of this CRA for summer and fall brood rearing in riparian and sagebrush habitats. This CRA is immediately adjacent in a Gunnison Sage grouse reintroduction site in the Poncha Pass area. Elk and mule deer winter concentration areas are present. An elk production area and an elk migration corridor pass just to the south of the area. The CRA provides a key migration corridor for lynx and other wildlife, connecting large areas of suitable habitat along the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains with even

larger areas in the Sawatch/Cochetopa Hills west of Poncha Pass. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, and hawks, as well as Neotropical birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, and other wildlife species are also found.

The CRA is naturally appearing throughout, without any significant or notable features. From the CRAs ridgeline, the viewer enjoys extensive vistas southward into the San Luis Valley as far as the New Mexico border and to the north the viewer can see the Arkansas River Valley, framed by the snow-capped 14,000 foot peaks of the Sawatch Range. The CRA is designated semi-primitive, motorized. NFST 1336 (Rainbow Trail), a single track motorized trail, runs along the northern boundary of the CRA. Recreation includes hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. Historic mining and railroad activity have taken place along the western boundary of the CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). NFSRs 106 and 124 are adjacent to the CRA and contribute a minor amount of sediment to Sand Gulch and Kings Gulch. Limited prehistoric Native American sites are within this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are special use permits issued for outfitter-guides. The CRA is bounded by private land along the northern edge. The top (south side) of Methodist Mountain has a large communications site on it. There is a mine adjacent to the CRA on the northwest edge. Poncha Hot Springs produces geothermal activity on the northwest edge of the CRA. Approximately 1,200 acres or 18% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,500 acres or 78% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,000 acres of 266 Rare 2	7,000	Acreage changes were to tie the CRA boundary to the forest boundary.

Mount Antero #24 (38,700 acres)

1. Description

Mount Antero CRA is located in Chaffee County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. It is between Chalk Creek and the South Arkansas River. It is dominated by Mount Antero (one of the 14,000 foot peaks) and includes a number of other high peaks, such as White Mountain, Jones Peak and Mount Shavano. These peaks are all visible as one looks west from the Arkansas River Valley. Reference landscapes include the south end of the Sawatch Range, Mount Antero to the east, and the Continental Divide to the west. The south and east boundaries of the area roughly follow NFSR 240 and the Colorado Trail. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Vegetation is predominately alpine tundra, but there are areas of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, spruce-fir, and aspen. Approximately 30% is rock and bare soil, 26% alpine tundra, 20% spruce-fir, 9% lodgepole pine, 5% bristlecone/limber pine, 5% mixed conifer, and 4% aspen forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. This CRA provides potential habitat for the federally listed Canada lynx (threatened). Lynx presence in the CRA is documented. It is part of the second lynx denning/concentration core area in the state and within portions of two Canada lynx LAUs (Monarch Pass and Cottonwood Pass). There is a population of the federally listed greenback cutthroat trout (threatened) in a watershed south of the North Fork of the South Arkansas River. The CRA also provides habitat for Forest Service sensitive species such as the Northern Goshawk and boreal toad. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages. Northern goshawks occur in the area. Some rare ferns, Colorado larkspur, and red columbine are among the rare plant species found in this CRA

Lower elevations provide abundant habitat for black bear, mountain lion, deer, and elk. The area provides severe winter range habitat for mule deer within the major drainages, and elk and mule deer winter concentration areas. There are several large elk production areas. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep are found across most of the CRA. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including golden eagles, peregrine falcon, owls, and hawks, as well as various Neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. The CRA provides high scenic values from the Arkansas Valley with numerous peaks over 13,000 feet. Most of the CRA is above timberline. When viewed in the foreground there is ample evidence of past mining or exploration with the highest concentrations near Mount Antero, Mount White, Hancock, Pomeroy Lakes, and St. Elmo. The CRA is known for gemstones. Some active mines nearby continue to produce gem stones such as aquamarine, smoky quartz and blue beryl. A cherry-stemmed road to the top of the mountain provides rock hounds with access to the best gem areas. Recreation use has been, and continues to be, a significant use of this area. Most of the CRA is semi-primitive non-motorized, with some semi-primitive motorized accessing Grizzly Lake and Pomeroy

Lakes. Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Water draining from the CRA feeds both North Fork Reservoir and Boss Lake, part of the Salida water supply system.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is surrounded by other NFS lands but includes many patented mining claims as private inholdings. The Browns Creek, Chalk Creek and Arkansas livestock grazing allotments are included in the eastern parts of the CRA. There are many outfitter-guide special use permits issued for this CRA. There is active mining activity on Mount Antero and Mount White. There is geothermal development and exploration along Chalk Creek. Approximately 1,900 acres or 5% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Much of the accessible stands have been cut to support mining activities in the early 1900s. During the last decade significant salvage harvesting occurred in response to the mountain pine beetle infestation outside of the eastern boundary of the CRA. Approximately 6,900 acres or 18% of this CRA lie within the WUI from private development along Chalk Creek valley and the eastern forest boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
261 Rare 2 – 33,200 5,800 acres of 5 Rare 2 Total – 39,000	38,700	Acreage removed due to roads to accommodate mining and recreation activities. Acreage added: unroaded area south of Mount Shavano; meets the CRA criteria.

Mount Elbert #30 (23,800 acres)

1. Description

Mount Elbert CRA is in Lake County, and in the Leadville Ranger District. It is accessed by NFSR 110 and Highway 82. Mount Massive Wilderness is just the north of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. Plant communities are primarily of alpine tundra, barren rock and wetlands, although there is lodgepole pine, bristlecone pine and limber pine, aspen, Douglas-fir, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir around the edges, especially in the eastern portion of the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Quality lynx habitat exists within the moist forested portions of the CRA. Wildlife includes bighorn sheep that can be found across the area and on the south facing slopes in winter, and there is a large lambing area on the south side. Animal communities include elk and mule deer summer and winter range. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat exists over a large portion of the CRA. There are 2,460 meters (1.5 miles) of Halfmoon Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River, within the Mount Elbert CRA. Tributaries are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. Mount Elbert CRA is most famous for its namesake, the highest peak in Colorado. At 14,433 feet, Mount Elbert is one of several fourteeners on the Sawatch Range southwest of Leadville. The CRA is managed for non-motorized recreation, although there is one “cherry-stemmed” jeep route that has been excluded from the CRA that follows South Half Moon Creek up to the Iron Mike mine high on the northwest side. There are several trailheads on the south and east of this CRA, with two leading to the summit of Mount Elbert. Campgrounds on three sides of the CRA and at Twin Lakes Reservoir serve the many hikers and climbers who visit. The trails are heavily used, but most of the CRA is inaccessible to anyone except the most dedicated bushwhacker. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There is the potential for landowners to request motorized access in the southern portion of the CRA due to private inholdings. Current mining activities occur immediately adjacent to the southeast border of this CRA on private land. Approximately 1,300 acres or 6% along the eastern portion of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 9,000 acres or 38% of this CRA lie within the WUI. WUI treatments scheduled to begin in about three years will occur adjacent to private lands and will be limited to hand-treatments and pile burning.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
260 Rare 2 – 2,500 18,800 acres of 3a Total – 21,300	23,800	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Mount Evans #50 (15,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Park County, Colorado, next to the southern part of the Mount Evans Wilderness. The CRA is accessed from NFST 603 (Rosalie), 604, or 636 and NFSR 102, 105, and 107. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,600 to 10,960 feet. Vegetation consist of subalpine and montane forests, including forbs, grass, rock, shrubs, mountain mahogany, willow, aspen, Douglas-fir, spruce, bristlecone , limber, lodgepole, and ponderosa pines.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (Colorado Natural Heritage Program) ranked two Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) very high or high biodiversity significance. The Geneva Park North PCA has a Bristlecone pine stand. The CRA contains lynx habitat (81%) or linkage areas (19%), deer and elk winter range habitat, boreal toad habitat and at least 7 Forest Service sensitive plants. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas within the CRA. The CRA has expansive intact natural landscape of forest and aspen covered mountains. The 2002 Black Mountain Fire burned <1% of this unit. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are no roads or motorized trails within this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver metropolitan area. The Elk Creek tributaries have been degraded by excess sediment.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Geneva, Crow Gulch, and Elk Creek grazing allotments are within the CRA. There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals such as topaz, quartz, and amazonite in the CRA. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 760 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Mount Evans CRA. About 2,400 acres or 15% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Between 1948 and 1997, 1,330 acres of timber management were accomplished in this area. Approximately 10,900 acres or 71% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
145 Rare 2 – 14,000	15,400	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Mount Massive #31 (1,400 acres)

1. Description

The Mount Massive CRA is on the north side of the Mount Massive Wilderness and southwest of Turquoise Reservoir. It is in Lake County on the Leadville Ranger District. The Sawatch Mountain Range is a reference landscape. Access is primarily from NFSR 105 (Hagerman Pass Road). It is bordered to the north by roads, Tri-State Power transmission lines, and diversion tunnels, and remains of the old Midland Railroad tracks. These are old railway lines that date back to the 1800s and ran from Leadville to Coaldale are still present to the west near Hagerman Pass. Turquoise Lake recreation area is located to the east of this CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. It is bordered to the south by high alpine mountains with the steep terrain of the Mt. Massive Wilderness. Plant communities are primarily spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, and alpine habitats.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Quality lynx habitat is found in the forested portions of the CRA. There is white-tailed ptarmigan habitat along the Continental Divide in the western portion of the CRA. Historic logging and wildfire scars are still evident in the eastern portion of the CRA. Recreation includes hiking, biking, horseback riding, and outside the CRA there are opportunities for fishing and boating on Turquoise Lake, historic interpretation, and developed camping. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 300 acres or 22% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
259 Rare 2 – 1,000	1,400	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Pikes Peak East #58 (13,300 acres)

1. Description

The Pikes Peak East CRA is located on the eastern and northern slopes of Pikes Peak in El Paso County. It is administered by the Pikes Peak Ranger District. The CRA is located on the northern and eastern slope of Pikes Peak. The Pikes Peak East CRA is separated from the Pikes Peak West CRA by the Pikes Peak Highway and recreation corridor. Access by motor vehicle is by NFSR 334 (Pikes Peak Highway); by the privately-run Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway; and by hiking on NFST 620 (Barr Trail) NFST 661 (Severy Creek Trail) and a number of connecting trails. Pikes Peak, at an elevation of 14,115 feet, represents one of Colorado's most distinctive geographic features. Pikes Peak is a well known landmark to Native Americans. During the early settlement of the western United States it served as an important symbol to early pioneers of westward expansion and the Frontier. In present times, the importance of Pikes Peak is represented by its historic significance and its value as a unique recreational resource.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 8,500 feet to 13,900 feet in the CRA. Rising over 6,000 feet from the western edge of the Colorado plains, the CRA extends into three major life zones of montane, subalpine and alpine zones providing habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species. Pikes Peak begins at the foothills life zone with juniper, and shrubs species (mountain mahogany, Rocky Mountain maple, shrubby cinquefoil, and squawbush), and continues up through the montane life zone with quaking aspen, Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests. In the upper montane life zone, there are aspen, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and spruce/fir forests. At higher elevations, the subalpine life zone is predominantly limber pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Above timberline, from approximately 11,500 feet to the summit of Pikes Peak, is the alpine life zone. Forests near timberline are dwarfed and gnarled by strong winds and heavy snow forming what is known as Krummholz. The bristlecone pine in the south slope area of Pikes Peak is among the oldest living plants in Colorado; studies indicate the trees are approximately 1,200 to 2,400 years old.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The alpine area contains many low-growing, rapid seed-producing plants, including fairy primrose, alpine forget-me-nots, bistort, bluegrass and sedges. Bighorn sheep and isolated population of marmot, pika, and ptarmigan occur on Pikes Peak East and represent the extreme eastern extent of their occurrence on the Pike National Forest. The CRA has habitat suitable for bald eagle winter range and is designated critical habitat for the federally listed Mexican spotted owl (threatened). Other wildlife species in the CRA include black bear, elk, mule deer, and mountain lion. Severy Creek has one of the three remaining genetically pure strains of greenback cutthroat trout. The CRA also supports habitat for slender moonwort (*Botrychium lineare*) and also Rocky Mountain alpine parsley (*Oreoxis humilis*), an endemic species to the alpine tundra on Pikes Peak. The CRA has high scenic quality and can be viewed from various locations along the Pikes Peak Highway, the Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway, and from several hiking trails. Outside of the CRA as viewed from the east, the CRA and Pikes Peak massive represent the scenic backdrop of communities of the Colorado Front Range. Within the CRA are the historic Fremont Experimental Forest, very old Bristlecone pine specimens, and the Sachtett Mountain Botanical Area. A portion of the Hurricane Canyon Research Natural Area (487 acres) is located within the CRA and provides a remnant example of the original montane forests on the east slope of the Front Range.

The majority of the CRA is semi-primitive non-motorized; some areas along the southern boundary are classified as roaded natural, and along the western boundary as rural. Recreational access to the CRA is by motor vehicle on the Pikes Peak Toll Road, by train on the Cog Railway, and by hiking on NFST 664 (Crags Trail), 620 (Barr Trail), and a number of connecting trails. There is a moderate to high level of year-round recreation use within the CRA. Adjacent to the CRA, the summit of Pikes Peak above the 14,000 foot contour is designated a National Historic Landmark and a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Almost all of the NFS lands identified in this CRA, including the Pikes Peak watershed, were Congressionally Designated in 1913 as the watershed for Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. There are 31,060 meters (19 miles) of Fountain Creek and tributaries above Monument Creek, within Pikes Peak East CRA Tributaries identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 90% of the NFS lands identified in the Pikes Peak East CRA were reserved as "Municipal Water Supplies" by Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture for the purposes of storing and conserving the water supply for the Town of Cascade, Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. Collectively the municipal watershed reserves are referred as 1913 and 1914 Municipal Watershed lands. Municipal watershed lands within the CRA are reserved from all forms of location or entry. Associated with the management of the municipal watershed are a wide range of special use permits for operation and maintenance of improvements for conveying water. Approximately 200 acres of non-federal lands (isolated parcels) in the CRA's boundary have been excluded. Livestock grazing in the CRA is prohibited.

Numerous recreation special use permits are issued annually for a variety of recreation activities. Approximately 3,500 service days are approved annually. Barr Camp is located adjacent to Barr Trail at an elevation of 10,200 feet. Barr Camp provides lodging and

assistance to Barr Trail hikers. Prior to reservation of the Forest Reserve in 1892 and proclamation of the National Forest in 1907, lands within the CRA lured prospectors and explorers in search of deposits of precious metals. These prospecting activities resulted in the gold rush “Pikes Peak or Bust” of the mid-1800’s. Significant deposits of precious metals were eventually located outside the CRA leading to the development of the Cripple Creek mining district. Remnants of over 2,000 mining claims within the CRA provide evidence throughout the CRA of this mining activity, including recorded historical elements of Oil Creek tunnel. The majority of the CRA is withdrawn from mineral entry. Approximately 8,100 acres or 61% of the CRA is in the WUI. An analysis of the fuels conditions within the CRA is underway and will consider treatment alternatives to minimize the impacts of wildfire to this congressionally designated watershed and the associated community water system infrastructure for Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
257 Rare 2 – 12,700	13,300	Added acres met the CRA criteria.

Pikes Peak West #57 (14,100 acres)

1. Description

The West Pikes Peak CRA is on the west and southwest slopes of Pikes Peak in Teller County and western portions of El Paso County 10 miles south of Woodland Park and 15 miles east of Colorado Springs. It is administered by the Pikes Peak Ranger District. This CRA provides challenging and varied recreational opportunities within a short distance of a major metropolitan area. Visitors can find solitude because of the limited number of trails and extreme topography and scenery amid spectacular rock formations. The CRA can be accessed from NFSR 383 and NFST 664 and 704. Pikes Peak, at an elevation of 14,115 feet, represents one of Colorado’s most distinctive geographic features. Pikes Peak a well known landmark to Native Americans and during the early settlement of the western United States it served as an important symbol to early pioneers of westward expansion and the Frontier. In present times, the importance of Pikes Peak is represented by its historic significance and its value as a unique recreational resource.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 9,400 feet to 13,580 feet. Vegetation includes alpine tundra, aspen, bristlecone and limber pine, spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, Gambel oak shrubland, montane grasslands, and riparian communities. Five life zones are in this elevation range, providing habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species. Pikes Peak massif begins at the foothills life zone with pinyon pine, juniper, and shrubs, and continues up through the montane life zone with aspen, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests. In the upper montane life zone, there are aspen, lodgepole pine and spruce/fir forests. At higher elevations, the subalpine life zone is predominantly Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Above timberline, from approximately 11,500 feet to the summit of Pikes Peak, is the alpine life zone. The area is drained by numerous streams including the headwaters of Catamount Creek, Fourmile Creek, and the West Fork of Beaver Creek.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Wildlife in the area include bighorn sheep and their lambing and winter concentration areas, elk including calving areas, native trout, and peregrine falcons. Pikes Peak is home to the greenback cutthroat trout, a Federally Threatened fish species. It occurs in one drainage, on the east face of Pikes Peak. One of the south slope reservoirs adjacent to this proposed CRA was used for brood rearing for the Greenback cutthroat trout. The Rocky Mountain alpine parsley is a Forest Service sensitive species that is endemic to the alpine tundra on Pikes Peak. Topography has precluded active management of any type in the Pikes Peak Watershed, except for 13,000 acres of land owned by the City of Colorado Springs Utilities and managed by the State Forest Service. The summit of Pikes Peak and western slopes of the CRA dominate the scenic backdrop from Wilkerson Pass to the nearby surrounding communities. This CRA provides challenging and varied recreational opportunities within a short distance of a major metropolitan area. Visitors can find solitude because of the limited number of trails and extreme topography and scenery amid spectacular rock formations.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Almost all of the NFS lands identified in this CRA, including the Pikes Peak watershed, were congressionally designated in 1913 as the watershed for Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. The CRA lands protect slopes above major reservoirs that are sources for domestic water supply for these communities. There are 16,420 meters (10 miles) of Fountain Creek and tributaries above Monument Creek, within Pikes Peak West CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of NF in the CRA are management in accordance to watershed agreements between the Forest Service and City. Pikes Peak Watershed consists of nearly 13,000 acres owned by the city of Colorado Springs in parcels known as North Slope, South Slope, Longs Ranch, and Rosemont. National Forest System lands surround these city owned and managed inholdings. There are a wide range of Special Use Permits issued by the U.S. Forest Service to the City of Colorado Springs for management of the water system on National Forest System lands. The Four-Mile Livestock Grazing Allotment located in western and southern portions of the CRA is currently

grazed annually from August through September. Numerous recreation special use permits are issued annually for a variety of recreation activities. Approximately 3,000 recreation service days are approved annually. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 150 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the Pikes Peak West CRA. About 550 acres or 4% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Approximately 11,600 acres or 82% of the CRA is in the WUI. An analysis of the fuels conditions within the CRA is underway. The analysis area encompasses approximately 122,000 acres on the Pikes Peak Ranger District, including the in-holdings held by Colorado Springs Utilities.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
258 Rare 2 – 9,700	14,100	Added acres met the CRA criteria.

Porphyry Peak #21 (3,900 acres)

1. Description

The Porphyry Peak CRA is at the southern end of the Sawatch Range west of Poncha Pass. The CRA is between Marshall Pass and Poncha Pass. It is located in Saguache County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. NFST 1407 (Silver Creek Trail) and 1336 (Rainbow Trail) are along the northern boundary. The CRA is within South-Central Highlands Eco-Section (M331G) with elevations ranging from 7,545 to 14,110 feet. This eco-section is characterized by steeply sloping to precipitous mountains dissected by many narrow stream valleys with steep gradients. Vegetation is mostly lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, with bristlecone pine, aspen and some spruce-fir forest on the western higher slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx have been frequently documented in this CRA, which is in the middle of the Poncha Pass to Monarch Pass lynx linkage, and in the Monarch Pass LAU. There is suitable boreal toad breeding habitat. Northern goshawks are found in this CRA. Gunnison sage grouse use this area for summer and fall brood-rearing. The CRA is adjacent to the reintroduction area for Gunnison sage grouse, and is used by the grouse for rearing broods. Along the north side, the riparian areas of Silver Creek and its tributaries provide excellent wildlife habitat. Bighorn sheep can be found in the upper elevations in the summer. The CRA provides elk, and mule deer severe winter range habitat areas and winter concentration areas. There is a new and expanding population of moose. Several raptors, including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found in this CRA. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk, Townsend’s big-eared bat, and other wildlife species are also found.

The landscape is natural in appearance, but the scenic quality is about average. This area has had extensive livestock grazing, especially at the lower elevations. Timber harvesting has occurred adjacent to this area for many decades and mineral exploration has occurred throughout the area. Most of the CRA is semi-primitive motorized, and the southern edge is semi-primitive, non-motorized. Mountain bikers coming down NFST 11407 can connect to NFST 1336 along the northern boundary and journey over to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. NFST 1336 (Rainbow Trail), a motorized trail, runs through the CRA and is open to motorized use along the edge of the CRA, or one can travel up the very rough NFSR 8692 (Toll Road Gulch road) to the ridge line. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There is one developed spring that provides water to Silver Lakes Estates. Several active streams feed into Silver Creek from the CRA. They produce good quality water. Within the CRA the soils are in their natural state.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Silver Lakes Estates is adjacent to the CRA on the north. The Little Cochetopa Grazing Allotment covers part of the CRA. There are outfitter-guide permits for hiking, biking, and hunting. There are no active mines, only isolated exploration pits. Roughly 1,400 acres or 35% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule, there were a few small sales on the west end of the CRA. Approximately 2,600 acres or 66% of this CRA lie within the Silver Lakes Estates wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
265 Rare 2 – 3,400	3,900	Only minor additions due to mapping adjustments.

Puma Hills #43 (8,500 acres)

1. Description

Puma Hills CRA is in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This CRA, within the Puma Hills south of State Highway 24, forms the wooded edge of the high montane valley between South Park and the Tarryall Creek drainage, running from Wilkerson Pass south to Park County Road 92. The western boundary of the CRA corresponds to the National Forest boundary. Access to the CRA is by State Highway 24 or Park County Road 92. There are no system trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. The vegetation is predominately Douglas-fir mixed with some areas of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine in the lower elevation areas and a small area of mountain grasslands and meadows in the west. Boyer Gulch and Caylor Gulch both originate in this CRA and drain to Elevenmile Reservoir.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA contains mule deer and pronghorn severe winter and winter concentration areas, and a black bear summer concentration area. A black bear fall concentration area is also located within the eastern portion of the CRA. The CRA is in the summer range of bighorn sheep, and the summer and winter range of elk and mule deer; the western edge is in the winter range of pronghorn. The CRA provides habitat for mountain lion. Dominant landscape features include Pulver Mountain and Stoll Mountain. Recreational opportunities include off-trail hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, and solitude seeking. There are no system trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The western slope of the CRA drains into Elevenmile Reservoir, which provides drinking water to Denver.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA has not been authorized for domestic livestock grazing since 1979, but trespass livestock are occasionally discovered. Approximately 2,700 acres or 32% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. About 15 acres received timber management in the past. This CRA is 100% in the WUI that surrounds private land and residences along Park County Road 92. Elevenmile and Spinney Mountain Reservoirs, part of Denver Water's water system, are west and southwest of the CRA, providing excellent fishing, boating, and camping near the CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
344 Rare 2 – 8,500	8,500	No change.

Purgatoire #11 (16,000 acres)

1. Description

The Purgatoire CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Las Animas County, in the Culebra Range west of Colorado Highway 12 and south of NFSR 422 and NFSR 436 (Blue Lakes Road -Trinchera Peak Road). A cherry-stemmed exclusion containing NFSR 34 (North Fork Road), Purgatoire Campground and the North Lake State Wildlife Area lies inside the southeast corner of this CRA. Access to the north side of this CRA is available on NFSR 422, and 436; this road separates the Purgatoire CRA from the Cuchara South CRA immediately to north. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The dominant landscape feature is the broad valley formed by the North Fork of the Purgatoire River. Elevations rise from 9,000 feet along the Purgatoire River to over 13,000 feet on the main ridgeline of the Culebra Range. The vegetation transitions from alpine tundra along the spine of the Culebra Range to Engelmann spruce, aspen and white fir forests moving towards the east. Spruce and fir forests dominate the majority of this CRA; however there are continuous grassland parks and persistent aspen stands topping the broad ridge east and north of the Purgatoire River.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Lynx habitat is found in all but the highest alpine areas. Boreal owl habitat is present within the area. Suitable habitat for endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly exists on Trinchera Peak. Wildlife values include summer and fall concentrations of black bears from the east side of the CRA over to Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area. Bighorn sheep frequent the area in summer and winter, and there are two large lambing areas. Elk have summer range across the whole area, with winter range and production areas on the east side. The visual character of the landscape within this CRA is moderately distinctive for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The vegetation pattern offers visual interest and high contrast between alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and large subalpine parks. Contrasting vegetative patterns, the Purgatoire River, and the skyline of the Culebra Range are the dominant scenic features. There are only a few signs of historic logging activities near the private inholdings; otherwise this CRA offers very little evidence of human activities or disturbance.

NFST 1309 (North Fork Trail) runs for four miles through the center of the CRA, connecting the Trinchera Peak jeep road with the Purgatoire Campground. NFST 1312 and 1394 (Wildcat and Coal Creek Trails) traverse the broad ridge east of the Purgatoire River leading to private property east of the National Forest boundary. There is no longer public access from Highway 12 across these private lands, so the Wildcat and Coal Creek Trails have fallen into disuse. The trail clearing and tread-way has almost disappeared in many places along these trails. The trails within this CRA are only open for foot and horseback travel, and are not authorized for motorized trail travel. Hunting and day-trip hiking are the most popular recreation uses of this CRA.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Most of the Purgatoire CRA lies within the formally recognized municipal watershed for the City of Trinidad. There are 2,060 meters (1.2 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Purgatoire CRA identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Approximately 320 acres of private property are isolated in the center of this CRA. The only surface access to this private inholding is via the North Fork Trail. The North Fork livestock grazing allotment, which encompasses most of this CRA, has been vacant for at least 30 years. This allotment is currently proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. A jeep road (NFSR 437) leads to an abandoned mining site. The jeep road and mining location are within the cherry-stemmed exclusion that includes the North Fork Road. There are no current mining claims within the CRA. Approximately 2,200 acres or 14% of this CRA were identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,700 acres or 23% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that flanks the southern edge of the Cuchara community.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
272 Rare 2 – 13,200	16,000	Acres added to encompass areas south from the North Fork Road with CRA characteristics.

Rampart East #56 (23,600 acres)

1. Description

The Rampart East CRA is located on the South Platte and Pikes Peak Ranger District’s and lies along the eastern side of the Rampart Range north of Monument Hill. The Rampart East CRA lies along the eastern side of the Rampart Range northwest of Monument Hill, and is located in Douglas and El Paso counties, nine miles north of Woodland Park, Colorado. The CRA can be accessed from NFSRs 300 (Rampart Range Road), 324, 325, 327, and 563 (Dakan Road). This CRA is adjacent to private lands and NFS lands with a highly used motorized trail (primarily ATV and motorcycle) in addition to 4-wheel drive road areas, private road easements, and county roads. The integrity of the wildlife habitat within this CRA is very important due to the use of adjoining areas. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The physiography of the CRA is varied and consists of ridgetops and incised canyons and valley bottoms, including Bear Creek, Stark Creek and Starr Canyon on the north, Gove Creek and Metz Canyon in the middle, and East Plum Creek/Stone Canyon, and Butler Canyon to the south. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet at the mouth of Starr Canyon to 9,200 feet at Storm Peak. Bear Creek subwatershed is a reference landscape. It is a near-pristine example of a Colorado front range transition zone between montane and plains ecosystems. The majority of the CRA is typified by mixed montane coniferous forest. Because of the variation in topography, there is variation in plant and animal communities as well. Vegetation is predominantly lodgepole pine, with Douglas-fir in the southeastern portion; there are large areas of ponderosa pine on drier slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

It is the largest and least human-impacted area remaining in the Rampart Range, and forms both a critical core area for wildlife at the edge of the rapidly growing Interstate 25 (I-25) urban corridor and a critical connecting link between plains and mountain ecosystems. The area is an important wildlife linkage for numerous migrating species, including elk and mountain lion. The areas encompass about 26,400 acres of important wildlife habitat for four big game species, over 100 passerine bird species, 35 small mammal species, seven raptor species, six reptile species, three amphibian species, and multiple state and federally listed threatened and endangered species. Riparian areas along Colorado’s Front Range are the habitats that contain the state’s greatest diversity of wildlife species. The riparian areas in these modules are further enhanced by rock outcrops suitable as raptor roosts and reproduction areas. This area is also known to be important habitat for mountain lion because of the concentrations of big game animals and abundant small mammals, and for black bear due to the availability of Gambel’s oak and other forage plants within the riparian corridors.

Thirty-nine rare or imperiled species and twelve natural communities are known from the Monument Creek watershed area (Colorado Natural Heritage Program, 2001). Distribution among the taxonomic groups include the following: birds - four species, mammals - three species, insects - five species, plants - 27 species and twelve natural community types. The CRA provides occupied

habitat or potential habitat for three federally listed species: Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (threatened) occurs along drainages in and near this CRA; Mexican spotted owl (threatened), and mountain plover (candidate). The numerous riparian areas and the elevations found within this CRA support large quantities of habitat for threatened and endangered species, and is considered critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl. Drainages provide important wildlife pathways between montane and plains ecosystems. Several additional species are listed as Forest Service sensitive species. There are eight distinct soil types within the CRA, all very erosive. There is minimal evidence of human activity and disturbed areas. The interior portion of the CRA offers expansive intact natural views of steep sided valleys covered with prominent granite outcrops and conifer forest. The CRA offers a unique opportunity for visitors to experience solitude and a low-elevation ecosystem largely devoid of human impacts. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. NFSR 327 bisects the CRA, although it does dead end halfway between Rampart Range Road and the Forest boundary.

This CRA is also an important watershed for Front Range communities. This CRA encompasses the Monument Creek watershed located in northwestern El Paso County, Colorado. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet at the mouth of Starr Canyon to 9,200 feet at Storm Peak. The Monument Creek watershed is part of the Arkansas River drainage. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for the Denver Metro area. Portions of the CRA south of Cook Creek are designated and managed as Palmer Lake Watershed. In 1916 the Secretary of Agriculture established an agreement with the Town of Palmer Lake for protection of approximately 10,425 acres for preserving and protecting the water supply. “Monument Creek Watershed region was inhabited seasonally by several indigenous people groups, including the Utes, Comanches, Kiowas, Cheyenne, Arapahoes, and Sioux. Present-day Highway 24 occupies what was known as the Ute Trail, the natural pass that provided access to the rich hunting grounds of South Park. In 1892 the Pikes Peak and Plum Creek Timber Reserves were established that included 184,320 acres and 179,000 acres respectively. The Reserves were consolidated to form the Pike National Forest in 1907.” (Excerpts taken from the *Monument Creek Watershed Landscape Assessment*, 2002.)

3. Current Conditions and Uses

NFS lands are bounded by private developments north and east of the CRA and are strongly influenced by this land ownership pattern. NFS lands occur south and west of the CRA and are subject to heavy public uses. There are no grazing allotments within the CRA. Privately owned lands within the CRA are limited to less than 120 acres. Long term non-recreation special use permits include military training and access roads and telephone and or communication cables. Several recreation special use permits are issued annually for less than 100 service days. Although rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite, may be found in the area, mining activity is currently limited to the Chimney Peak area in Southern portions of the CRA. There are seven existing oil and gas leases encompassing approximately 7,500 acres issued prior to January 12, 2001. There is one existing oil and gas lease that touches on the boundary of the CRA that was issued after January 12, 2001.

About 2,000 acres or 9% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. In 1991, about five acres of timber stand improvement thinning was accomplished. Under the requirements of the 2001 Roadless Rule, the Perry Park Vegetation Treatment Project was approved in January 2004 and included thinning of 82 acres of dense forest within the CRA. Approximately 11,600 acres or 49% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
256 Rare 2 – 25,600	23,600	Acres dropped involve past management activities and associated roads.

Rampart West #55 (24,200 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is on the South Platte Ranger District in Douglas County, one mile east of Deckers. The area is accessed from NFST’s 649, 650, 653, 657, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, and 690 off County Road 67 and NFSR 300 (Rampart Range Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 6,600 to 9,000 feet. Vegetation cover includes forbs, grass, rushes, sedges, rock, shrubs, mountain mahogany, aspen, blue spruce, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and spruce. The 2002 Hayman and Schoonover fires burned 21% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Colorado Natural Heritage Program (Colorado Natural Heritage Program) ranked a small area the Pine Creek at South Platte a Potential Conservation Area (Potential Conservation Area) for its high biodiversity significance. It is also considered a reference landscape. The CRA has habitat for Preble’s mouse (14% non-critical and 3% critical), Pawnee montane skipper (3%), critical and restricted Mexican spotted owl habitat, and important habitat for mountain lions and black bears. Most areas have intact natural views of granite mountain terrain covered with conifer forests. Areas where motorized trails and OHV use is concentrated have semi-natural views. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive motorized or non-motorized. The CRA covers part of the Rampart Range Motorized Area,

a very popular motorized trail network. Approximately 49 miles of motorized trail work has been approved under the Rampart Range Recreation Area Motorized Roads and Trail Decision Notice. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite, within the CRA. About 3,850 acres or 16% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. Between 1969 and 1999, 1,180 acres of timber management were accomplished in this area. Approximately 13,000 acres or 54% of the CRA is in the WUI. Under the Upper South Platte Watershed Restoration and Protection Project, 1450 acres of the CRA is approved for watershed restoration and fuels treatment. This project was approved prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule designation, with implementation continuing in the area under the requirements of the 2001 Roadless Rule. Trout Creek and tributaries are on are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. Pine and Sugar creeks are on the monitoring and evaluation list.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
255 Rare 2 – 23,700	24,200	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Romley #25 (7,700 acres)

1. Description

The Romley CRA lies between the Kreuzer-Princeton and Mount Antero CRAs and south of the historic town of St. Elmo. It is in Chaffee County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. The CRA is part of the Sawatch Range, along the Continental Divide which forms the western and part of the southern boundary. The headwaters of the North Fork of Chalk Creek are located on the north boundary and Chalk Creek on the east boundary. Tincup Pass is the northern limit of the CRA. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This CRA contains a rich diversity of high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation includes alpine tundra (47%), alpine wetlands, spruce-fir (36%), aspen, rock (12%) and bare soil.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been frequently documented using this area and it is part of the second lynx denning/concentration core area in the state. It is within the Canada lynx Cottonwood Pass LAU. This CRA contains a portion of the most important boreal toad (Forest Service Sensitive Species) breeding sites that are disease free in the southern Rocky Mountain sub-population in the state. Considerable areas of additional suitable boreal toad breeding habitat are also present in several of the higher elevation drainages; limited surveys to determine presence have been completed throughout this area. Northern goshawk (Forest Service Sensitive Species) is also found within this CRA. This area provides summer range for elk and mule deer. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, mountain goat, and other wildlife species are also found.

Most of the area has been classified for semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation. Recreation opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. The CRA includes the headwaters of Chalk Creek, a reference landscape. It is also within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

Mining and railroad was the predominant activity with numerous historic structure and features scattered throughout the area. The DSP&P, the Mary Murphy Mine and the town site of St. Elmo, Romley and Hancock define the history of this area. The town site of St. Elmo is on the National Register of Historic Places. A visit to St. Elmo will reveal one of the better preserved ghost towns left from the gold and silver days of the 1880s. St. Elmo was serviced by a branch of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad, as were many other mining towns in central Colorado. The Alpine Tunnel proved an engineering feat for the railroad builders. Pomeroy Gulch, outside the eastern boundary, has been heavily mined. The Morley Bridge is designated as one of the oldest railroad bridges in Colorado. There is limited prehistoric Native American activity.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is surrounded by NFS lands. There are outfitter-guide special use permits issued for recreational use in the CRA. Roughly 1,700 acres or 22% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 3,400 acres or 44% of this CRA lie within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
206 Rare 2 – 6,900	7,700	Although some of the additional acreage includes patented mining claims, the area meets the CRA criteria.

Saint Charles Peak #5 (11,100 acres)

1. Description

The Saint Charles Peak CRA is located about 10 miles northwest of the town of Rye along the west side of State Highway 165. The CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo County. Public access into this CRA from the east is via trailheads located along Highway 165 for NFST 1318 (Snowslide), NFST 1314 (Cisneros) and NFST 1326 (Saint Charles trail). Public access from the west is via trailheads located along NFSR 369 (Greenhorn Road) for these same trails. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations rise from 9,000 feet along the eastern border to over 11,500 feet along the ridgetops near the western border. The dominant landscape feature is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Wet Mountains. The landscape drops off very steeply from this relatively flat and broad ridge down to the Saint Charles Creek, Willis Creek and Ophir Creek valleys on the south, east and north flanks respectively of this CRA. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and grasslands. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests dominate most of the CRA. Extensive wetland riparian areas are located along the gentler stream courses in the western part of this CRA. White fir, Douglas fir and aspen forests can be found at lower elevations and on south facing aspects. There are many stands of large old-growth spruce and fir within this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA provides extensive habitat for lynx denning and winter foraging. This CRA provides summer ranges for elk, deer, bear, mountain lion and wild turkey. There are several small elk calving areas within this CRA. There are nearly 10.5 miles of trails this CRA. NFST 1326 and 1314 provide good access to most parts of this CRA. NFST 1318 skirts the southern boundary of the area. Foot, horse, mountain bike, and motorized trail bike travel is authorized on these trails. The Cisneros Trail is currently being rebuilt to allow ATV travel between the Lake Isabel Recreation Area and the Greenhorn Road. In the wintertime, about 10 miles of marked and groomed snowmobile trails traverses the western part of this CRA.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 25,270 meters (15.6 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, source to CF & I diversion, within the Saint Charles Peak CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. The Marion mine, ore crusher, sawmill, and reservoir operated in the central part of this CRA from about 1885 through 1915 and intermittently thereafter until the mid-1930s. Wagon roads were built to access these early industrial facilities. The decaying tie-and-timber dam (about 12 feet high and over 100 feet in length) still holds back a small pond of water. The dam was built to supply a constant flow of water to machinery at the ore crusher, which was located about 1.5 miles southwest of the reservoir. The Marion mine and crusher are located on a private tract. This area was fairly heavily used for grazing, mining, and limited timber harvesting during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Portions of the Williams Creek and Ophir livestock grazing allotments are within the CRA. There are two private inholdings within this CRA on patented mining claims near the Marion mine, totaling about 100 acres. The landowner is currently permitted to use a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) on the Saint Charles Trail from the Lake Isabel Recreation area to access to these private tracts. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 600 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the St. Charles Peak CRA. Roughly 4,700 acres or 42% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,900 acres or 53% of this CRA are in the WUI that surrounds the residential developments along State Highway 165 and the community of San Isabel.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
340 Rare 2 – 11,600	11,100	Acres reduced due to timber harvesting activities and logging access roads (1960s and 1970s) and to exclude the electronic site on Saint Charles Peak.

Sangre de Cristo: Alvarado Campground to Music Pass #16 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

Sangre de Cristo: Alvarado Campground to Music Pass CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Custer County and is contiguous with the central part of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, from Cloverdale Basin and the Lake Creek drainage south to Hermit Pass and the Middle Taylor drainage. This CRA is located about 10 miles southwest of the town of Westcliffe. Public access to this area is via County Road 140 to the Alvarado Campground and NFST1345 and 1347 (Comanche-Venable trailheads), County Road 130 to NFST 1342 (Horn Creek trailhead), County Road 120 to NFST 1339 (lower South Colony trailhead), and County Road 119 leading to NFST 1337 (Music Pass trailhead).

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The CRA includes the landscapes below the boundary of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and above the Rainbow Trail. Elevations range from 9,400 along the Rainbow Trail to 11,400 at Music Pass. The visual character of the landscape in the central sections of the CRA, which incorporate the lower forested slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains below the wilderness boundary, is common for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. It includes, from north to south, the lower slopes of the Cottonwood, Dry, Horn, Macey, Hudson, Music and Grape Creek valleys. The slopes in this CRA are covered by dense forests of Douglas-fir and white fir, transitioning to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. Limber and bristlecone pines are found along most of the ridgelines. Several of the drainages contain sizeable stands of aspen. The vegetation pattern offers a moderate to high contrast between the dominant conifer forests, large stands of aspen and Gambel oak shrublands on south facing slopes.

2. Roadless Characteristics

This CRA contains bighorn sheep summer and winter ranges, including important lambing areas near Music Pass. Habitat for lynx denning and foraging is found throughout the forested areas of this CRA. Habitat and nesting sites for northern goshawks are also found throughout the forested areas. Cottonwood Creek has been determined to be a suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. However, past reintroduction efforts in Cottonwood Creek have produced less than pure genetic strains of this rare native fish. Potential black swift habitat exists at Crystal Falls, Macey Falls, and Dry Creek Falls. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall.

Recreation opportunities include day hiking, horseback riding, camping, and fishing, particularly in the Dry Creek Lakes, Horn Lakes, and Macey Creek drainages. The Comanche-Venable, Horn Creek, and Music Pass trailheads are major visitor access points for the Rainbow Trail and several other trails leading into the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. There are roughly 12 miles of trails within this CRA including, from north to south, the lower portions of NFST 1344 (Cottonwood Creek Trail), 1362 (Horn Peak Trail), 1343 (Dry Creek Trail), 1342 (Horn Creek Trail), 1341 (Macey Creek Trail), 1338 (Marble Mountain Trail), and 1337 (Music Pass Trail). Only foot and horse travel is authorized on these trails. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Parts of this CRA were used for livestock grazing, mining, and limited timber harvesting during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Prospecting pits and small mines are scattered throughout the CRA. However, none of these mines produced an economically viable amount of minerals and all were abandoned by the second half of the twentieth century. Several of the wagon roads built to access these early prospecting and timbering operations evolved into the recreational trails of today.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Roughly 1,100 acres or 14% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,100 acres or 55% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that borders several residential developments along the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,500 acres of 266 Rare 2	7,400	Acres removed to exclude the Lorton ditch in the South Colony drainage and allow for expansion of the Grape Creek Trailhead. Acres added to include adjoining lands (Music Pass) with CRA characteristics.

Sangre de Cristo: Blanca Peak to Slide Mountain #14 (3,900 acres)

1. Description

Sangre de Cristo: Blanca Peak to Slide Mountain CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is contiguous with the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, encompassing the northern flank of the Blanca Peak massif and the north and east facing slopes of Slide Mountain. This CRA is located about 20 miles southwest of the community of Gardner.

This CRA contains two peaks that exceed 14,000 feet in elevation, Blanca Peak and Ellingwood Point. Blanca Peak is the fourth highest summit in Colorado. The north face of Blanca Peak holds what is reputed to be the southernmost glacier in the United States. Two alpine lakes, Lily Lake and Upper Lily Lake, are located within this CRA. The visual character of the landscape within this CRA is exceptionally distinctive for the mountainous regions of Southern Colorado. The scenic vistas from the summits of Blanca Peak and Ellingwood Point towards the rest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Upper Huerfano valley, and the San Luis valley are truly inspiring. Public access to Blanca Peak area is via NFSR 580 (Upper Huerfano Road), which leads to trailheads for NFST 1301 (Huerfano), 853 (Zapata), and 1308 (Lily Lake). Public access to the Slide Mountain area starts at the Huerfano State Wildlife Area trailhead and then passes through lands acquired by the BLM in 2004 along Stanley Creek.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I) with elevations ranging from 10,000 feet on the slopes of Slide Mountain to over 14,000 feet on Blanca Peak. The terrain is highly varied between alternating alpine peaks and saddles along the Blanca Peak massif skyline, with deeply incised valleys below. The vegetation pattern offers very high contrast between massive rock faces, alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and several large subalpine parks. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and/or shape. The roadless tract immediately north of Blanca Peak is a glaciated landscape with precipitous rock cliffs, spire-like peaks and a deep U-shaped valley. The majority of this tract lies well above timberline. Rock and alpine tundra cover most of the higher elevations. The valley floor is a mixture of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests intermixed with aspen stands and riparian wetlands. The roadless tract on the northeast flank of Slide Mountain is comprised of long and relatively symmetrical slopes radiating from the cone-like summit. These slopes are almost uniformly covered by dense forests of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, transitioning to Douglas fir and white fir at the lower fringes of the area. The roadless tract encompassing Loco Flats is large and gently sloping sub-alpine grassland comprised of mostly Arizona and Thurber fescues, with scattered groups of Engelmann spruce and bristlecone pine. The roadless tract above Montez reservoir is a diverse mixture of aspen stands, sub-alpine grasslands, spruce and bristlecone pine forests on a very steep east-facing slope.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Habitat for lynx denning and foraging is found throughout the forested areas of this CRA. Habitat and nesting sites for northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) are also found throughout the forested areas. The headwaters of the Huerfano River, Strawberry Creek, Dutch Creek, and Cascade Creek are suitable streams for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout (federally threatened). However, past reintroduction efforts in Cascade Creek have produced less than pure genetic strains of this rare native fish. Gray's whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*) is a rare plant found in this CRA. This CRA contains bighorn sheep summer and winter ranges, as well as important lambing areas. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall.

This CRA provides opportunities for solitude, nature observation, and scenic vistas. Recreational activities include backcountry camping, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, mountaineering, hunting, fishing, landscape photography, and heritage tourism. The roadless tract immediately north of Blanca Peak is one of the most popular valleys for recreational activities in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Conversely, the Slide Mountain, Loco Flats and Montez roadless tracts receive very little recreational visitation outside of the fall hunting seasons. Segments of NFST 853, 1301 and 1308 pass through the CRA. These segments total roughly seven miles of trail. Only foot and horse travel is authorized on these trails.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The upper Huerfano Valley was the site of an active mining district during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. There is ample evidence of abandoned mine shafts, ore crushing equipment, derelict cabins and an old road leading to the precipitous north face of Blanca Peak. Many of these mining claims proceeded through the patent process to become private property. Over the past 10 years, the Forest Service has acquired most of these patented mining claims. However, about 100 acres of private inholdings still remain in the center of the roadless tract below the north face of Blanca Peak. The entire Blanca Peak massif is considered to be a sacred landscape by several Native American tribal groups.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Two parcels of private property, totaling about 100 acres, are isolated in the center of the roadless tract below the north face of Blanca Peak. Access to these parcels is via the Lily Lake Trail and the abandoned mining road along the valley floor. Both of these routes are currently authorized for foot and horse travel only. The three roadless tracts on the north flank of the Blanca Peak massif lie within the Huerfano livestock grazing allotment. Approximately 200 head of cattle are permitted to graze here from early July through mid September. The roadless tract on the north and east slopes of Slide Mountain is within the Slide Mountain livestock grazing allotment. This allotment has been vacant for over five years; however, there is the possibility of it being restocked after an environmental analysis and new grazing management plan are completed in 2009. Approximately 2,200 acres or 57% of the CRA are within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
500 acres of 266 Rare 2	3,900	Acres removed to exclude the Montez Reservoir and ditch, the Wooten ditch near Loco Flats, and two administrative access roads near Slide Mountain.
1,000 acres of 3a		
267 Rare 2 – 2,800		Forest Service acquired approximately 400 acres of patented mining claims on the north face of Blanca Peak.
Total – 4,300		

Sangre de Cristo: Lake Creek to Hermit Creek #17 (11,000 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: Lake Creek to Hermit Creek CRA is located about seven miles west of the town of Westcliffe, administered by the Salida and San Carlos Ranger Districts in Custer and Fremont Counties. It is contiguous with the central part of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, from Cloverdale Basin and the Lake Creek drainage south to Hermit Pass and the Middle Taylor drainage. This area serves as a buffer between the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and the private land along the bottom of the slope. The scenic vistas from the summits of Eagle, Cottonwood and Hermit peaks towards the rest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Wet Mountain valley, and the San Luis valley are inspiring. The focal points of the northern and southern sections are the four alpine basins (Silver, Horseshoe, Hermit and Eureka lakes) at the head of Lake Creek and Middle Taylor Creek respectively. This CRA also holds three summits exceeding 13,000 in elevation; Eagle, Cottonwood and Hermit peaks. This CRA Public access to this area is by NFSR 198 (Lake Creek Road), NFSR 173 (North Taylor Road) and NFSR 160 (Hermit Pass Road).

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) Elevations range from 9,000 feet along the eastern perimeter to over 13,000 feet on Cloverdale and Hermit passes. Rock and alpine tundra cover sizeable areas at the highest elevations. The terrain is highly varied between alpine peaks and saddles along the main Sangre de Cristo ridgeline, with deeply incised valleys below. The vegetation pattern offers very high contrast between rock faces, alpine slopes, conifer forests, aspen stands, and several large subalpine parks. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and/or shape. The central sections of the CRA incorporate the lower forested slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains below the wilderness boundary. The slopes are almost uniformly covered by dense forests of Douglas fir and white fir, transitioning to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. The dominant conifer forests, transition with scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak shrublands on south facing slopes. The Lake Creek and Middle Taylor Creek valleys are a mixture of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests intermixed with aspen stands and riparian wetlands. There are large stands of lodgepole pine throughout the mid elevations of the Lake Creek drainage.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Habitat for lynx denning and foraging is found throughout the forested areas of this CRA. Habitat and nesting sites for northern goshawk are also found throughout the forested areas. North Taylor Creek is a suitable stream for reintroducing greenback cutthroat trout. However, past reintroduction efforts in North Taylor Creek have produced less than pure genetic strains of this rare native fish. This CRA contains bighorn sheep summer and winter ranges. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall. The Lake Creek and Middle Taylor Creek drainages both contain a long cherry-stemmed road corridor, through the center of both the north and south sections of this CRA. Anglers and backcountry motorized campers heavily use the four-wheel drive roads and the surrounding lakes and peaks within this CRA. The South Lake Creek drainage does not have a NFS road or trail. A non-system trail used mostly by hunters leads to a rocky, seldom-visited valley below Eagle Peak. Lack of direct public access across private land to the east of the National Forest boundary between the Gibson Creek trailhead and the Brush Creek trailhead makes the central section of this CRA a relatively less visited area compared with others on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. There are roughly nine miles of trails within this CRA, including NFST 1354 (Silver Lake Trail), 752 (Cloverdale Basin Trail), 1353 (Hermit Lake Trail), and the lower portions of 1355 (South Brush Trail) and 1350 (Texas Creek Trail). Foot and horse travel is authorized on all of these trails. In addition, mountain bikes are allowed on NFST 1354 and 1353.

This area produces high quality water from the four alpine lakes. The soil is only disturbed in those few areas where mining or timber harvesting have occurred. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Parts of this CRA were heavily used for livestock grazing, mining, and limited timber harvesting during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Cloverdale mine operated in the northern part of this CRA during the late 1800s and then intermittently until the mid-1990s. The Rito Alto mine on the west side of Hermit Pass has a similar history. The wagon roads built to access these early mining facilities eventually became the four-wheel drive roads of today.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

There are half a dozen current mining claims within this CRA near the Cloverdale mine. The Colorado State Land Board has approximately 10 acres of mineral interest that underlies Forest Service surface ownership within the CRA. Roughly 1,900 acres or 17%

of this CRA are identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 9,400 acres or 86% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that borders several residential developments along the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
3,900 acres of 266 Rare 2 4,000 acres of 3a Total – 7,900	11,000	Acres removed to exclude Hatley and Lake Creek Association ditches, timber harvesting areas/ logging access roads in the Stover Gulch area, NFSR 173 and old Conquistador / Mountain Cliffe Ski Area; Acres added from consolidation of small blocks into one designated area, and to include adjoining lands with CRA characteristics (Hermit Pass and Big Cottonwood Creek).

Sangre de Cristo: Medano Pass to Carbonate Mountain #15 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: Medano Pass to Carbonate Mountain CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano County and is contiguous with the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, from Medano Pass south to Mount Zwischen, Mosca Pass and Carbonate Mountain. This CRA is located about 15 miles west of the community of Gardner. Public access to this area is via NFSR 559 (Medano Pass Road) and NFSR 583 (Mosca Pass Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. The dominant landscape feature in this CRA is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The forested slopes drop steeply to the rolling grasslands below. Elevations range from 9,000 along the eastern border to over 12,000 feet on Mount Zwischen and Carbonate Mountain. Vegetation includes a broad mix of forest types including bristlecone and limber pines, Engelmann spruce, subalpine, white and Douglas firs, and large contiguous stands of aspen on the flanks of Carbonate Mountain. There are several stands of large old-growth bristlecone and limber pines within this CRA, most notably in the Mount Zwischen and Dry Lakes areas.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Lynx denning and wintering habitat is somewhat scattered along the narrow band of forest that runs the length of this CRA. However, the whole area has been identified as an important linkage between lynx habitat on the west side of the San Luis Valley and habitat in the Wet Mountains to the east. Because of the relatively low elevation of the Sangre de Cristo crest in this area, it forms a natural wildlife migration corridor between the Upper Huerfano Valley and the San Luis Valley. Deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear frequent this CRA from spring through fall. The foothills and grasslands to the east of this CRA provide an important elk wintering range and a pronghorn migration route. There are no NFS trails within the roadless tracts identified with this CRA. However, several non-system trails provide access for hunters and livestock grazing. Some of these well-established trails lead from NFSR 559 to Dry Lake, from Poison Creek to Pantleon Creek, and from Mosca Pass to the summit of Carbonate Mountain. The lack of public easements through the private lands along the eastern flanks of this CRA greatly restricts public access to much of the CRA. Except for big game hunting during the late summer and fall, recreation use of this CRA is light to non-existent. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Both Medano and Mosca Passes were key routes for Native American tribes and early European explorers.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

One parcel of private property (about 30 acres) is isolated in the center of the CRA just to the east of Carbonate Mountain. There is currently no road or trail access leading to this private property. The Muddy Creek livestock grazing allotment encompasses the northern part of this CRA near Medano Pass. This allotment has been vacant for over 20 years; it is proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. The Pantleon livestock grazing allotment encompasses the central part of this CRA to the north of Mosca Pass. A portion of the Huerfano livestock grazing allotment is included within the southern part of this CRA near Carbonate Mountain. Roughly 2,100 acres or 27% of this CRA is identified as being suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 2,600 acres or 34% of the CRA is within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
4,700 acres of 266 Rare 2 2,100 acres of 5 Rare 2 Total – 6,800	7,600	Acres removed to exclude the service road for the Hudson ditch, which is located just north of Medano Pass. Acres added to include adjoining lands with CRA characteristics (Medano Pass).

Sangre de Cristo: Silverheels Gulch to Hunts Creek #19 (6,000 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: Silverheels Gulch to Hunts Creek CRA lies at the north end of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Custer and Fremont Counties. Its southern boundary is contiguous with the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the backdrop for this area. Located between five and eight miles southeast of Salida, there is good access into the area from the Bear Creek Road and the Rainbow Trail. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. The dominant landscape feature in this CRA is the long ridgeline formed by the main spine of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The forested slopes drop steeply to the rolling grasslands below. Elevations range from 9,000 along the eastern border to over 12,000 feet. Most of the area is forested, with ponderosa pine in the lower elevations and fir along the wilderness border. Mixed in with the evergreens are many stands of aspen and some small open meadows. Approximately 30% is mixed conifer, 21% piñon-juniper, 10% mountain shrub, 10% lodgepole pine, 9% aspen, 7% mountain grassland, 6% ponderosa pine, and 4% spruce-fir forests.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been documented using this area. This area is within the Canada lynx Sangre's LAU. Not surveyed northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) suitable habitat is found within this CRA. This CRA contains a rich diversity of lower, mid, and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Elk and deer are common in this area. The CRA provides winter concentration areas and severe winter range for elk and mule deer. Several raptors including bald eagles (Forest Service sensitive species), golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk (Forest Service sensitive species), Townsend's big-eared bat (Forest Service sensitive species), turkeys, and other wildlife species are also found.

The CRA is classified as semi-primitive motorized throughout. The Rainbow Trail, a motorized single-track trail, runs through the CRA. Recreation use includes hiking, biking, and riding along the Rainbow Trail. The area also gets moderate hunting use during elk and deer hunting seasons. Generally there are no soil movement problems within the CRA, and the streams provide good water to the Arkansas River. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There is evidence of scattered prehistoric Native American activity, historic logging and livestock grazing within this CRA. Mining and prospecting were limited with some quarrying activity taking place.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Bear Creek livestock grazing allotment covers part of the north end of this CRA. There are recreational outfitter-guide permits issued for this area. Roughly 900 acres or 15% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 4,800 acres or 79% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface. This CRA is made up of small fragments that buffer the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness from the forest boundary.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
1,700 acres of 266 Rare 2	6,000	Acreage added: Adjustments made were to connect the CRA to the
800 acres of 5 Rare 2		Wilderness boundary or Forest boundary. Acreage removed: Areas do not
Total – 2,500		meet the CRA criteria.

Sangre de Cristo: West Creek to Big Cottonwood # 18 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

The Sangre de Cristo: West Creek to Big Cottonwood CRA is located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Westcliffe in Custer County. It is administered by the San Carlos Ranger District. The CRA fills the narrow strip of NFS lands between the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness on the west, the forest boundary on the east, the Hayden Creek Road on the south, and West Creek on the north. The CRA is an extension of the wilderness area out to the forest boundary. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the backdrop for this area. Hamilton Baldy is in the center of the CRA. Cherry, Hamilton and Hayden Creeks drain this CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations range from 9,000 along the eastern border to over 12,000 feet. This area is located on the lower to mid-slope of the east side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This CRA contains a rich diversity of lower, mid, and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation in lower elevations consists of pinyon pine, ponderosa pine, and oak; fir is found in higher elevations along the wilderness boundary; aspen is mixed throughout. Approximately 40% is mixed conifer, 34% mountain shrub, 16% pinyon-juniper, and 4% aspen forests. There are many open parks in this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been documented using this CRA. This area is within the Canada lynx Sangre's LAU. There is a genetically pure greenback cutthroat trout (federally threatened) population in South Prong Hayden Creek. Not surveyed northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) suitable habitat is found within this CRA. This area contains important habitats for elk and mule deer, including severe winter range habitat areas for mule deer. In addition, elk and mule deer winter concentration areas are also present. Several raptors including bald eagles (Forest Service sensitive species), golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk (Forest Service sensitive species), Townsend's big-eared bat (Forest Service sensitive species), turkeys, and other wildlife species are also found.

The CRA is classified as semi-primitive motorized. It includes part of the Rainbow Trail. Recreation access is limited to the four-wheel drive Kerr Gulch Road, the Hayden Creek Road and the Rainbow Trail. Hiking and riding along the Rainbow Trail are the primary uses of this area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The Kerr Gulch Road, Hayden Creek Road, and the Rainbow Trail all provide a small amount of soil disturbance. These streams generally run clear and drain into the Arkansas River. This area has historically been used for hunting and providing wood for local residents. There has been limited mineral exploration throughout the area. There is evidence of limited prehistoric Native American sites within this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

This CRA forms a buffer between the private land on the east and the wilderness on the west. There are outfitter-guide special use permits issued for use within the CRA. Approximately 5,700 acres or 77% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
6,200 acres of 266 Rare 2 200 acres of 8b Total – 6,400	7,400	Acreage added: Adjustments made were to connect the CRA to the Wilderness boundary or Forest boundary. Acreage removed: Areas do not meet the CRA criteria.

Scraggy Peaks #4 (15,500 acres)

1. Description

The Scraggy Peaks CRA is located on the San Carlos Ranger District in Pueblo and Custer Counties, in the central part of the Wet Mountains, and west of the community of Beulah and east of State Highway 165. The primary public access points to this CRA from the east are from the South Creek and Squirrel Creek trailheads near Pueblo Mountain Park, and from State Highway 165 on the west via the South Creek, Davenport Campground, and Silver Circle trailheads.

The CRA is within the Southern Parks and Rocky Mountain Ranges Eco-Section (M331F). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between extensive forested slopes and ridges. The dominant landscape features in the CRA are the large and deep canyons cutting down through granite bedrock. Middle Creek, Squirrel Creek, and South Creek flow through three largest canyons. The intervening ridges are typically rugged and capped by scraggy rock formations. Elevations range from 7,000 feet along the eastern border, to 9,000 and 10,000 feet on the higher ridges near the western border. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between the dominant conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak fields on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas fir forests dominate most of landscapes across this CRA. Stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine and Gambel oak occur on south facing aspects and the lower elevations of this area. Stands of aspen and spruce are present at the higher elevations.

2. Roadless Characteristics

There are patches of lynx denning habitat along the western edge of this CRA. Mexican spotted owls (federally threatened) have not been recorded in this CRA, but suitable nesting and roosting habitat is found throughout the area. Black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, elk and mule deer find year-round habitat here, especially in the lower areas.

The challenging terrain of this CRA makes for excellent backcountry recreation from spring through the fall. There is an extensive system of popular motorized trails throughout. Foot, horse, mountain bike, ATV and motorized trail bike travel is authorized on over 25 miles of trail, although several trail sections are too narrow for ATV use. Travel is restricted to foot and horse travel only on the easternmost 1.5 miles of NFST 1384 (Squirrel Creek Trail) and the connecting trail link to Pueblo Mountain Park. Several historic trails traversed the width of the CRA, linking State Highway 165 with NFSR 387 (North Creek Road) and the community of Beulah. The easternmost sections of these old trails originated or terminated on adjacent private lands. There are no public easements across these private lands. While the westernmost sections of these trails are still used by the public, the easternmost sections have fallen into disuse as public access from the east has become increasingly restricted over the past two decades.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). There are 49,900 meters (30 miles) of the St. Charles River and tributaries, source to CF&I diversion, within the Scraggy Peaks CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. This CRA was heavily used for livestock grazing, developed recreation facilities, and limited timber harvesting during the first half of the twentieth century. The old state highway linking Pueblo to the Wet Mountains traversed the width of this CRA until 1947, when Squirrel Creek flooded out major segments of the roadway. The road was rebuilt south of the current CRA, and the old state highway eventually became today's Squirrel Creek Trail. The Squirrel Creek National Historic District traverses the width of this roadless area. In 1919, Squirrel Creek was the location of the first professionally designed recreation sites in the National Forest System. There are many historic features still intact within the CRA, including a restored picnic pavilion, restored historic campsites and interpretive displays for hikers.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Beulah livestock grazing allotment once covered most of this CRA, but it was incrementally reduced over the past 40 years to only the most productive meadows near the Mingus homestead. The allotment has been vacant in recent years; it is proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. Roughly 6,500 acres or 42% of the area is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. About 65 acres of timber management was accomplished before 2001. Approximately 13,300 acres or 86% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interfaces (WUI) that border the community of Beulah and the residential developments along State Highway 165.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
269 Rare 2 – 8,200	15,500	Acres removed to exclude timber harvesting activities/ logging access roads.
2,400 acres of 5 Rare 2		Acres added to the CRA boundaries include adjoining roadless lands to the south and east of the original boundaries.
Total – 10,600		

Sheep Rock #52 (7,100 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Jefferson and Douglas counties west of Cheesman Reservoir. The area is accessed from NFSR 205 or 211. The eastern boundary of the CRA is private lands (Cheesman Reservoir), the remaining boundaries are Forest Service lands managed for timber, grazing and other forest activities. Forest lands adjacent to the southern boundary are managed for big game winter range, management indicator species and semi-primitive motorized recreation. The CRA has expansive landscapes with views of open montane shrubland that resulted from the Hayman Fire. Sheep Rock is a spectacular granite dome that can be seen from many viewpoints. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 6,900 to 7,670 feet. The 2002 Hayman Fire burned 100% of this area and changed the vegetation from montane forest to montane shrubland. Riparian habitat along the South Platte River is covered with grasses forbs and shrubs.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA has habitat for the federally listed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (19%) and Pawnee montane skipper (3%). Colorado Natural Heritage Program ranked the South Platte River corridor an area of general biodiversity interest and as part of a Potential Conservation Area, is ranked as very high biodiversity significance. The CRA is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. A unique feature of the CRA includes the Sheep Rock climbing area. The CRA borders Denver Water's Cheesman Reservoir and property that is mostly roadless. It contains a high quality fishery. There is minimal human activity within the CRA, but substantial erosion caused by wildfires. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA contains possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals, such as topaz, quartz and amazonite. About 350 acres or 5% of this CRA was identified as suitable for timber production. Much of the area has been burned by wildfire. Approximately 3,000 acres or 42% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
346 Rare 2 – 2,300	7,100	Added acres met the CRA criteria.

Silverheels #39 (7,500 acres)

1. Description

The Silverheels CRA is located in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This CRA is located north of the Town of Fairplay, on the east side of Hoosier Ridge and the Continental Divide. The dominate landscape features are Mount Silverheels (13,822 feet) rising from the center of the CRA, and Palmer Peak (12,517 feet) in the southeast corner. The western boundary follows the east side of the Beaver Creek drainage and Beaver Creek, as well as the boundary of a parcel of private land. The southern boundary stretches east from Beaver Creek above old timber harvest units and roads within the Crooked Creek drainage, to Trout Creek. The eastern boundary follows Trout Creek and NFSR 194 north to a private land boundary in the headwaters of Tarryall Creek. The entire northern boundary follows adjacent private land consisting of many patented mining claims, within Montgomery Gulch. Access to the CRA is possible via NFSR 659 (Beaver Creek Road) to the east or NFSR 194 (Trout Creek Road) to the west.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations rise from roughly 10,500 feet in the southeast corner to 13,822 feet at the top of Mount Silverheels. Vegetation in the northwest is alpine tundra in the higher elevations; more moderate elevations across the south support spruce-fir, lodgepole and bristlecone pine, and aspen. Wetlands include examples of montane and subalpine riparian areas and willow carrs.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is located within the Kenosha Pass LAU and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx. The federally threatened plant Penland eutrema (*Eutrema penlandii*) is also found within the CRA. The CRA also contains bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, and the Porter's feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*), which are listed as Forest Service sensitive species within the Rocky Mountain Region. The CRA is within the summer range of bighorn sheep, moose, and mountain goat, and the summer and winter range of elk and mule deer. Habitat for black bear, mountain lion, and ptarmigan is also located within the CRA. An elk calving area is located within the eastern portion of the CRA. The western portion of the CRA is within a severe winter area for mule deer, while the central portion is within a winter concentration area of this species. The CRA also contains a bighorn sheep summer concentration area.

The diverse mountain terrain provides a variety of recreation experiences from gold panning on the boundary in Beaver Creek to hunting, fishing and hiking. Motorized recreation, including ATV, motorcycle and snowmobile travel, takes place on roads, trails and old logging roads surrounding the CRA. Mount Silverheels is becoming a popular high 13,000 foot peak for climbers and is accessed on non-system and cross-country routes from Hoosier Pass, NFSR 659 (Beaver Creek Road) and NFSR 669 (Crooked Creek Road). The CRA provides a multitude of recreation opportunities including off trail hiking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing and opportunities for solitude. Many recreationists travel cross country to climb Mount Silverheels. There are no system trails within this CRA. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Beaver Creek supplies municipal water for the town of Fairplay.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreational special use permit holders are authorized to climb Mount Silverheels via several cross-country routes. The Silverheels C and H livestock grazing allotment is included in the lower elevation portions of the CRA. There are mining activities permitted within the Beaver Creek drainage, adjacent to the CRA. Approximately 1,500 acres or 20% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. No timber harvesting has occurred within the CRA since the turn of the century when it was mostly cut for mining purposes. Approximately 4,000 acres or 54% of the CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that surrounds the town of Alma to the west and Como to the northeast.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
248 Rare 2 – 6,600	7,500	
600 acres of 5 Rare 2		
Total – 7,200		Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Spanish Peaks #10 (6,300 acres)

1. Description

The Spanish Peaks CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties and consists of scattered roadless tracts that surround and that are contiguous to the Spanish Peaks Wilderness. These tracts radiate outward from the wilderness area to the National Forest boundary. Public access across adjacent private lands to most of the CRA is extremely limited. County Road 360 heading southeast from the town of La Veta to NFST 1304 (Wahatoya Trailhead) leads to the only access point with a public right-of-

way. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. This CRA complex is aligned with the lower forested slopes of the Spanish Peaks twin massif. Elevations range from 8,400 feet to 10,400 feet. The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied and covered with vegetated slopes. The vegetation pattern offers moderate contrast between conifer forests, scattered aspen stands and Gambel oak fields on south facing slopes. White fir and Douglas-fir forests dominate most of this CRA complex. The most interesting features within the CRA are the dikes that radiate out from the Spanish Peaks like spokes on a wheel. The dikes are made of intrusive igneous rocks that pushed into cracks created as the Spanish Peaks rose up under sedimentary rocks. Erosion removed the softer sedimentary rock leaving walls of hard igneous rock one foot to 100 feet wide, up to 100 feet high, and as long as 14 miles. While the most striking of these dikes are located on private lands below the CRA, there are numerous dikes and dike segments within the CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

A variety of wildlife can be found including mountain lion, elk, mule deer, wild turkey and black bear. The west end tracts contain suitable lynx habitat and are included in a lynx linkage zone. There are 11,520 meters (7 miles) of the Cucharas River, source to Walsenberg PWS diversion, within the Spanish Peaks CRA are identified on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality. All but the westernmost tracts of this CRA are located within the Spanish Peaks National Natural Landmark. The landmark was designated by the Secretary of Interior in 1976 to recognize and protect the many igneous dike formations. Historic foot and horse trails traverse a few of the tracts within the CRA. All of these old trails originated or terminated on adjacent private lands. There are no public easements across these private lands, and these trails have fallen into disuse as public access has become increasingly restricted by private residential developments over the past two decades. Recreational opportunities include hiking and wildlife viewing, and opportunities associated with scenic vistas and solitude. Recreational use of this CRA is light to non-existent depending on the season. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The entire Spanish Peaks twin massif is considered to be a sacred landscape by several Native American tribal groups.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A portion of the West Peak livestock grazing allotment lies within the CRA. There are 27 head of cattle permitted in the White Creek and Chaparral drainages from mid-June through mid-October. The East Peak livestock grazing allotment has been vacant for over 10 years; it is proposed for official closure sometime in 2008. The northeast corner of this CRA is believed to overlay a portion of the surrounding Raton Basin methane gas field. Commercial development of this methane gas field is currently proceeding on many of the adjacent private lands east and south of the CRA. Only 60 acres or 1% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 5,800 acres or 92% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that flanks the eastern edge of the Cuchara community. Low-density residential developments are expanding along both the northern and southern boundaries of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
271 Rare 2 – 5,700	6,300	Acres removed to exclude NFSR 442 and NFST 360) to the Wahatoya trailhead and Wahatoya Camp, exclude tracts near NFSR 46 that contain roads permitted under special use permit to adjacent rural subdivisions, and a potential reservoir site.
Proposed Spanish Peak – 1,300		
1,700 acres of 3a		
Total – 8,700		

Square Top Mountain #49 (6,300 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Park County, 8.5 miles NW of Grant. The CRA is near Guanella Pass. It offers expansive views of alpine mountain terrain covered with tundra and conifer and aspen forests. The Square Tops Mountain is one of Colorado's 13,000 foot peaks and is a popular hiking destination. The CRA is accessed from NFST 600 and 634 off County Road 62 or NFSR 119. The Access road leads to the abandoned Geneva Ski area and a cabin in this unit. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311). Elevations range from 10,220 to 13,490 feet. Alpine tundra and subalpine forest are found within the CRA. Cover includes grasses, forbs, sedges, rushes, rock, willow, aspen, spruce, Douglas-fir, and bristle cone and lodgepole pines.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Approximately 27% of the CRA provides potential habitat for the Canada lynx (federally threatened) and 11% is considered part of lynx linkage habitats. The area also provides year round habitat for white-tailed ptarmigan (Forest Service sensitive species), and habitat for the boreal toads (Forest Service sensitive species) and at least seven Forest Service sensitive plant species. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program ranked the Guanella Pass Potential Conservation Area as having moderate biodiversity significance. There is minimal human activity and disturbed areas within the CRA. The area is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized.

This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area. Geneva Creek tributary is on the 303(d) list for impairment under the Clean Water Act as not meeting state standards for water quality due to metal contamination.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Geneva grazing allotment is within the CRA. There are possible base and precious metal deposits in NW part of the area. None of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. In 1963, 297 acres within the CRA were commercially thinned. Approximately 3,700 acres or 59% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
144 Rare 2 – 5,900	6,300	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Starvation Creek #22 (7,600 acres)

1. Description

The Starvation Creek CRA is at the southern end of the Sawatch Range west of Poncha Pass. The Continental Divide between Marshall Pass and Poncha Pass is the western boundary of this area. It is located in Saguache County and administered by the Salida Ranger District. It includes the bare ridges of Antora Peak and Sheep Mountain along the Continental Divide. Starvation Creek is at the heart of this CRA. With headwaters near the Continental Divide on the west, the stream drops through thick forest and joins Poncha Creek, the area’s northern boundary. Silver Creek flows through the southern basin of this CRA; Antora Peak is in the southwest part. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M3311) with elevations ranging from 5,575 to 14,410 feet. This CRA contains a rich diversity of mid and high-elevation plant and animal species and habitats. Vegetation is predominantly lodgepole pine and aspen, with some areas of ponderosa pine and riparian habitat in lower elevations and spruce-fir in the upper reaches near the Continental Divide. Approximately 31% is lodgepole pine, 29% spruce-fir, 11% aspen, 9% mountain grassland, 8% mixed conifer, and 7% alpine tundra.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Canada lynx (federally threatened) have been frequently documented using this area. This area is within the Monarch Pass LAU and Poncha Lynx Linkage Area for Canada lynx. Suitable boreal toad (Forest Service sensitive species) breeding habitat is present in several of the higher elevation drainages; however, surveys to determine presence have yet to be completed. Northern goshawk (Forest Service sensitive species) are found within this CRA. Gunnison sage grouse (Forest Service sensitive species) utilize this area for summer and fall brood rearing in riparian and sagebrush habitats. This CRA is immediately adjacent to a Gunnison sage grouse reintroduction site in the Poncha Pass area. This area contains important habitats for bighorn sheep (summer range), elk and mule deer including elk production areas, elk and mule deer summer/winter range, and winter concentration areas as well as severe winter range for mule deer. A new and expanding population of moose is also present in this area. Several raptors including golden eagles, owls, hawks, and others, as well as various neotropical migrant birds and woodpeckers are found. Mountain lion, black bear, common hog-nosed skunk (Forest Service sensitive species), Townsend’s big-eared bat (Forest Service sensitive species), and other wildlife species are also found there.

The view is natural appearing, but contains no unique qualities. Mineral exploration has been light. Some timber harvesting has occurred through the years. There are some recreational impacts along Silver Creek and the Colorado Trail. The CRA is classified as mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. There are many opportunities for recreation along the foot trail in Starvation Creek, the Silver Creek mountain bike trail, the Continental Divide Trail on the west, and on a rough jeep road along Poncha Creek from Marshall Pass that nearly reaches Highway 285. Mountain bikers can descend from the Continental Divide Trail along Silver Creek, and make a loop via Marshall Pass, or even come from Monarch Pass. Others continue east to connect with the Rainbow Trail in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The headwaters of Poncha Creek serves as public drinking water for the town of Poncha Springs. There is evidence of limited prehistoric and historic Native American sites.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA is surrounded by NFS lands. The Little Cochetopa grazing allotment covers the eastern end of the CRA. There are outfitter-guide recreational special use permits issued for this area. Roughly 1,400 acres or 19% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Most timber is spruce and fir with some lodgepole pine. Approximately 350 acres or 5% of this CRA lie within the Silver Lakes Estates wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
264 Rare 2 – 8,200	7,600	Acreage removed: Activity layer shows roads on the west side of this CRA.

Tanner Peak #1 (17,600 acres)

1. Description

Tanner Peak CRA is on the San Carlos Ranger District in Freemont County and lies about ten miles south of Cañon City, at the extreme north end of the Wet Mountains. The CRA is contiguous to the 27,200 acres identified in the BLM-administered Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area. The scenic vistas from the summits of Tanner Peak and Curley Peak towards the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Wet Mountain valley, and Arkansas River valley are truly inspiring. The principal public access into this CRA is from three trailheads located along NFSR 143 (Oak Creek Grade Road). The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The terrain within the CRA is moderately varied between sharp ridges and steep forested slopes. Viewed from the east, the shrub and forested ridges leading to the summits of Tanner Peak and Curley Peak are the dominant features of the landscape in this CRA. The west side of this CRA drops sharply into the rugged granite canyons and cliffs of the BLM-administered Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area. Many of the rock features are distinctive in color, size, and/or shape. Elevations range from 6,300 feet to over 9,000 feet along the main ridge connecting Tanner Peak and Curley Peak. Vegetation ranges from pinyon and juniper woodlands and Gambel oak shrublands at the lower elevations and on south facing aspects, to ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and white fir, on the higher elevations and north facing aspects. Gambel oak shrublands are the most common vegetative community across this CRA.

2. Roadless Characteristics

Golden and bald eagles and numerous species of songbirds frequent the area. Several peregrine falcon nesting sites are located within this CRA. Mexican spotted owls (federally listed as threatened) have been sighted near this CRA and suitable nesting and roosting habitat is found throughout the CRA. Degener beardtongue (*Penstemon degeneri*), is found in several locations across this CRA. This plant species is on the Forest Service's list of sensitive plant species for the Rocky Mountain Region. Wildlife and wildlife values include both summer and winter range for elk, deer, and bighorn sheep. Mountain lion, wild turkey, black bear, and prairie rattlesnakes are also found.

Recreational activities include hiking, rock climbing, hunting, and horseback riding and motorized trail riding. A popular rock climbing area has recently developed near the East Bear Gulch trailhead. Approximately 20 miles of maintained trail provide good public access along the major ridges of this CRA. However, the steep and rugged topography of this area cause most of this CRA to be extremely difficult for off-trail travel. Foot, horse, mountain bike, motorized trail bike, and ATV travel is authorized on roughly 17.5 miles of trail in this CRA. Over the past decade, ATV riding has become the dominant mode of travel on these trails. Approximately 2.3 miles of trail are restricted to foot, horse and mountain bike travel modes only.

There are a few signs of late nineteenth and early twentieth century logging and mining activities near the summits of Tanner Peak and Curley Peak; otherwise this CRA offers very little evidence of human activities or disturbance beyond the trail systems. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). A portion of the abandoned right-of-way for the late nineteenth century Grape Creek railroad passes through the western edge of this CRA.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

A household spring development and waterline are permitted near Chandler Creek on the eastern perimeter of this CRA. No part of this CRA has been identified as suitable for timber production and harvesting. Approximately 8,100 acres or 46% of this CRA lie within the wildland urban interface (WUI) that flanks the southern edge of Cañon City. Low-density residential developments are expanding along both the northern and southern boundaries of this CRA.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
268 Rare 2 – 17,800	17,600	Acres excluded due to the power line that parallels the Oak Creek Road, old quartz mines/roads near the Forest boundary on the Oak Creek Road, and the BLM road that follows Bear Gulch down to the Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Thirtynine Mile Mountain #44 (10,900 acres)

1. Description

Thirtynine Mile Mountain CRA is located on the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County. This CRA is located on Thirtynine Mile Mountain which consists of a series of peaks (one at 11,549 feet and one at 10,841 feet) about five miles wide that is south of Elevenmile Reservoir on the southeastern edge of South Park. The CRA encompasses those peaks, straddling the divide between the South Platte River and Arkansas River basins. Great vistas are available from the high points, including Pikes Peak to the east. The southern boundary of the CRA is the National Forest boundary. Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir is north of the CRA and Colorado State Highway 9 and Current Creek Pass is to the east. Access to the CRA is via NFSR 270 off of Park County Road 116 off the northeast side of Current Creek Pass. No system trails exist within the CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The vegetation in the CRA is predominately Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir mixed with large stands of aspen. There are areas of ponderosa pine mixed with bristlecone pine and limber pine in the south and some mountain grasslands and meadows in the west. With elevations ranging between 9,500 feet to 11,550 feet, the CRA provides marked geographic and ecological changes from the lower elevations of South Park and the Arkansas River Valley. Running east-west, the Thirtynine Mile Mountain is the remnant north slope of the huge Guffey volcanic area, active over 30 million years ago.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The rare pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*) and bristlecone pine/gooseberry-currant (*Pinus aristata/Ribes montigenum*) upper montane woodlands are found here. An elk calving area is located throughout the CRA. The CRA is within the summer range of elk and mule deer, while the periphery of the CRA is within the severe winter range of these species. The northern and southern portions of the CRA are within winter concentration areas for mule deer and elk, respectively. The CRA is also within a summer concentration area for black bear. There are vast populations of Parry's oatgrass (*Danthonia parryi*) that are unrivaled in extent and vigor anywhere else in the South Park area. Riparian areas are extremely productive and in good condition. Habitat for mountain lion and pronghorn is also located within the CRA.

Isolated by private land, this area offers remote and varied backcountry experiences, many off-trail, for the hiker and deer and elk hunter. The CRA offers multiple opportunities for non-motorized dispersed recreation. There are no system trails that exist within the CRA. Users can access the CRA off-trail on foot or on horseback. Recreation opportunities include viewing wildlife, hunting, and exploring off trail. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The CRA encompasses parts of both the Thirtynine Mile Mountain North and the Thirtynine Mile Mountain South C and H livestock grazing allotments. These cattle grazing permits have been active since the 1940s. The Forest Service has combined management on both of these allotments so that the permittee has merged separate north and south herds. The permittee now rotates his cattle through all ten pastures of the two allotments and spends at least a week less time in each. Two hundred cow/calf pairs run on these allotments from June 6 to October 2. Range conditions across the north and south sides of this expansive mountain are good to excellent. The only permitted recreation special use is for hunting outfitting and guiding. Approximately 5,450 acres or 50% of the CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The last occurrence of timber harvesting in these area occurred in 1970s to 1980s. Approximately 5,700 acres or 52% of the CRA is within the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
253 Rare 2 – 9,500	10,900	Acres removed to exclude previous timber treatment areas/roads and
1,300 acres of 5 Rare 2		decommissioned NFSR 267. Acres added due to a recent land purchase of
Total – 10,800		private land within the designate National Forest boundary.

Thunder Butte #51 (7,400 acres)

1. Description

The CRA is located on the South Platte Ranger District in Douglas County, 1.5 miles NW of West Creek. The CRA has expansive landscapes with views of open montane forest and shrubland that resulted from the Hayman Fire. The area can be accessed from NFSR 523. The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). The area contains Montane forest and shrubland. Cover includes grasses, sedges, rushes, rock, blue spruce, Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Elevations range from 6,500 to 9,700 feet. The 2002 Hayman and Schoonover fires burned almost 100% of this area.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA has habitat for Preble’s meadow jumping mouse and Mexican spotted owls, both federally listed species. The Thunder Butte Mexican spotted owl Protected Area Center is located within the CRA. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program ranked Thunder Butte Potential Conservation Area as moderate biodiversity significance within the CRA. The CRA shows minimal human activity, but has substantial erosion caused by wildfires. Some small tributaries are degraded by excess sediment. The area is mostly semi-primitive non-motorized. The CRA has a popular unnamed rock climbing area. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). The CRA is in the Upper South Platte Watershed, the primary water source for Denver Metro area.

3. Current Conditions and Uses

The Malta–Waterton power line is within the CRA, along with the power line access road. There are possible rare-earth elements and specimen grade minerals such as topaz, quartz and amazonite. About 2,700 acres or 36% of this CRA was identified as suitable for timber production. In 1988, 468 acres of commercial and precommercial thinning were accomplished within the CRA. 100% of the area has been burned by wildfire. Approximately 7,000 acres or 95% of the CRA is in the WUI.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
347 Rare 2 – 4,600	7,400	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

Weston Peak #33 (15,300 acres)

1. Description

The Weston Peak CRA is located in the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District, in Park County, and in the San Isabel National Forest, Leadville Ranger District, in Lake County. The area lies southwest of the town of Fairplay and just north of the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. The southern boundary follows NFSR 174 and the power line that runs over Weston Pass. The western boundary lies adjacent to multiple parcels of private land and Gold Basin. The northern boundary stretches from just south of Horseshoe Mountain and the Leavick Tarn, to Lamb Mountain. The eastern boundary runs from Lamb Mountain south, along the base of the Mosquito Range, following the private land boundary in Watrous Gulch to the powerlines. Dominate features include multiple peaks over 13,000 feet on the Mosquito divide, as well as Weston Peak (13,572 ft), and Lamb Mountain (12,438 ft). There are scenic vistas of South Park, Pikes Peak, the Collegiate Peaks and upper Arkansas Valley, and the mountains of the Tarryall Range and the Sangre de Christos’. Access to the CRA is possible via the Weston Pass road (Park County Road 22), the Fourmile Road (Park County Road 18) and NFSR 175 (Breakneck Pass). Trail access for non-motorized access is possible via NFST 645 (Sheep Creek Trail) which skirts the eastern boundary of the CRA or NFST 684 (Twelvemile Lake Trail) which ends at Twelvemile Lake in the northeast central portion of the CRA.

The CRA is within the Northern Parks and Ranges Eco-Section (M331I). Elevations in the CRA reach from 10,000 feet in the Twelvemile Creek valley, 13,572 feet on Weston Peak, to 13,900 feet on Horseshoe Mountain. This CRA consists of alpine and subalpine areas of the Mosquito Range that divide the upper Arkansas and South Platte Rivers. Vegetation includes alpine tundra, aspen, spruce-fir, lodgepole, bristlecone, and limber pines, and riparian wetlands. There are quite a few open parks and willow-dominated riparian stringers.

2. Roadless Characteristics

The CRA is located within the Tennessee Pass and Buffalo Peaks LAUs and contains suitable winter, denning, and movement habitat for the Canada lynx (federally threatened). The CRA also contains Forest Service sensitive species bighorn sheep, and ptarmigan. The rare plant species Hoosier Pass ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis globularis*) and Gray’s draba (*Draba grayana*) are also found in the CRA. The CRA provides year round range for bighorn sheep at Weston Peak, summer range for elk, mule deer and mountain goat, winter range/severe winter range for mule deer on the South Park side of the CRA, and an elk calving area, located within the eastern portion of the CRA. White-tailed ptarmigan habitat occurs throughout the CRA. Habitat for moose, black bear, and mountain lion can also be found within the CRA. The area was last grazed by domestic sheep in the 1970s and by cattle in the 1980s. No timber harvesting has occurred within the CRA since the turn of the century when timber was cut mostly for mining purposes.

The CRA offers multiple opportunities for non-motorized dispersed recreation. Trail systems within the CRA include NFST 684 (Twelvemile Lake Trail) and 645 (Sheep Creek Trail). Users can also access the CRA off-trail on foot off or Weston Pass. Recreation opportunities include hiking, horse back riding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, hunting, exploring off trail and seeking solitude. For backcountry recreationists, the CRA has challenging alpine terrain with glacial cirques and cliffs. Peak climbing, fly-fishing, hunting, backcountry skiing, and backpacking are some of the many options. An extensive cave system exists within the CRA in the Cave Creek drainage. Public use is extremely limited due to the difficulty in locating the cave entrance. This CRA is within a state defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply).

3. Current Conditions and Uses

Recreation special use permits have been issued that authorize activities within this CRA. The main activity authorized is for hunting outfitter-guides, and traveling cross country via foot or horseback. No permits for overnight camps have been issued. The boundary of the Weston Peak CRA contains no active grazing allotments. Range conditions in the area vary from fair to excellent. The Union horse and cattle allotment is located in this CRA. Approximately 1,600 acres or 10% of this CRA is identified as suitable for timber production. The majority of this area is on slopes greater than 35% and would require roads to access for harvesting. Approximately 8,300 acres or 54% of this CRA lie within WUI. The extreme southeast corner and along the northern boundary of the CRA around private land and subdivisions lie within the wildland urban interface.

4. Alternative Designations

2001 Inventory Acres	Colorado Roadless Area Acres	Reasons for the Change
249 Rare 2 – 13,000	15,300	Improved mapping capabilities, more accurately defined CRA.

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