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Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Revision of the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests Land Management Plans

Volume 2: Appendices

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Cover Photo: Magenta fireweed with Sierra crest in background; Upper Rock Creek drainage, Inyo National Forest

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Appendix A: Timber Suitability and Management

Determination of Suitability for Timber Production

Timber production is the purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use (36 CFR 219.19). Timber production activities can contribute to social, economic, and ecological sustainability. Timber production may offset some or all of the costs of silvicultural treatments and other forest management activities that restore ecosystems to desired conditions, lower uncharacteristic fire and insect risk, increase understory plant diversity and abundance, and create employment opportunities.

The National Forest Management Act requires that the agency determine the suitability of National Forest System lands for timber production and has specific requirements for timber suitability analysis in land management plans. Note that there is a distinction between timber harvest as a resource use (that is, timber production) and timber harvest as a management tool to achieve desired conditions. Timber harvest on lands classified as not suitable for timber production may be utilized as a tool designed to achieve desired conditions.

Lands that May be Suitable for Timber Production

Identification of land that may be (tentatively) suitable for timber production is the first step in the process of determining lands that are suited for timber production. This preliminary classification is made prior to the consideration of objectives and desired conditions considered as part of the forest plan revision process, and excludes National Forest System lands that are not suitable for timber production based on the following criteria:

- Timber production is prohibited by statute, executive order, regulation or where the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service has withdrawn the land from timber production. Examples include designated wilderness areas, designated wild river segments, research natural areas or other designated areas where timber production is specifically prohibited.
- Land that is not forested (nonforest), identified by having less than 10 percent occupation by conifer trees of any size or having a nonforest use (powerline clearings, residential or administrative sites, and improved pasture).
- Known environmental factors exist that preclude reasonable assurance that restocking can be achieved within 5 years of final regeneration harvest.
- Technology to harvest timber is not currently available without causing irreversible damage.

Forest lands that remain after this initial screening are termed “lands that may be suitable for timber production,” and do not vary by alternative. Based on this initial suitability analysis, the southern Sierra Forests include 601,693 acres (Inyo National Forest has 84,876 acres; Sequoia National Forest has 134,378 acres; Sierra National Forest has 382,439 acres) that may be suitable for timber production as shown in Item C on the last row of Table A-1.

Table A-1. Acres of National Forest System lands that may be suitable for timber production

Land Classification Category	Inyo NF	Sequoia NF	Sierra NF
A. Total National Forest System land	1,983,919	1,114,766	1,316,324
B. Lands not suited for timber production due to legal or technical reasons	1,899,042	980,377	933,885
a. Land withdrawn from timber production	1,554,013	869,674	732,076
b. Nonforested lands and/or lands where adequate stocking is not assured	345,029	110,702	201,809
c. Lands where irreversible resource damage is likely	0	0	0
C. Lands that may be suited for timber production	84,876	134,378	382,439

If present, the following areas were considered withdrawn from timber production: national wilderness areas, national scenic areas, national scenic research areas, national wild and scenic rivers, research natural areas, national recreation areas, national game refuges and wildlife preserves, national monument areas, national volcanic monument areas, national historic areas, national protection areas, special management areas, national botanical areas, recreation management areas, scenic recreation areas, scenic wildlife areas, national scenic trails, national historic trails, research and experimental areas, national recreation trails, national primitive areas, and inventoried roadless areas.

As stated above, nonforested lands have less than 10 percent occupation by conifer trees. This was represented using 10 percent canopy cover as identified in the "Existing Vegetation" corporate geographic information system data layer.

The following Regional Dominance Types (CALVEG Forest Types) are recognized as capable of adequate restocking within 5 years: Giant Sequoia, Pacific Douglas-fir, Douglas-fir-Ponderosa Pine, Eastside Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Mixed Conifer-Giant Sequoia, Incense Cedar, Mixed Conifer-Fir, Mixed Conifer-Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Red Fir, and White Fir. All other CALVEG Forest Types within the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests are currently regarded as not capable of the same level of reasonable assurance and are excluded. In addition, for the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, mapping units characterized by soil depths less than 10 inches, or by available water content less than 1.2 inches (based on Order 3 soil survey data) are excluded. On the Inyo National Forest, slopes exceeding 35 percent are excluded from timber production.

Lands Suitable for Timber Production

The final step in determining lands suitable for timber production is to determine which of the lands that may be suitable for timber production are suited for timber production. The following land categories have objectives that are not compatible with timber production and are not suitable.

- Recommended wilderness areas included in each alternative.
- The corridor (approximately one quarter-mile on each side) surrounding wild river segments of eligible wild and scenic rivers.
- Areas identified as valuable California spotted owl habitat: Alternatives A, B, and D recognized California spotted owl protected activity centers, alternative C recognized the California spotted owl home range core area. Home range core area is used as a proxy for high-value forested habitat in California spotted owl territories.

The remaining lands meet the following criteria and are defined as suitable for timber production.

- Timber production is a desired primary or secondary use of the land.
- Timber production is anticipated to continue after desired conditions have been achieved.
- A flow of timber can be planned and scheduled on a reasonably predictable basis.
- Regeneration of the stand is intended.
- Timber production is compatible with the desired conditions or objectives for the land.

On lands not identified as suitable for timber production, harvest may still occur to protect multiple-use values, other than timber production. Common examples include salvage, sanitation, public health, or safety, but may also include various other restoration activities. For example, meadow restoration may require cutting encroaching trees. This activity may produce timber, but the area treated would have objectives other than timber production and would not be identified as part of the suitable landbase.

The southern Sierra Nevada Forests include approximately 415,646 to 540,247 acres that are suitable for timber production, depending on alternative (see Table A-2, Table A-3, and Table A-4 for national forest-specific information; Table A-5 for summary data for all three national forests). Lands suitable for timber production are lands where this use is a management objective. Site-specific project designs incorporate actions to meet a variety of objectives, such as riparian area enhancement, habitat maintenance or development, scenic stability, and integrity.

Table A-2. Acres of timber production suitability, Inyo National Forest

Land Classification Category	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
C. Lands that may be suitable for timber production	84,876	84,876	84,876	84,876
D. Lands where management objectives limit timber harvest	0	81	1,999	71
a. Recommended wilderness areas	0	11	1,928	0
b. New eligible wild river segments	0	70	71	71
c. California spotted owl protected activity centers	0	0	0	0
E. Lands not suitable for timber production	1,899,042	1,899,123	1,901,041	1,899,113
F. Lands suitable for timber production (total)	84,876	84,795	82,877	84,805

Table A-3. Acres of timber production suitability, Sequoia National Forest

Land Classification Category	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
C. Lands that may be suitable for timber production	134,378	134,378	134,378	134,378
D. Lands where management objectives limit timber harvest	8,999	8,999	26,902	8,999
a. Recommended wilderness areas	0	0	11,026	0
b. Eligible wild river segments	0	0	0	0
c. California spotted owl protected activity centers	8,999	8,999	15,876	8,999
E. Lands not suitable for timber production	989,376	989,376	1,007,278	989,376
F. Lands suitable for timber production (total)	125,379	125,379	107,477	125,379

Table A-4. Acres of timber production suitability, Sierra National Forest

Land Classification Category	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
C. Lands that may be suitable for timber production	382,439	382,439	382,439	382,439
D. Lands where management objectives limit timber harvest	52,459	55,195	140,514	55,195
a. Recommended wilderness areas	0	0	46,990	0
b. New eligible wild river segments	0	2,736	2,414	2,736
c. California spotted owl protected activity centers	52,459	52,459	91,110	52,459
E. Lands not suitable for timber production	986,344	989,080	1,074,399	989,080
F. Lands suitable for timber production (total)	329,980	327,244	241,926	327,244

Table A-5. Summary of acres of timber production suitability, Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests combined

Land Classification Category	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
A. Total National Forest System lands in plan area	4,415,009	4,415,009	4,415,009	4,415,009
B. Lands not suited for timber production due to legal or technical reasons	3,813,304	3,813,304	3,813,304	3,813,304
C. Lands that may be suited for timber production	601,693	601,693	601,693	601,693
D. Lands where management objectives limit timber harvest	61,458	64,275	169,415	64,265
E. Total lands not suited for timber production	3,874,762	3,877,579	3,982,719	3,877,569
F. Total lands suited for timber production	540,247	537,430	432,290	537,440

Planned Timber Sale Program

The planned timber sale program is an estimate of forest product yields associated with projects designed to contribute to the accomplishment of the plan's desired conditions and objectives, consistent with the other plan components during the plan period (by decade). These estimates are based on the projected fiscal capability and organizational capacity of the planning unit. They do not require any specific actions to be taken, rather, they are estimates of actions taken to accomplish the intent of the revised Plan.

The timber sale program contributes to economic sustainability through the production of timber, pulp for paper, specialty woods for furniture, and fuel as a renewable energy source. Timber harvest, whether for wood production, restoration, or other reasons, can support local businesses and employment.

Sustained Yield Limit

The sustained yield limit is the amount of timber, meeting applicable utilization standards, "which can be removed from [a] forest annually in perpetuity on a sustained yield basis" (National Forest Management Act at section 11, 16 USC 1611; 36 CFR 219.11(d)(6)). It is the volume that could be produced in perpetuity on lands that may be suitable for timber production. The calculation of the sustained yield limit is not limited by land management plan desired condition, other plan components, or the planning unit's fiscal capability and organizational capacity. The sustained yield limit is not a target but is a limitation on harvest.

The sustained yield was calculated on the acreage of the dominant forest types (by acreage) for each Forest. A representative productivity class was determined by evaluating the full range of forest inventory analysis plots for each modeled forest type. The modeling process used two forest stand development models, Conifers and the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS). Conifers was used to simulate the growth and development of seedling conifers for the first 2 decades and FVS was used beyond that timeframe. Thinning was simulated, based on a stand density index density management regime that maintained stand-level index values between estimated full stocking and threshold of imminent mortality bounds. Mean annual increment and periodic annual increment values were calculated by FVS. The length of the simulation was extended through the culmination of mean annual increment and the associated cubic feet per acre value was identified for each forest type.

The total sustained yield limit is 686 MMCF (million cubic feet) per decade. This number incorporates 40 MMCF from the Inyo National Forest, 487 MMCF from the Sierra National Forest and 159 MMCF from the Sequoia National Forests per decade.

Projected Timber Sale Quantity

The projected **timber** sale quantity is the estimated quantity of timber meeting applicable utilization standards that is expected to be sold during the plan period. As a subset of the projected **wood** sale quantity, the projected timber sale quantity includes volume from timber harvest for any purpose from all lands in the plan area based on expected harvests that would be consistent with the plan components. The projected timber sale quantity is also based on the planning unit's fiscal capability and organizational capacity. Projected timber sale quantity is neither a target nor a limitation on harvest.

The estimated quantity of timber and all other wood products expected to be sold from the plan area for the plan period is called the projected wood sale quantity. The projected wood sale quantity consists of the projected timber sale quantity as well as other woody material such as

fuelwood, firewood, or biomass also expected to be available for sale. The projected wood sale quantity includes volume from timber harvest for any purpose based on expected harvests that would be consistent with the plan components. The projected wood sale quantity is also based on the planning unit's fiscal capability and organizational capacity. The projected wood sale quantity is neither a target nor a limitation on harvest.

Although the National Forest Management Act provides that the plan period is at least every 15 years, it limits the sale of timber to less the sustained yield limit for each decade of the plan (16 U.S.C. 1611). Providing estimates in the plan of the annual projected wood sale quantity and the annual projected timber sale quantity for the each of first 2 decades aligns with the National Forest Management Act decadal periods limiting the sale of timber, and provides estimates to cover a second decade if revision of the plan is delayed beyond the 15-year limit.

In the four tables that immediately follow, timber products include volumes other than salvage or sanitation volumes that meet timber product utilization standards, while other estimated wood products include fuelwood, biomass, and other volumes that do not meet timber product utilization standards.

For the Inyo National Forest (Table A-6), the sustained yield limit is 40 MMCF per decade. For the Sequoia National Forest (Table A-7), the sustained yield limit is 159 MMCF per decade. For the Sierra National Forest (Table A-8), the sustained yield limit is 487 MMCF per decade. Combining the data for the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests (Table A-9), the sustained yield limit is 686 MMCF per decade.

Table A-6. Planned timber sale program, decadal volume outputs in millions of cubic feet per decade by alternative, Inyo National Forest

Timber Products	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Lands suitable for timber production				
A1. Sawtimber	1	1–1.5	0	1.5–3
A2. Other products	2	2–3	1–1.5	3–6
Lands not suitable for timber production				
B1. Sawtimber	0	0	0	0
B2. Other products	1	1–1.5	0–0.5	1.5–3
C. Projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ) (A1+A2+B1+B2)	4	4–6	1–2	6–12
Other estimated wood products				
D. Fuelwood	3–5	3–5	3–5	3–5
E. Projected wood sale quantity (PWSQ) (C+D)	7–9	7–11	4–7	11–17

Table A-7. Planned timber sale program, decadal volume outputs in millions of cubic feet per decade by alternative, Sequoia National Forest

Timber Products	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Lands suitable for timber production				
A1. Sawtimber	5	5–10	1–2	10–17
A2. Other products	2	2–4	1–2	4–8
Lands not suitable for timber production				
B1. Sawtimber	1	1–2	0	2–3
B2. Other products	0	0	0	0
C. Projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ) (A1+A2+B1+B2)	8	8–16	2–4	16–28
Other estimated wood products				
D. Fuelwood	3–5	3–5	3–5	3–5
E. Projected wood sale quantity (PWSQ) (C+D)	11	11–21	5–9	19–33

Table A-8. Planned timber sale program, decadal volume outputs in millions of cubic feet per decade by alternative, Sierra National Forest

Timber Products	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Lands suitable for timber production				
A1. Sawtimber	19	19–38	2–5	38–62
A2. Other products	4	4–8	3–5	8–12
Lands not suitable for timber production				
B1. Sawtimber	2	2–4	0	4–6
B2. Other products	0	0	0	0
C. Projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ) (A1+A2+B1+B2)	25	25–50	5–10	50–80
Other estimated wood products				
D. Fuelwood	5–7	5–7	5–7	5–7
E. Projected wood sale quantity (PWSQ) (C+D)	30–32	30–57	10–17	55–87

Table A-9. Summary of the planned timber sale program, decadal volume outputs in millions of cubic feet per decade by alternative, Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests

Timber Products	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Lands suitable for timber production				
A1. Sawtimber	25	25–49.5	3–7	49.5–82
A2. Other products	8	8–15	5–8.5	15–26
Lands not suitable for timber production				
B1. Sawtimber	3	3–6	0	6–9
B2. Other products	1	1–1.5	0–0.5	1.5–3
C. Projected timber sale quantity (PTSQ) (A1+A2+B1+B2)	37	37–72	8–16	72–120
Other estimated wood products				
D. Fuelwood	11–17	11–17	11–17	11–17
E. Projected wood sale quantity (PWSQ) (C+D)	48	48–9	19–33	83–137

Alternative A is generally maintaining the existing standards and guidelines, therefore it is utilized as a baseline and derived from "Cut/Sold" reports (5-year average). Yields were estimated by simulating intermediate harvests (utilizing FVS with FIA data), compliant with the alternative's goals and objectives. Volumes displayed in the four previous tables were derived by multiplying simulated harvest volumes per acre by the anticipated area treated shown in Table A-10, Table A-11, Table A-12, and Table A-13. As displayed above, more volume per acre is available for removal to meet restoration objectives than is generally being removed under the existing management direction. Implementation of alternatives B and D would be expected to expand the size of projects, because trees with greater value would be harvested and project-level economic feasibility would increase. In addition to this effect, through the use of stewardship contracts, restoration projects unrelated to timber harvest are more likely to be funded via retained receipts associated with the value of forest products. Because alternative C constrains the amount and size of harvested trees, as well as incorporates the provisions of the settlement agreement for the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, timber production is estimated to be less while requiring higher costs in project design, as well as be less likely to provide higher valued products, with an associated decline in retained receipts.

Table A-10. Acres of vegetation management practices implemented per decade, Inyo National Forest

Forestwide Vegetation Management Practices	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Thinning (intermediate harvest)	8,000	8,000–11,500	2,250–4,500	11,500–16,000
Regeneration (group selection)	1,000	1,000–2,000	0	2,000–4,000

Table A-11. Acres of vegetation management practices implemented per decade, Sequoia National Forest

Forestwide Vegetation Management Practices	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Thinning (intermediate harvest)	6,000	6,000–9,000	1,750–3,500	9,000–12,000
Regeneration (group selection)	1,000	1,000–1,500	0	1,500–2,000
Precommercial thinning	6,000	6,000–9,000	1,500–3,000	6,000–9,000

Table A-12. Acres of vegetation management practices implemented per decade, Sierra National Forest

Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Thinning (intermediate harvest)	19,000	19,000–28,500	5,500–11,000	28,500–38,000
Regeneration (group selection)	3,000	3,000–4,500	0	4,500–6,000
Precommercial thinning	13,000	13,000–19,500	3,250–6,500	19,500–26,000

Table A-13. Summary of acres of vegetation management practices implemented per decade, Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests

Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Thinning (intermediate harvest)	33,800	33,800–50,200	9,750–19,500	50,200–69,300
Regeneration (group selection)	5,200	5,200–8,300	0	8,300–12,700
Precommercial thinning	19,000	19000–28,500	4,750–9,500	25,500–35,000

Due to the distance between the Inyo National Forest and existing mill facilities, the vast majority of local processing of forest products is for fuelwood. As such, current and projected sawtimber opportunities are driven by the projected capability of the infrastructure. The capability of the land to provide sawtimber products to achieve desired conditions exceeds the opportunities above.

For all three southern Sierra Nevada Forests, the projection of forest project yields associated with each alternative exceeds the projected area treated and volume available for harvest planned for harvest in during the projected period.

Vegetation Management Practices

Forest management on the southern Sierra Nevada Forests consists of restoration and fuels reduction treatments designed to achieve desired conditions for the associated terrestrial vegetation type on suitable timber lands. Most treatments would occur in the montane zone, with minor amounts in the upper montane zone.

The projected management approach uses an uneven-aged management system. Thinning would be used to increase individual tree vigor, increase horizontal heterogeneity, and reduce fuel hazards. Group selection would be used to regenerate suitable lands, increasing vertical structure heterogeneity and tree species diversity. More diverse silvicultural practices may be utilized to achieve site-specific objectives such as those related to insect and/or pathogen concerns, and meadow enhancement.

Forest management activities on lands not suitable for timber production are likely to be responsive to safety concerns or disturbance agents such as wildfire, windthrow, insect and disease, or other restoration objectives.

While only one decade is displayed in the tables immediately above, the second decade is projected to be comparable to the first decade. As Forests accomplish projects already in the planning stages, and move toward designing new projects, it is anticipated that productivity will increase. It is anticipated that the second decade will likely achieve the upper ranges of the projected treatments, as landscape-level project planning becomes more streamlined and efficiencies are developed.

Methodology

The sustainable yield available for all Forests is substantially higher than the current capacity of any of the southern Sierra Nevada Forests to implement individually or collectively given current appropriations, as well as current regulatory and management constraints. The projected area treated disclosed in the four tables immediately above was established based on projected fiscal and personnel capabilities in conjunction with management objectives and limitations of each alternative.

In general, alternative A describes the existing condition under existing management direction (prior to forest plan revision efforts). Alternative B assumes an increase in accomplishment by removing some of the prescriptive constraints associated with existing management direction, in favor of guiding management actions to achieve desired conditions. Alterative C is more prescriptive than alternative A and guides management actions with limits and restrictions intended to minimize changes originating from timber harvest. Like alternative B, alternative D removes many of the prescriptive constraints across all wildfire zones. Also, alternatives B and D encourage larger, landscape-scale projects.

Based on current levels of funding and production, it is assumed that alternative A, with few changes in regulating direction, future treatments would be relatively consistent with historic treatments (based on Cut/Sold reports and Forest Activity Tracking System 5-year averages). Alternative B has the potential to treat more acres, up to 1.5 times current levels, given a focus on desired conditions, especially in wildfire protection zones. Alternative D is assumed to further expand management to achieve increased long-term ecological resilience, at the landscape scale, resulting in improved project efficiencies, leading to projects 1.5 to 2 times the current level of timber harvest. Alternative C, with an emphasis on projects that minimize mechanical treatments, such as timber harvest, by retaining and expanding prescriptive constraints, likely increases costs and reduces design flexibility. Feasible project areas are expected to be less than current production, perhaps to 0.25 to 0.5 times less due primarily to a focus on minimizing short term impacts of management on habitats for at-risk wildlife species.

Silvicultural Treatments Used to Achieve Plan Objectives

While uneven-aged management will be the primary management system used to achieve desired conditions and timber production, other silvicultural treatments may be utilized to better meet specific forest health and restoration objectives for long-term sustainability.

Reforestation

Reforestation is the act of renewing forest cover by establishing young trees. Prompt and successful reforestation is an essential phase of managed forests. This is typically accomplished by planting nursery-grown seedlings, originating from selected trees with favorable growth characteristics. The establishment of seedlings from nearby sexually-mature trees may supplement areas planted with seedlings. In some cases, seedlings originating from nearby trees may be used to meet management objectives. In the case where desired tree species are capable of sprouting, for example oaks and aspen, these sprouts commonly provide for effective reestablishment.

Site Preparation

These treatments are designed to enhance the success of regeneration efforts. A variety of methods may be used to reduce competing vegetation, planting obstacles, and fuel levels. Ground-based equipment and/or hand tools may be used to reduce tree and shrub levels,

providing a more favorable environment for developing seedlings. Selective herbicides may be applied to suppress competing plants, reducing competition for soil moisture and sunlight. Fire may be used to reduce surface fuel or to consume woody material piled by machine or hand. One or more of these activities may be used to prepare sites for reestablishing seedlings.

Seedling Establishment

New forests may be established by planting seedlings or by germinating seed from nearby mature trees. Seedlings are grown in tree nurseries from selected seed sources to meet the expected demands of the future growth environment. Selected species, numbers, and arrangements are designed to provide a variety of options for the future, including the sustained production of desired forest products. Seedlings developing from seed provided by nearby mature trees vary widely in number and arrangement and commonly establish, in pulses, over time.

In managed environments, planting selected species at designed numbers and arrangements, provides advantages over the development of seedlings from nearby mature trees. Seedlings originating from nearby trees often provide numbers in excess of need and undesired arrangements. They may, however, provide for successful establishment of new forests in places regarded as difficult to plant or when planted seedling mortality levels are unacceptably high. Regardless of origin, both sources benefit from actions taken to provide more favorable growth environments.

Seedling Stocking Criteria

The stocking criteria for lands suitable for timber production are indicated in Table A-14. They are designed to provide for the attainment of the long-term desired conditions, as well as provide sufficient trees to meet the potential forest product yields over time. The values apply after regeneration harvests, as well as after disturbances, including, for example, areas affected by high-severity fire.

On lands identified as suitable for timber production, successful restocking is expected to occur within 5 years of the final harvest.

Table A-14. Stocking criteria for suitable lands by forest type

Forest Type	Site Class*	Trees per Acre Minimum
Ponderosa/Jeffrey pine	0–3	200
Ponderosa/Jeffrey pine	4–5	150
True fir	All	300
Douglas-fir	All	225
Mixed conifer	All	200

* As defined by the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service

Release

These treatments are designed to free young trees from undesirable competing vegetation. Treatments are aimed at increasing the availability of moisture, sunlight, and nutrients to planted seedlings, thus increasing the seedlings chance of survival, as well as favorable growth rates. Depending on conditions, release can be performed using hand tools, herbicides, or ground-based machines.

Precommercial Thinning

This treatment removes selected trees to reduce stocking and to promote growth and development on the more desirable trees. The removed trees are typically small and without sufficient value to cover the cost of the treatment.

Timber Harvest

The projected activities associated with scheduled suitable land forest management are geared toward uneven-aged management, a system that uses a planned sequence of treatments designed to maintain and regenerate a stand with three or more age classes. The types of treatments used are primarily thinning and group selection:

Thinning is commonly applied to lower stand density and improve the health and growth rates of the remaining trees. It may also be designed to alter tree arrangement. Trees of merchantable size are selected for removal, providing the largest portion of forest products, as estimated above. When economically feasible, trees less than merchantable size, may be removed, especially when the reduction of ladder fuels is an objective.

Group selection is the projected method used to regenerate portions of forest stands. All, or most, of the trees are removed, followed by the establishment of seedlings. The size of the opening is variable, but is designed to provide sufficient site resources for favorable seedling establishment and growth.

In addition to scheduled forest management, management actions may also respond to disturbance events (such as, wildfire, windthrow, insect, parasite or pathogen-related decline). Other harvest methods may apply to specific conditions objectives. For example, after wildfire, especially on suitable land, salvage harvests would be implemented to recover the economic value of the dead/dying trees, as well as reduce the fuel environment that would promote the persistence of reestablishing forests. Other events, such as windthrow, insect- or pathogen-related mortality, or mistletoe infections, may lead to salvage or sanitation harvests, as well to recover economic value and improve residual stand health.

Site-specific analysis may also lead to the use of alternative regeneration methods, including those commonly associated with the even-aged management system. For example, project-specific objectives may prefer the shelterwood regeneration method to aid in the establishment of seedlings.

Safety considerations, although not regarded as a component of a harvest system, will likely lead to the harvest of dead/dying trees, as well as living trees that may fail, along roads and other places where people or property are threatened. This action, commonly referred to as hazard tree removal, may be used extensively along roads and trails within wildfire areas.

Definitions

Canopy closure: The percentage of the sky hemisphere obscured by vegetation when viewed from a single point.

Canopy cover: The percentage of forest floor covered by the vertical projection of the tree crowns.

Even-aged harvest: A method of regeneration of a forest with a single age class. An even-aged system consists of a planned sequence of treatments designed to maintain and regenerate a stand with predominantly one age class. The range of tree ages is usually less than 20 percent of the rotation (length in years). Treatments include clearcutting, seedtree, shelterwood, and coppice regeneration methods.

Final regeneration harvest: The final timber harvest in a sequence of harvests designed to regenerate a timber stand or release a regenerated stand. A final regeneration harvest could be a clearcut, removal cut of a shelterwood or seedtree system, or a selection cut.

Forest land: Land that is at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest uses. Land developed for nonforest use includes areas for agricultural crops, improved pasture, residential or administrative areas, roads of any width and adjoining road clearing, and powerline clearing of any width (36 CFR 219.19).

Fuelwood: Wood used for conversion to some form of energy.

Group selection: This is the anticipated regeneration method to be used. Groups of trees are removed and seedlings are established within areas that may range up to 3 acres.

Growing stock: All trees growing in a forest or in a specified part of it, usually commercial species, meeting specified standards of size, quality, and vigor, and generally expressed in terms of trees per acre, density, or volume.

Hazard tree removal: The abatement of tree hazards, generally near roads, trails, and facilities. Tree hazards include dead or dying trees, dead parts of live trees, or unstable live trees (due to structural defects or other factors) that are within striking distance of people or property (a target). Hazard trees have the potential to cause property damage, personal injury or fatality in the event of a failure.

Integrated resources service contract (IRSC): A stewardship contract where the cost of services or construction exceeds the value of the goods (usually timber product removal). The IRSC may trade goods for services, use appropriated funds, and/or use retained receipts from another stewardship contracting project to pay for service work. Each IRSC includes mandatory restoration work items and may include optional restoration work items, which may be added at the government's option.

Integrated resources timber contract (IRTC): A stewardship contract where the value of goods (usually timber product removal) exceeds the cost of services. Each IRTC includes mandatory restoration work items and may include optional restoration work items. Funds received for product removal in excess of service work are retained by the Forest as retained receipts to be used to accomplish restoration work in designated stewardship areas.

Management practices (Vegetation management practices): Silvicultural practices such as reforestation, prescribed fire, thinning to reduce stand density, and other practices designed to facilitate growth and development of trees.

Management intensities: The set and schedule of management practices typically used for certain forest or timber types to achieve desired conditions that may include timber production.

Mean annual increment of growth and culmination of mean annual increment of growth: The mean annual increment of growth is the total increment of increase of volume of a stand (standing crop plus thinnings) up to a given age divided by that age. The culmination of mean annual increment of growth is the age in the growth cycle of an even-aged stand at which the average annual rate of increase of volume is at a maximum. In land management plans, the mean annual increment of growth is expressed in cubic measure and is based on the expected growth of stands according to intensities and utilization guidelines in the plan (36 CFR 219.19).

Mechanical thinning: The thinning of trees in even- and uneven-aged stands involving removal of trees in rows, strips, or set spacing intervals. Mechanical in this sense does not necessarily indicate the use of machinery, but rather the set way in which the thinning is implemented.

Nonforest land: Lands that do not meet the definition of forest land.

Reasonable assurance: A judgment made by the responsible official based on best available scientific information and local professional experience that practices based on existing technology and knowledge are likely to deliver the intended results. Reasonable assurance applies to average and foreseeable conditions for the area and does not constitute a guarantee to achieve the intended results.

Restocked: The condition of the growing space occupancy of trees to be achieved after a disturbance that has substantially altered the existing stocking.

Rotation: The number of years (including the regeneration period) required to establish and grow timber under an even-aged management system to a specified condition or maturity for regeneration harvest.

Salvage cutting: The removal of damaged, dying, or dead trees after injury for outside forces or disturbance. Injury could be caused by wildfire, disease, insects, weather events or other agents. Salvage is conducted to recover economic value that otherwise would be lost, remove trees that present a safety hazard to people, property, or wildlife, reduce available fuels, or other noneconomic purposes. Reforestation after salvage is usually by artificial regeneration.

Sanitation cutting: The removal of individual trees which have suffered or likely to suffer disease or insect attack, to reduce the actual or anticipated spread of the disease or insects, and to recover potential mortality.

Single tree selection: Individual trees of all size classes are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand to promote growth of remaining trees and provide small spaces for regeneration.

Special forest products: Products or natural resources that are not the traditional timber and wood products. Examples include such products as moss, Christmas trees and boughs, mushrooms, transplants (trees, shrubs or herbaceous plants), cones, medicinal plants, seeds, nuts, berries, and decorative wood.

Stand: A contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in age class distribution, composition, and structure, and growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality, to be a distinguishable unit, such as mixed, pure, even-aged, and uneven-aged stands.

Timber production: The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use (36 CFR 219.19).

Two-aged system: A planned sequence of treatments designed to regenerate or maintain a timber stand with two age classes. A two-aged system is a form of even-aged management.

Uneven-aged management system: A system which is implemented to regenerate and maintain a multi-aged forest structure by removing some trees of all age classes and, at the same time, creating microsites for the establishment of seedlings. An uneven-aged system is a planned sequence of treatments designed to regenerate or maintain a timber stand with three or more age classes. Treatments include single-tree selection and group selection regeneration methods.

Utilization standards: Utilization standards are specifications for merchantable forest products offered in a timber sale.

Variable retention: An approach to harvesting based on the retention of structural elements or biological legacies (trees, snags, and logs) from the harvested stand for integration into the new stand to achieve various ecological objectives—note the major variables in the variable retention harvest system are types, densities, and spatial arrangement of retained structures; aggregated retention is the retention of structures or biological legacies as (typically) small, intact forest patches within the harvest unit; dispersed retention is the retention of structures or biological legacies in a dispersed or uniform pattern.

Appendix B: Wilderness Evaluation for the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests

Introduction

Relationship to the Forest Plan Revision Process

The Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests are required as part of the land management plan revision process to "identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation" (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219.7(v)).

The process used to identify and evaluate lands is found in the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook FSH 1909.12-2015-1, Chapter 70 – Wilderness (Wilderness Recommendation Handbook). The Wilderness Recommendation Handbook contains Forest Service guidance and instruction on how to carry out the direction contained in 36 CFR Section 219.7(v). It includes the November 15, 2013 Federal Advisory Committee recommendations on the Chapter 70 wilderness inventory and evaluation process.

The process occurs in four primary steps: inventory, evaluation, analysis, and recommendation. Each step requires public participation. The inventory step identifies all lands in the plan area that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act. This step is intended to be reasonably broad and inclusive. The evaluation step evaluates the wilderness characteristics of lands in the inventory. The inventory and evaluation steps use criteria set out in the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook and are further described below. In the analysis step, the Forest Supervisor considers the areas evaluated and determines which areas to further analyze for potential recommendation as part of one or more alternatives analyzed in the environmental impact statement for the revised plans. Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be analyzed as potential recommended wilderness. Based on the analysis and input from Tribal, State, and local governments and the public, the Forest Supervisor decides which areas, if any, to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Forest Supervisor will document this decision in the final decision document for each revised plan.

Inventory

Process Used to Inventory Areas that may be Suitable for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The inventory process includes: a) the preparation of a preliminary inventory map; b) public input on the preliminary inventory map; c) preparation of a final inventory map that incorporates public input and corrects mapping errors.

Preliminary Inventory Map

For each of the three national forests, a preliminary inventory map was developed of undeveloped areas that may have wilderness characteristics using the three sets of criteria identified in the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook (i.e., roads improvements, other improvements and minimum size). Forest Service staff completed the following:

1. Identified all lands that met the roads improvements criteria, as outlined in Chapter 70, 71.22(a). Roads improvements data was developed through the travel management planning process on each Forest. The objective maintenance level of each road was used. The Forest Service analysis of roads improvements incorporated the travel planning process on the Sierra National Forest and the travel management decisions on the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests. The undeveloped areas on the preliminary inventory map were unroaded, contained decommissioned or unauthorized routes, or contained objective maintenance level 1 roads. Motorized trails were included in the preliminary inventory because they met the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook's definition of unroaded.
2. Excluded lands that met the roads improvements criteria but had less than half a mile across between roads. These areas are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
3. Excluded lands that met the roads improvements criteria but had "power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structures," as outlined in Chapter 70, 71.22(b)(9). The Wilderness Recommendation Handbook allows areas with other types of improvements, such as timber harvest areas, historic mining areas or range improvements, to be included in the inventory as long as they are not substantially noticeable.
4. Created a draft preliminary inventory map based on the above steps, identifying polygons in the following categories:
    a. Areas 5,000 acres or greater.
    b. Areas less than 5,000 acres and noncontiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on both National Forest System lands and adjacent lands of other Federal ownership.
    c. Areas between 1,000 and 4,999 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership.
    d. Areas less than 1,000 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership.
5. Included all areas 5,000 acres or greater (Chapter 70, 71.21(1)).
6. Included areas between 1,000 and 4,999 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership (Chapter 70, 71.21 (3)).
7. Reviewed areas less than 5,000 acres and noncontiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and lands of other Federal ownership. All these areas were excluded because the forests determined during their reviews that they were not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition (Chapter 70, 71.21(3)).
8. Reviewed areas less than 1,000 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership. Most of these areas were very small and oddly shaped and had been purposefully excluded from previous Congressional wilderness designations. These areas were excluded unless the forests determined that they were practicable additions in shape and size.

9. Excluded improvements in the polygons that did not meet the criteria in Chapter 70, 71.22(b).
10. Updated preliminary inventory maps based on the above steps.

The preliminary inventory maps of lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System for all three forests can be viewed or downloaded at the following websites:

- Overview map of all three forests: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804531.jpg
- Inyo National Forest (North): http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804531.jpg
- Inyo National Forest (South): http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804526.jpg
- Sequoia National Forest: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804514.jpg
- Sierra National Forest: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804525.jpg

The maps display two categories of areas that are part of the preliminary inventory: (1) Preliminary Inventory, greater than 5,000 acres, and (2) Preliminary Inventory, 1,000-5,000 acres, contiguous. These areas represent undeveloped lands that may have wilderness characteristics because they meet the size criteria, improvements criteria, and roads improvements criteria. The maps also display two categories of areas that were considered, but eventually excluded from the preliminary inventory as described in the steps above.

Table B-1 displays the total acres on each forest that were considered for inclusion in the inventory, the total acres on each forest that did not meet the wilderness inventory criteria, and the total acres on each forest that met the wilderness inventory criteria.

Table B-1. Preliminary inventory acres for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

National Forest	Total undeveloped acres considered in wilderness inventory	Acres that do not meet wilderness inventory criteria	Acres that meet wilderness inventory criteria
Inyo	791,409	192,855	598,554
Sequoia	669,241	134,195	535,046
Sierra	517,157	204,317	312,840
Total	1,977,807	531,367	1,446,440

Public Input on the Preliminary Inventory Map

The Forest Service posted the preliminary inventory map (map version 3.1, dated June 4, 2014) for each national forest to the Pacific Southwest Region's planning website on June 4, 2014 (http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3803608). During a public workshop and tribal forum held on each national forest in mid-June, the preliminary inventory maps were introduced, and the public was invited to provide input on the maps through June 30, 2014. The tools used to inform the public about the upcoming workshops included news releases to individuals and the media, emails to parties on the schedule of proposed actions

database list, radio spots, and the Pacific Southwest Region's planning website. The public input primarily focused on whether roads existed on some of the undeveloped lands on the Inyo National Forest.

Public input also included a comprehensive citizen-developed inventory of areas that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The citizen inventory included a total of 1,046,406 acres, including 456,157 acres on the Inyo National Forest, 332,199 acres on the Sequoia National Forest, and 258,050 acres on the Sierra National Forest.

Final Inventory Map

The final inventory maps (map version 4.1, dated August 29, 2014) incorporated the following adjustments after reviewing the citizen-developed inventory and other public input:

- Fixed cartographic reference layers on the maps that had errors.
- The Inyo National Forest enlarged one undeveloped area.
- The Sequoia National Forest incorporated the results of their travel analysis process, which was not available at the time the preliminary map was completed. Several errors were corrected that resulted in an adjustment to the total number of undeveloped acres on the forest and a reduction in the number of acres meeting size requirements.
- The citizen-developed inventory was carefully reviewed by the staff at each national forest. Of the 1,046,406 total acres in the citizen inventory, 938,635 acres were consistent with what the Forest Service had identified in its inventory. The areas that were not consistent with the Forest Service inventory did not meet the inventory criteria and were not included in the final inventory. On the Inyo National Forest, 93 percent of the citizen inventory was included in the final inventory. On the Sequoia National Forest, 89 percent of the citizen inventory was included. On the Sierra National Forest, 84 percent of the citizen inventory was included.

The final inventory maps of lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System for all three forests can be viewed or downloaded at the following websites:

- Overview map of all three forests: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815403.pdf
- Inyo National Forest (North): http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815404.pdf
- Inyo National Forest (South): http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815405.pdf
- Sequoia National Forest: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815406.pdf
- Sierra National Forest: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815407.pdf

The maps display two categories of areas that are part of the final inventory: 1) Final Inventory, greater than 5,000 acres and 2) Final Inventory, 1,000-5,000 acres, contiguous. These areas represent undeveloped lands that may have wilderness characteristics because they meet the size criteria, improvements criteria, and roads improvements criteria. The maps also display two categories of areas that were considered, but eventually excluded from the inventory as described in the preliminary inventory steps above.

Table 2 displays the revised total acres on each forest that were considered for inclusion in the inventory, the revised total acres on each forest that did not meet the wilderness inventory criteria, and the revised total acres on each forest that met the wilderness inventory criteria.

Table B-2. Final inventory acres for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

National Forest	Total undeveloped acres analyzed for wilderness inventory criteria	Acres that do not meet wilderness inventory criteria	Acres that meet wilderness inventory criteria*
Inyo	791,595	178,817	612,778
Sequoia	663,175	134,315	528,860
Sierra	517,157	204,317	312,840
Total	1,971,927	517,449	1,454,478

The acres listed here represent the final inventory dataset. The final inventory dataset and the dataset used for the evaluation (see Evaluation section) are the same except for some small corrections that were made in the evaluation dataset after the final inventory was completed. For this reason, there are some small discrepancies between the polygon acreage totals shown here and those calculated for the evaluation dataset.

Inyo National Forest Inventory Results

There are 56 wilderness inventory areas (totaling 612,778 acres) that meet the wilderness inventory criteria for minimum size, improvements or roads improvements. Thirty-one wilderness inventory areas are larger than 5,000 acres in size. Twenty-five wilderness inventory areas are between 1,000 and 5,000 acres in size and adjacent to designated wilderness.

The 178,817 acres that do not meet the wilderness inventory criteria comprise three categories of area: a) 321 areas that are less than 1,000 acres in size; b) 39 areas that are between 1,000 and 5,000 acres in size; c) 146 areas that are less than 1,000 acres in size and contiguous to designated wilderness.

Sequoia National Forest Inventory Results

There are 37 wilderness inventory areas (totaling 528,860 acres) that meet the wilderness inventory criteria for minimum size, improvements or roads improvements. Twenty-eight wilderness inventory areas are larger than 5,000 acres in size. Nine wilderness inventory areas are between 1,000 and 5,000 acres in size, and are adjacent to designated or recommended wilderness.

The 134,315 acres that do not meet the wilderness inventory criteria comprise three categories of area: a) 210 areas that are less than 1,000 acres in size; b) 34 areas that are between 1,000 and 5,000 acres in size; c) 47 areas that are less than 1,000 acres in size and contiguous to designated or recommended wilderness.

Sierra National Forest Inventory Results

There are 22 wilderness inventory areas (totaling 312,840 acres) that meet the wilderness inventory criteria for minimum size, improvements or roads improvements. Sixteen wilderness inventory areas are larger than 5,000 acres in size. Six wilderness inventory areas are between 1,000 and 5,000 acres in size, and are adjacent to designated wilderness.

The 204,317 acres that do not meet the wilderness inventory criteria comprise three categories of area: 497 areas that are less than 1,000 acres in size; 52 areas that are between 1,000 and 5,000 acres in size; 37 areas that are less than 1,000 acres in size and contiguous to designated wilderness.

Evaluation Process

Process Used to Evaluate Areas that may be Suitable for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The primary function of the evaluation step is to evaluate the wilderness characteristics of the lands included in the final inventory, using criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964 as described in the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70, Section 72).

Creation of an Evaluation Dataset and Map Based on the Final Inventory

The first step of the evaluation phase was to create a clean dataset with which to begin the evaluations. The evaluation map and dataset include all the areas that met the inventory criteria in the final inventory and exclude the areas considered, but eliminated from the final inventory.

Consideration of Motorized Trails

The Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests examined their evaluation polygons to determine whether wilderness characteristics were affected by authorized motorized trails. Motorized trails were authorized as part of each forest's transportation system through recent travel management decisions.

The following process was used to examine motorized trails:

1. Mapping designated motorized trails on top of the final inventory polygons.
2. Creating subpolygons within the final inventory polygons to separate areas containing authorized motorized trails from the rest of the polygon.
3. Evaluating subpolygons with authorized motorized trails to determine the impact of those trails on wilderness characteristics, considering:
    a. The prevalence of motorized trails.
    b. The level of commitment to these trails.

Based on this process, we found that the wilderness characteristics of approximately 273,100 acres across the three national forests were affected by authorized motorized trails. The final inventory maps with the identified areas affected by motorized trails were posted to our "Talking Points" website at https://my.usgs.gov/ppgis/studio/launch/16850. The public was given the opportunity to provide input on the maps between September 5, 2014 and September 24, 2014. See a more detailed discussion on public input below.

Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics

Interdisciplinary teams at each of the three national forests evaluated their final inventory polygons to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The forests considered the following criteria, based on direction found in the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook:

1. The degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, considering factors such as:
    a. Whether the composition of plant and animal communities appears natural (e.g., past management activities have created a plantation-style forest with trees of a uniform specie and age and planted in rows).

   b. Extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention.

   c. Extent to which improvements included in the area represent a departure from apparent naturalness.

2. The degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The word "or" means that an area only has to possess one or the other. The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Considerations include:

   a. Impacts that are pervasive and influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude within the evaluated area. Factors to consider may include topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, degree of permanent intrusions, and pervasive sights and sounds from outside the area.

   b. The opportunity to engage in primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Factors may include the degree of challenge or risk while using outdoor skills.

3. The degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values are not required to be present in an area, but their presence should be identified and evaluated where they exist.

4. The degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

   a. Shape and configuration of the area.

   b. Legally established rights or uses within the area.

   c. Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

   d. The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area.

   e. Management of adjacent lands.

Maps of the final inventory polygons for each forest along with their evaluation narratives can be found below.

Public Input on the Evaluation

Public input was gathered in a number of ways throughout the process and was considered in the development of the evaluation narratives. There will be further opportunities for the public to provide input on the evaluation narratives during the public comment period after the draft environmental impact statement is released.

In September 2014, the Forest Service notified the public that the final inventory maps were available on our "Talking Points" website at https://my.usgs.gov/ppgis/studio/launch/16850 and were asked to provide any information to help document the wilderness characteristics of the final inventory polygons. These maps also identified areas within final inventory polygons where wilderness character was affected by authorized motorized trails. Stakeholders provided information via this website through general written comments and also by highlighting specific points or areas on the map and attaching comments specific to those areas.

In addition, we received comments regarding the wilderness evaluation through our project website, email, and postal mail during the scoping period. The wilderness evaluation process and final inventory maps were also part of the public workshops and tribal forums held on each of the three forests in September 2014.

From June to November 2015, the forests received and reviewed additional public input on the initially selected areas for analysis as recommended wilderness (see Analysis section), as well as the evaluation process. As a result, we further refined the evaluation narratives to include any new, relevant information; to improve consistency and clarity in the evaluation narratives; and to add more detail regarding wilderness characteristics in the evaluation narratives.

In December 2015, the public was given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft wilderness evaluation narratives prior to the completion of the draft environmental impact statement. This resulted in further adjustments to the wilderness evaluation narratives. For more information on feedback received, see the Analysis section below.

Summary of Public Input

Several stakeholders were under the impression that the final wilderness inventory maps represented each forest's recommendations for additional designated wilderness. In addition, there was a perception that the "Talking Points" map did not display all existing roads or other developments. These perceptions had a noticeable influence on the input we received.

Public input generally fell into the following categories:

1. Views on recommending additional wilderness areas.
    a. Stakeholders opposed to recommending additional wilderness areas generally cited the lack of wilderness characteristics in areas with motorized trails, mountain bike trails, or other improvements.
    b. Stakeholders in favor of recommending additional wilderness areas generally cited an area's natural qualities, opportunities for primitive recreation, or other features of value.
2. Wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
    a. The motorized recreation community expressed concern that the evaluation process would override and nullify decisions on the forest transportation system made through the recent travel management process.
    b. Wilderness advocacy organizations wanted to see an assessment of whether the areas in the final inventory contained underrepresented ecosystems in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
    c. Some stakeholders were concerned about excluding the areas with motorized trails identified on the "Talking Points" map from being evaluated for wilderness characteristics.
    d. Some stakeholders wanted to see a broader evaluation process, ranging from being more inclusive of all roadless areas to reconsidering designated wilderness boundaries.
3. Impacts or management issues from additional wilderness designations.
    a. Concerns with the agency's ability to manage additional wilderness.

b. Concerns that additional wilderness would reduce the amount of California state off-highway vehicle grants coming to the forests and reduce the off-highway vehicle community's volunteer and financial contributions to maintaining motorized trails.

c. Concerns that additional wilderness would limit areas on the forest open to multiple-use recreation and would harm the tourism economies of gateway communities.

d. Concerns that additional wilderness would limit a forest's ability to conduct fuels treatments or fire suppression activities, especially adjacent to communities or private lands.

e. Concerns that additional wilderness would affect the ability of people who are disable or elderly to access the national forests.

f. Concerns about restrictions on livestock grazing.

How Public Input was Incorporated

Motorized Trails

Some of the input received on motorized trails resulted from viewers not being able to see them on the "Talking Points" map. The visibility of motorized trails on this map is scale dependent and requires viewers to zoom in to a certain level before being able to see the motorized trails.

The presence of authorized motorized trails in an inventory area is not by itself a sufficient basis for not conducting an evaluation of the area. The evaluation narrative for each inventory area contains a summary of the motorized trails within the area and describes the effects those trails have on the wilderness characteristics and manageability of the area.

Wilderness Characteristics

Any new, relevant information regarding the wilderness characteristics of a specific area was validated and then incorporated into the evaluation narrative.

Recommending Additional Areas

Public feedback regarding which polygons to recommend or not was reviewed, categorized, and summarized. Forest Supervisors then considered this information in deciding which areas or portions of areas to carry forward as recommended wilderness in one or more alternatives in the draft environmental impact statement.

Underrepresented Ecosystem Types

The Wilderness Society submitted substantial and detailed information regarding ecosystem representation, including several tables and maps. We reviewed and synthesized this information and included summaries in the wilderness evaluation narratives.

Broadness of the Evaluation Process

The Forest Service's wilderness evaluation process is intended to be transparent and consistent for all national forests across the country. All national forests follow the guidance set forth in the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook.

Management of Recommended Wilderness

The revised forest plan provides management direction for any recommended wilderness. When developing plan components for recommended wilderness areas, the Forest Supervisor has discretion to implement a range of management options. If any areas are recommended for wilderness through a revised forest plan, the forest is required "to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for their suitability for wilderness designation" (36 CFR §219.11).

Other Factors and Management Issues

Many of the additional concerns raised by the public are not applicable to the evaluation of wilderness characteristics. However, they are considered by Forest Supervisors during the analysis phase.

Explanatory Notes on Roads and Motorized Trails

Roads

A Forest road is a road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System (NFS) that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the NFS and the use and development of its resources (36 CFR 212.1). In several instances, reference is made to "level 1 roads" or "level 2 roads" on National Forest System land. This refers to the level of service provided by, and maintenance required for, a specific road (FSH 7709.59, Ch. 60, sec. 62.3). The following explanation of those maintenance levels is taken from Forest Service Handbook, 1909.12, Chapter 12, Wilderness:

1. Level 1 roads are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are to "prohibit" and "eliminate" all traffic. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps.

   Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for non-motorized uses.

2. Level 2 roads are open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 "No Traffic Signs," may be posted at intersections. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log-haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to "discourage" or "prohibit" passenger cars. "Accept" or "discourage" strategies may be employed for high clearance vehicles.

Cherry Stem Roads

Throughout the descriptions of polygons, there are references to cherry stem roads. A cherry stem road refers to a dead-end road that appears to protrude into a polygon, but the perimeter of the polygon is drawn around the road, excluding the road from being within the actual boundary of a polygon.

Authorized Motorized Trails or Authorized Forest System Roads

Throughout the descriptions of polygons, there are references to authorized motorized trails or authorized forest system roads. These were designated by Travel Management Record of Decisions.

Inyo National Forest Evaluations

Evaluation narratives are provided first, followed by the series of maps for each forest. The map section includes an index map (Figure B-1). The appropriate sectional maps are referenced in each polygon narrative.

Evaluation Narratives

Polygon 944 (Watterson Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 944 (Watterson Canyon) is located east of Crowley Lake and north of the Benton Crossing Road and Watterson Canyon (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It consists of 7,629 acres, ranging in elevation from 7,000-7,600 feet. The polygon is elongated (horizontal) and bisected by motorized trail.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 61 percent of the area of the polygon (4,635 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent groups are inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland and inter-mountain basin montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 2,970 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The ecosystem types include sagebrush, pinyon-juniper and Jeffrey pine. It is within the Benton-Casa Diablo Place, which is described as broad volcanic tableland punctuated by mountain peaks of the Benton mountain range. The polygon includes broad, open sandy canyons with minimal vegetation cover, and shrublands and pinyon woodlands. It includes Watterson Inventoried Roadless Area and a sage grouse priority habitat.

Soils are likely in desired condition, except for site-specific localized effects. Air quality is excellent. Riparian vegetation may be present in canyons. There are no perennial or intermittent stream channels present. There are no meadows. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence and expansion of cheatgrass, an invasive plant species. Extensive past and current grazing has occurred in the area; the area is currently grazed by sheep. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there are documented cultural sites that include prehistoric lithic scatters, rock rings and milling features.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is highly variable, but generally includes broad, open sandy canyons with minimal vegetation cover, providing little screening. A motorized trail nearly bisects the area, and the Benton Crossing Road (a moderate use paved road) is located along the southern and eastern boundary. There is a power line along the northern boundary that may be visible from the area. The potential for encounters with other users is low and mostly concentrated on the motorized trail and roads around perimeter. There is limited opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to the proximity of the road and motorized trail system. The area is largely undeveloped and there is likely opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

This is a sage grouse priority habitat.

Manageability

There is one motorized trail that runs north to south, splitting the polygon nearly in half. The area is surrounded by roads, including Benton Crossing Road (a moderately traveled, high speed paved road on the south and east), lightly traveled dirt roads (including a power line on the north), and a motorized trail through the center. The polygon occurs within priority habitat for sage grouse which may require habitat restoration activities.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is undeveloped. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,635 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 2,790 acres. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is degraded due to the motorized trail system that runs through the middle of the area, and the high speed paved Benton Crossing Road along the south and east boundaries. The proximity to roads and motorized trails would make it difficult to manage for wilderness characteristics. The location of the roads, motorized trails, power lines and forest boundary do not allow the polygon to be reshaped in a way that would make it more manageable. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence and expansion of cheatgrass, an invasive plant species. The area occurs within priority habitat for sage grouse, where habitat restoration activities may be desired.

Polygon 995 (Kelty Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 995 is located in the Glass Mountains, Kelty Canyon area west of Benton Crossing Road (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). It consists of 5,806 acres, ranging in elevation from 6,800 to 8,800 feet. The polygon is somewhat elongated, north to south.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 35 percent of the polygon (2,056 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent group is inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 3,639 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany and pinyon-juniper. Roads (including Benton Crossing Road) and the forest boundary (private land in Frazier Canyon and Bureau of Land Management) surround the area. It is within the Benton-Casa Diablo Place, described as broad volcanic tableland punctuated by mountain peaks of the Benton mountain range. The polygon includes broad, open sandy canyons with minimal vegetation cover, and shrublands and pinyon woodlands ecosystem types. The majority of the area intersects Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area.

The area provides some contiguous habitat for wildlife. There have been limited management activities in this area. Air quality is excellent. The condition of meadow and riparian areas is unknown. Riparian vegetation is present in canyons throughout this area in unknown condition; a mapped meadow is present in Kelty Canyon. Pinyon pine expansion is occurring, which could indicate a departure from natural fire regime due to fire suppression. There are few invasive plant species. Grazing occurs in the area and is evident; it is likely there are localized legacy grazing impacts.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is highly variable, but generally includes moderate, open slopes and broad canyons. Topography and vegetation provide some screening. The distance from impacts and developments varies, including authorized forest system roads along the south and west perimeter, a few cherry stemmed roads, a moderately used paved road along the east boundary, an extensive network of authorized motorized trails to the west, and Highway 120 is 2 miles to the northeast. Sights and sounds from paved and forest system roads and motorized trails would likely penetrate throughout the polygon and limit opportunities for solitude. The area is largely undeveloped and there are likely opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities such as cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

None were noted.

Manageability

The polygon is elongated and narrow, north to south, no more than 3 miles across. It is bordered by forest roads, Benton Crossing Road, and the straight-line forest boundary with other Federal land and private lands.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area does provide contiguous habitat for wildlife. Air quality is excellent. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the proximity to roads and motorized trails; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout the polygon and limit opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,056 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,635 acres. There is not the potential to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1012 (Glass Mountains)

General Description

Polygon 1012 (Glass Mountains) consists of 40,368 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000 to over 11,000 feet and is located in the Glass Mountains (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). This area includes Glass Mountain at 11,123 feet in elevation.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates thirty two percent of the polygon (13,003 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Two of the groups, inter-mountain

basins big sagebrush shrubland and inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, have substantial acreage in this polygon. An additional 17,288 acres are comprised of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and rocky mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The polygon includes moderate to steep open slopes and ridges, cresting at Glass Mountain on the eastern side. There are gentler slopes in Jeffrey pine forest on the western side. The area includes views to Crowley Basin and the Sierra Nevada. The majority of Glass Mountain area is mid-elevation forests (Jeffrey pine and mixed-conifer forests) with some high forests (subalpine, such as whitebark pine) along the southern end, and pinyon woodlands in the foothills. Numerous perennial channels are present (O'Harrel Creek, Wilfred Creek, McGee Canyon), as well as numerous intermittent channels. Air quality is excellent. This polygon intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area; Indiana Summit Research Natural Area and Sentinel Meadow Research Natural Area. Several public comments indicated the area is an important wildlife migration corridor. The polygon contains sage grouse restoration habitat, including priority habitat.

There is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence and increase in cheatgrass. Native fish and fishless areas were stocked with non-native trout species, which has affected aquatic ecologic integrity. Exotic fish species have displaced the small minnow species in area streams and ponds. There have been legacy impacts to soils and riparian areas from grazing, logging, and dispersed camping; however, these impacts are mostly site-specific and not widespread. There are some watershed restoration activities, including head cut stabilization within several meadow and spring systems, including McGee Meadow and Sawmill Meadow. The area also includes aspen restoration.

There is a communication site at the top of Glass Mountain that is accessed via helicopter. Both sheep and cattle grazing takes place in this area; there are fences, spring boxes and troughs associated with grazing allotments and there may be a water diversion to Alpers and Arcularias Ranch. McGee Meadow and Sawmill Meadow have headcut structures that are not substantially visible. Headcut and fencing treatments exist around springs in the southwest portion of the polygon.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This large polygon is bordered by an extensive road and motorized trail system that is popular for dispersed recreation. Many authorized forest system roads shape the polygon with a lot of narrow appendages, including an elongated and narrow one on the west side. On the eastside of the polygon, an authorized motorized trail runs north to south through the polygon, limiting opportunity for solitude in this area. There is some screening due to topography and vegetation.

Several management activities have occurred or are occurring, including historic logging, multiple grazing allotments, woodcutting, outfitting and guiding, dispersed camping and hunting. The distances from impacts vary greatly, but generally are up to 3 miles from nearest road or trail system from the interior of the polygon. There are likely areas within the polygon that are free from motorized noise. The area receives low to moderate amounts of recreation use. There is some over snow vehicle use on the east side. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the interior portion of the polygon, which is largely undeveloped and likely provides

primitive-type recreation opportunities including cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration and some degree of challenge due to remoteness and steep terrain.

Other Features of Value

Prehistoric use here was significant with a very large number of documented prehistoric sites, including lithic scatters, lithic isolates and piagi collection trenches. The Glass Mountains were an important obsidian source. Piagi trenches may be maintained by contemporary Indians.

The polygon includes sensitive plant species including Mono Lake lupine, Raven's milkvetch and Mono milkvetch. Unique, diverse conifer communities occur here, including whitebark, limber and lodgepole pine. Blister rust resistant white bark pines are in the highest elevation core of the Glass Mountains. The area is a sage grouse priority habitat and contains northern goshawk breeding areas. There are Lahontan cutthroat trout in O'Harrel Creek. There is exceptional geology, including obsidian and pumice.

Manageability

This polygon intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area; Indiana Summit Research Natural Area and Sentinel Meadow Research Natural Area; and priority sage grouse habitat. The area is surrounded by an extensive forest system road and motorized trail system that provides access for management activities and is popular for dispersed recreation. In some areas, the polygon is irregularly shaped, particularly the western portion of the polygon in the vicinity of Indiana Summit Research Natural Area and Bald Mountain Springs, and west of McGlaughlin Creek (elongated and narrow). The eastern portion of the polygon has an extensive network of motorized trails within the border of the polygon. There is also one motorized trail in the southwest portion of the polygon. Both sage grouse and Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat areas may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. There are three water rights in the area. There is outfitting and guiding under special use authorizations occurring in the area. There is one private land inholding (40 acres west of Wilfred Canyon). The communication site on top of Glass Mountain is a highly developed, permanent facility that is accessed by helicopter. Public comments indicate there are trails used by mountain bikers in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation within the interior portion of the polygon. Some portions of the polygon have authorized motorized trails within the boundary that would limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, which would also occur near some of the perimeter areas that are surrounded by an extensive network of forest system roads.

Impacts to soils and riparian areas are localized and not widespread. Air quality is excellent. Activities associated with managing sage grouse habitat, Lahontan cutthroat trout, meadow and aspen occur in this polygon. The communication site on top of Glass Mountain is visible from much of the area is accessed via helicopter. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 13,003 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 17,288 acres.

There is the potential to reshape the polygon to make the area more manageable (east of McLaughlin Creek and west of Wilfred Creek). During the development of the forest's assessment report in 2013, the public suggested four ecologically unique complexes that contain ecological, recreational, and cultural values to consider for special designation (not specifically wilderness), which included the Glass Mountains.

Polygon 1039 (Black Mountain and Sawmill Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1039 (Black Mountain and Sawmill Canyon) consists of 11,026 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000 to 8,900 feet. It is located on the east side of the Glass Mountain (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B) and includes Sawmill Canyon and Black Mountain at 8,895 feet elevation. Roads and a private land parcel protrude into the polygon, making it oddly shaped. The area is bounded by the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management and a private land parcel on the north and east side.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 20 percent of the polygon (2,240 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent group is inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 1,940 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The topography is highly variable, but generally includes moderate, open slopes and broad canyons leading to 9,000 foot Black Mountain. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush. The polygon includes moderate, open slopes and broad canyons leading to 8,895 foot Black Mountain. There are several perennial stream channels (Sawmill Canyon, Wet Fork and Dry Fork). Klondike Canyon is a major intermittent stream in this area. The polygon intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area.

There invasive plant species Russian thistle is stable. Native fish and fishless areas were stocked with non-native trout species, which has affected aquatic ecologic integrity. Exotic fish species displaced the small minnow species in area streams and ponds. A mapped meadow is present in Black Canyon in unknown condition and riparian vegetation is present in canyons throughout this area. There have been mostly site-specific legacy impacts to soil from fire, logging and grazing. The impacts from fire are mostly recovered. Air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Topography and vegetation provide screening and distance from developments in the interior portions of the polygon. However, in other areas, State Highway 120 is evident. The potential for encounters with other users is mostly concentrated in perimeter areas, due to the extensive network of forest system roads, including several that cherry stem into the area and partially divide the polygon into many small sections, and in areas adjacent to authorized motorized trails. Sights and sound from roadways and motorized trails penetrate those areas of the polygon. The area is largely undeveloped and there are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including

cross-country hiking, hunting, photography and general forest exploration. There is some private property within the polygon.

Other Features of Value

Although the area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, there are roughly a dozen known cultural resource sites including several historic structural foundations and remains as well as prehistoric lithic scatters and a pinyon camp complex of rock rings. The polygon includes outstanding views of White Mountains and Adobe Valley.

Manageability

The polygon is irregularly shaped, with a few cherry stem roads and a private land parcel that protrudes into the area at several locations. The north and east boundary are the straight line forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management. The polygon intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. There are three water rights.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The invasive plant species Russian thistle is stable and historic fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. The area provides some contiguous habitat for wildlife and air quality is excellent. There are some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the interior portion, but opportunities near the perimeter are limited due to the sights and sounds of adjacent forest system roads and authorized motorized trails, including roads that cherry stem into the area, partially dividing the polygon into many small portions. There are three water rights within the area. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,240 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 8,450 acres. The potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable is unlikely.

Polygon 1068 (Dexter Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1068 (Dexter Canyon) consists of 12,311 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 8,800 feet. It is located south of Highway 120 and east of Sagehen Peak and includes Dexter Canyon (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 63 percent of the polygon (7,779 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent groups are inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland and inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 3,677 acres is largely comprised of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush. It is a priority habitat for sage grouse. There are numerous perennial channels, including Dexter, Wet, and North Canyons. Intermittent channels also are present. Air quality is excellent.

Brown trout are stocked on private land downstream, and are self-sustaining. This has affected invertebrate populations and the fishless nature of the streams. A departure in the natural fire regime due to fire suppression is evident from pinyon pine expansion in some areas. There have been some watershed restoration activities, including head cut stabilization within several meadow systems including Johnny and Wild Horse Meadows.

There have been legacy impacts to soils from logging infrastructure (skid trails) and grazing impacts, especially in meadows. There is an active sheep grazing allotment, Dexter Creek Allotment. There are no fences, but there are at least three large water troughs and a large water tank in the area. Shepherds drive sheep from place to place and set up camps where they stay overnight. The camps include a trailer, water trucks, up to 1,500 sheep and herding and guard dogs. There are some headcut structures (rocks and logs) that are not substantially noticeable within several of the meadows.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

A motorized trail dissects the polygon in two. The polygon is bounded by Highway 120, Bureau of Land Management, and private land in the northeastern corner. Private land parcels (Symons Ranch and Adobe Reservoir) and roads protrude into the area making the polygon oddly shaped and noncontiguous. There is a private land inholding northwest of Dexter Canyon. The polygon intersects Dexter Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. Proximity to motorized recreation (roads and trails), private land parcels, and Highway 120 limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There is gentle terrain with some screening from trees and within the drainages. There are opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration. Use is mostly focused around the roads and motorized trails.

Other Features of Value

The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources; however, there are 10 documented properties, which include a Basque shelter, a historic dam and reservoir, and numerous prehistoric lithic scatters.

There is priority habitat for sage grouse. Features of value in this polygon include the sensitive Bodie Hills rockcress. There may be rare springsnails in some of the springs in the area.

Manageability

Private land parcels (Symons Ranch and Adobe Reservoir) and roads protrude into the area, making the polygon oddly shaped and noncontiguous, and there are motorized trails within the polygon area, including a motorized trail crosses that splits it in two. Adobe Reservoir is partially on National Forest System land within the polygon and is under special use permit. There is a private land inholding northwest of Dexter Canyon that likely has an access road. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse and intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are few invasive plant species. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Air quality is excellent. Proximity to motorized recreation, private land parcels and Highway 120, limit the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in some areas. There is one motorized trail that runs north to south and nearly splits the polygon in two. The polygon is irregularly shaped, with cherry stemmed roads and private land parcels (including one inholding) that protrude into the polygon. There is not likely the opportunity to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 7,779 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,677 acres.

Polygon 1072 (Mono Craters)

General Description

Polygon 1072 (Mono Craters) consists of 7,574 acres ranging in elevation from 7,200 to 9,172 feet (Crater Mountain). It is located south of Mono Lake and Highway 120 (Figure B-2, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A) and includes Mono Craters, the youngest mountain range in the United States. Most of the polygon is located within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. It is elongated (vertical) and roads protrude into the polygon along the west side, making it oddly shaped. The southern portion is bounded by private land (U.S. Pumice), leaving a small finger (East Craters Sand Flat) included in the inventory in the southeast corner.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 57 percent of the polygon (4,330 acres) consists of ecological groups that may be considered minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent group is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. The remainder of the polygon is largely comprised of pumice flats with its dry forb vegetation type.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types in this polygon include Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and a special type of dry forb. It is priority habitat for sage grouse. The polygon intersects with the Mono Craters Inventoried Roadless Area and a majority of the polygon is located within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The area includes Mono Craters with exposed domes and lava flows and sand flats.

There are rare plants and unique vegetation types on pumice flats. There are a few invasive species, including cheatgrass. The area provides contiguous habitat for wildlife. The polygon contains limited water and there are no mapped meadows or riparian vegetation. The soils are likely at the desired condition. Air quality is excellent. Grazing occurs in the area. There are two sheep allotments, but there is not much use. The polygon includes historic mining. The area also contains United States Geological Survey monitoring equipment and there is the need to maintain and use helicopters to access the equipment.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is little screening in the area, with visibility toward the Mono Basin and Highways 120 and 395. There are several cherry stem roads that protrude into the polygon along the western perimeter and Highway 120 is the northern boundary. The polygon is surrounded by an extensive road system. There is a commercial operation on the private land along the southern boundary (U.S. Pumice). There is a special use permit road for a small road segment on the south end. The proximity to the road system and commercial operation on private land limits the opportunity for solitude. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, photography and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

The Mono Craters are a unique volcanic feature.

Manageability

The polygon is irregularly shaped with cherry stem roads that protrude into the western boundary and a narrow finger that reaches south of the private land. The polygon as a whole is narrow and elongated (less than 3 miles across). Private land to the south is owned by U.S. Pumice, which has a commercial operation. There are haul routes under special use permit. The polygon intersects with the Mono Craters Inventoried Roadless Area and a majority of the polygon is located within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Grazing allotments are present but use is low. There is evidence of historic mining activity. There are few developments noted. The United States Geological Survey has monitoring equipment in the area that is maintained by helicopter. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,330 acres. The opportunity for solitude is degraded due to the proximity to roads and highways. There may be opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is limited opportunity to reshape to polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness characteristics due to the proximity to roads and the already narrow shape of the polygon. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. Some existing uses would be nonconforming with wilderness designation, including snowmobile use and mountain biking.

Polygon 1080 (Anderson Point)

General Description

Polygon 1080 (Anderson Point) consists of 1,137 acres with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 8,800 feet. It is contiguous to the South Sierra Wilderness and is located between Monache Meadows and the South Sierra Wilderness, west of Cow Canyon and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (Figure B-10, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 52 percent of the polygon (442 acres) consists of an ecological group, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include sagebrush and white fir. It includes dry meadows and rolling forested granite outcrops with gentle to moderate slopes. The polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. The area includes perennial channels associated with springs and the riparian condition is unknown. Legacy and current grazing impact water quality (fecal coliform is present) in the polygon; however, there are no State-listed impaired or threatened streams. There are legacy and current impacts from grazing to soil conditions, with localized impacts. The air quality is nonattainment for ozone (Tulare County). The area contains headcut and gully treatments. They are not substantial, but noticeable. There is a possible spring box near Olivas Cabin.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Screening is present. There is some visibility to Monache Meadow below. Occasional to frequent off highway vehicle traffic and dispersed camping occurs. Vehicles and campers along the western boundary can be seen and heard. There is a cherry stem road that protrudes into the western boundary. The area is mostly free from motorized noise except along the western boundary. Olivas Cow Camp (parking area, pastures with fences) is within 200 feet of the boundary. The parking area for Deer Mountain Trail is in the vicinity. Solitude may be affected by these developments. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium, except during the Monache stock drive, which happens twice each year. Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking and horseback riding on a forest system trail to accesses the South Sierra Wilderness, and also deer hunting in the fall. The degree of challenge is similar to the adjacent wilderness. There are also opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature. Access for winter cross-country skiing is challenging because this area is at least 25 miles from a plowed road.

Other Features of Value

Only 10 percent of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources, but there are known cultural resource sites including prehistoric encampments (lithic scatters).

Manageability

This is a small, irregularly shaped polygon adjoining the South Sierra Wilderness and bounded by the Monache off highway vehicle area along the western boundary. The cherry stem road is regularly used by the grazing permittee and hikers.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Grazing management and watershed restoration is evident in the area. There are developments related to range improvements. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The opportunity for solitude is degraded due to the proximity to roads (Monache off highway vehicle area) and developments, primarily along the western border. There may be opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are no unique features. There is not an opportunity to reshape this small polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness character.

Polygon 1081 (Bakeoven Meadows)

General Description

Polygon 1081 (Bakeoven Meadows) consists of 5,413 acres ranging in elevation from 8,000 to 9,600 feet. It is located east of Kingfisher Ridge and is surrounded by the Golden Trout and the South Sierra Wildernesses (Figure B-10, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I). One road and private land parcel protrude into the southern boundary of the polygon. The west, north and east boundaries are contiguous with the Golden Trout and South Sierra Wildernesses.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 8 percent of the polygon (408 acres) consists of an ecological group, Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,000 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include red fir, subalpine fir, and white fir. The polygon's scenery includes granite domes and creeks. The polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no known stable invasive plant species. The polygon does not provide contiguous connectivity for habitat. Perennial stream channels include Soda Creek and South Fork Kern River; numerous springs and meadows are present. Meadows were evaluated as having fully functional and functional at risk watershed ratings; meadow vegetation was rated in excellent condition in the meadows evaluated. Riparian vegetation on perennial channels is likely in good condition. There are no state-listed impaired or threatened streams. Air quality is nonattainment for ozone (Tulare County). A fish barrier on South Fork Kern cannot be removed. There is heavy fuel loading along Kingfisher Ridge with fuel reduction treatments planned. The area contains watershed treatments, including small structures and rock shoots. The polygon includes livestock grazing and range improvements.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Topography and vegetation provide some screening (forested areas and creeks). There is a private inholding with residences along the southern perimeter. Several private cabins to the southeast are within 400 feet of the boundary. There are occasional vehicles and sounds associated with private cabins. One cherry stem road provides access to dispersed camping along South Fork Kern River and extends about 4,500 ft. into the polygon. This is a popular dispersed camping area in summer and fall. Activities on private property, as well as dispersed recreation along the South Fork Kern River, may affect solitude. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium. Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking and horseback riding on two forest system trails that access the Golden Trout Wilderness; fishing on the South Fork Kern River; and deer hunting in the fall. The degree of challenge is similar to the adjacent wilderness. This is a popular primitive recreation area during summer and fall months. There are also opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature, particularly along the wild and scenic South Fork Kern River. Access for winter cross-country skiing is challenging because this area is at least 25 miles from a plowed road. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited along an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering and cherry stemming to shape this polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate a large portion of this relatively small polygon.

Other Features of Value

The area includes a portion of the South Fork of the Kern River, part of the designated Kern Wild and Scenic River, flowing north to south through the middle of the polygon. Also of value are the views of Monache Mountain, a unique volcanic feature.

Less than a quarter of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources. Five known sites include remains of a log cabin, other historic structure remains, historic debris scatters and prehistoric lithic scatters.

The polygon contains rare and sensitive plant species: Kern milkvetch, mountain yellow violet, Tulare rockcress, and field ivesia.

Manageability

The polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. The polygon is contiguous with Golden Trout Wilderness along the west, north and east perimeters. There is a private land inholding (with cabins) along the south perimeter, with road access. One cherry stem road provides access to dispersed camping along South Fork Kern River and there is the potential for vehicle incursions off of the cherry stem road. There is a state wildlife reserve along the boundary in the southeast corner (section 34, T20S, R35E).There is proposed fuel reduction through vegetation treatments in this area. Two water rights are present and there is a grazing allotment.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 408 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,000 acres. The opportunity for solitude is degraded due to the proximity to the Monache OHV area, dispersed recreation along the South Fork Kern River, and private inholdings with developments, primarily along the southern border. There may be opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is no good opportunity to reshape this polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness character.

Polygon 1092 (Slide Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1092 (Slide Canyon) consists of 4,252 acres with elevations ranging from 4,400 to 10,000 feet. It is contiguous to the Golden Trout Wilderness and is located southeast of Horseshoe Meadows Road, west of Highway 395, Owens Lake and the Cottonwood Power Plant (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map H). Slide Canyon runs east through the polygon. The polygon is oddly shaped around Horseshoe Meadow Road on the north and the forest boundary on the east side.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the polygon (37acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,000 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, white fir, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It does not intersect or overlap with any other designated areas and includes steep terrain. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the abundance of cheatgrass, an invasive plant species. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. The condition of riparian vegetation associated with the perennial stream channel, Cottonwood Creek, and canyons is not known. Soils are likely meeting desired conditions. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area). There are Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions within this area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is in the vicinity of roads, including Horseshoe Meadow Road (moderately use paved road that access campgrounds and trailheads). The area is within one mile of Cottonwood Power Plant and Highway 395. Owens Valley and Highway 395 are visible and can be heard from much of the area. There may be some opportunity for solitude within the canyons. There is nothing notable that would limit the opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

Slide Canyon runs east through the polygon.

Manageability

This is an irregularly shaped polygon that is bounded between the existing wilderness boundary and the forest boundary. There is a private land parcel that protrudes into the polygon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure (water diversions) within the area. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,000 acres. The natural quality is degraded by the abundance of invasive cheatgrass. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10. The opportunity for solitude is degraded due to the proximity to roads, the Cottonwood Power Plant and Highway 395. There is opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, although it is very limited due to the location of the polygon. There is not really an opportunity to reshape the polygon, due to its small size and irregularly shaped boundary that is drawn tightly between existing wilderness and the forest boundary.

Polygon 1098 (Escarpment from George Creek to Hogback Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1098 (Escarpment from George Creek to Hogback Creek) consists of 1,476 acres with elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between George Creek and Hogback Creek (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map H). The polygon is located between the John Muir Wilderness on the west and Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (Bureau of Land

Management) on the east. A motorized trail dissects the northwestern edge of the polygon and a road along the southern portion of the polygon makes it oddly shaped along the southern boundary. In addition, the eastern boundary is a straight line due to the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management (Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (5 acres) consists of an ecological group that has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. It contains steep terrain. The invasive plant species cheatgrass is abundant. Fish stocking has also altered native aquatic assemblages. Riparian vegetation occurs in the perennial George Creek and canyons. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area). A motorized trail dissects the northwestern edge of the polygon and a road forms the southern boundary. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure may be in the area. No other developments were noted.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small area that is bordered by roads, including a cherry stem road from the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (Bureau of Land Management) to the east., and a motorized trail along the northern and southern perimeter. The Owens Valley and Highway 395 are visible from parts of the area.

Other Features of Value

There are no other features of value documented.

Manageability

The polygon Intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. This is an irregularly shaped, small polygon that adjoins existing wilderness and is drawn to the forest boundary.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The natural quality is degraded by the presence of invasive cheatgrass. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to the proximity to roads, motorized trails and visibility to Highway 395. There is not an opportunity to reshape the small polygon.

Polygon 1099 (Escarpment – Shephard Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1099 consists of 1,092 acres with elevations ranging from 5,800 to 9,000 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment

between Shephard Pass Trailhead and Bairs Creek (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map H). The polygon is located between John Muir Wilderness on the west and Bureau of Land Management land on the east. There is one road that protrudes into the polygon along the western boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (4 acres) consists of an ecological group, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area includes steep terrain. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass is abundant). Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. There is riparian vegetation associated with the perennial stream channel (Shepard Creek). Soils are likely meeting desired conditions. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is in the vicinity of roads on Bureau of Land Management lands. There is one short cherry stem road that protrudes into the polygon. The Owens Valley and Highway 395 are visible and can be heard from much of the area. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to the proximity to roads and visibility to Highway 395; sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

None were noted.

Manageability

The majority of the polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. This small polygon that adjoins existing wilderness and is drawn to the forest boundary.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are no known developments that would degrade the undeveloped quality. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to the proximity to roads and visibility to Highway 395; sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. There is not an opportunity to reshape this small polygon.

Polygon 1106 (Escarpment – Onion Valley South)

General Description

Polygon 1106 (Escarpment-Onion Valley South) consists of 1,408 acres ranging in elevation from 5,500 to 11,000 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra

Nevada escarpment south of Onion Valley and Independence Creek (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). The polygon is shaped by road and recreation developments in Onion Valley, Independence Creek, the existing wilderness boundary along the western edge, and cherry stem roads that protrude into the area along the eastern edge of the polygon.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4 percent of the polygon (52 acres) consists of ecological groups, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland which have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. Ecosystem types include sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. The small area is surrounded by roads, including one cherry stem road in the middle of the polygon. Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are highly visible from most of the area, except within the canyons. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the abundance of invasive cheatgrass and past vegetation alteration from historic mining activities. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Pinyon Creek, a perennial stream channel, and canyons are in the polygon. Soils are likely meeting desired conditions. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is located in the vicinity of a concentrated recreation area (Onion Valley), which has campgrounds, trailheads, and the Seven Pines Recreation Residence Tract. The proximity to roads, a concentrated recreation area and improvements limit the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in these areas. Steep terrain limits access to the area. Use in the area includes hiking Pinyon Creek, hunting, pinyon pine nut gathering and cross-country skiing.

Other Features of Value

The area includes outstanding views of the Sierra Nevada and features such as Pinyon Pine Falls. Riparian water birch (tracked by California Fish and Wildlife) is found in the polygon. Springs may contain rare springsnails.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with an existing wilderness area (John Muir Wilderness) along the western edge of the polygon. The polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. The polygon is surrounded by roads, including one road that protrudes into the middle of the polygon. The area is adjacent to lands managed by the Inyo National Forest.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Air quality is

nonattainment for pm10. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to proximity to developed recreation use, motorized road system (including a cherry stem road) and visibility to Highway 395. There is limited potential to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1108 (Escarpment – Onion Valley North)

General Description

Polygon 1108 (Escarpment-Onion Valley North) consists of 2,100 acres with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 9,500 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment north of Onion Valley and Independence Creek (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). This polygon is shaped roads and recreation developments in Onion Valley and a private land parcel that protrudes into the boundary along the eastern edge.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (4 acres) consists of ecological groups, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland which have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. The polygon intersects with the Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (majority of the polygon along the western portion of the polygon). The polygon is surrounded by roads and a private land parcel (Boron Springs) protrudes into the southeast corner of the polygon. It is within the 2007 Inyo Complex (a 30,000-acre fire) and 2008 flood and mudflow event (Oak Creek); catastrophic events that impacted the hydrologic and soil conditions in the area. There are water diversions (including diversions and ditches near Tub Springs), old ranch foundations, fences and corrals. In addition, there are three prehistoric sites (lithic scatters). There is a departure from natural conditions due to the abundance of invasive cheatgrass and presence of salt cedar. Fish stocking has also altered native aquatic assemblages. Water diversions have manipulated the species composition. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is located in the vicinity of a concentrated recreation area (Onion Valley), which has campgrounds, trailheads, and the Seven Pines Recreation Residence Tract. In addition, Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are highly visible from most of the area, except within the canyons. The proximity to roads, concentrated recreation area, and improvements limits the opportunity for solitude or primitive or unconfined recreation in this small polygon. The area currently receives low to medium use, primarily focused around Seven Pines Recreation Residence Tract, Independence Creek and Rex Montis Mine Road. Hunting is a popular activity during the fall months.

Other Features of Value

Features of this polygon include black oaks, riparian water birch (tracked by California Fish and Wildlife), and Inyo star-tulip, a Forest Service sensitive species. There are outstanding wildflower displays within the Inyo Complex fire area. Springs may contain rare springsnails. Tub Springs lies within the area.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with an existing wilderness area (John Muir Wilderness) along the western edge of the polygon. The polygon is surrounded by roads and a private land parcel (Boron Springs) protrudes into the southeast corner of the polygon. The polygon intersects with the Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (majority of the polygon along the western portion of the polygon). The private land parcel is believed to be owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and is not developed. Bureau of Land Management land is also adjacent and is undeveloped. Most of the area is adjacent to lands managed by the Inyo National Forest. There are three water rights in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The appearance of naturalness is somewhat degraded by abundant invasive cheatgrass, some salt cedar, impacts to the hydrologic and soil conditions from the 2007 Inyo Complex fire and 2008 flood and mudflow event, and developments (water diversions, old ranch foundations, fences and corrals. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Fish stocking in the lower and upper reaches of Independence Creek has altered native aquatic assemblages. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited in this small polygon due to the proximity to developed recreation use, motorized road system, and visibility to Highway 395 and private land development. There is limited opportunity to reshape this small polygon.

Polygon 1109 (Escarpment – Oak Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1109 (Escarpment-Oak Creek) consists of 1,318 acres ranging in elevation from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between North Fork Oak Creek and South Fork Oak Creek, southeast of Baxter Pass Trailhead (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). This polygon is shaped by roads and private land parcels that protrude into the area, along the north and southeastern edge. The western portion follows the existing wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 5 percent of the polygon (68 acres) consists of ecological groups, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland which have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem type is xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. The polygon is bordered by roads and a private land parcel (Bright Ranch). The polygon intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (the majority of the area along the western portion of the polygon). The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions, which need to be maintained. The polygon is within the 2007 Inyo Complex (approximately 30,000 acre fire) and 2008 flood and mudflow event (Oak Creek); catastrophic

events impacted the hydrologic and soil conditions in the area. South Fork Oak Creek jumped into a new channel during the flood event, and the channel morphology of both North Fork and South Fork Oak Creek were significantly impacted. Following these events, erosion rates in the area were accelerated. Riparian vegetation is recovering, but is not likely at pre-fire and pre-flood canopy and density levels. There are invasive plants in the riparian areas. There is abundant invasive cheatgrass and salt cedar is present in the polygon. The air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area). The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions on North Fork and South Fork Oak Creek.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are visible, except within the canyons and deep stream channels. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the heavily traveled paved road along the southern boundary, another paved road along the north, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads to the east and north. There is a private land parcel (Bright Ranch) with developments adjacent to the polygon and there are also two shooting ranges in the vicinity. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. The appearance of naturalness is impacted by post-fire flooding of Oak Creek, and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation may be affected in areas currently authorized for active restoration treatments involving motorized tools. In addition, there are Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions that are maintained in the area.

Other Features of Value

This polygon includes black oaks, riparian water birch (tracked by California Fish and Wildlife), and outstanding wildflower displays within the Inyo Complex fire area. Post-flood geography is also a feature of value.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with an existing wilderness area, the John Muir Wilderness, along the western edge of the polygon. Hydrologic conditions in the area are somewhat unstable (large gullies on Oak Creek), although are recovering and stabilizing. The polygon is bordered by roads and a private land parcel (Bright Ranch). The polygon intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (the majority of the area along the western portion of the polygon). The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions, which need to be maintained. It is an oddly shaped polygon due to roads and private land parcels that protrude into the boundary along the north and southeastern edge of the polygon. There is a shooting range in the vicinity of the polygon that could complicate management of the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The opportunity for solitude is limited in this small polygon due to the proximity to roads, visibility to Highway 395 and private land development, and noise from a target shooting range. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The appearance of naturalness is degraded by the impact to hydrologic and soil conditions from the 2007 Inyo Complex fire and 2008 flood and mudflow event. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10. The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water

diversions on both North Fork and South Fork Oak Creek. There is some opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1110
(Escarpment between Sawmill Creek and Baxter Pass Trailhead)

General Description

Polygon 1110 (Escarpment between Sawmill Creek and Baxter Pass Trailhead) consists of 1,650 acres with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 10,000 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment south of Sawmill Creek and north of Baxter Pass Trailhead (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). It is shaped by roads and private land parcels that protrude into the area along the eastern edge, and nearly split the polygon in two. The western portion follows the existing wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2 percent of the polygon (36 acres) consists of an ecological group that has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The ecosystem type is sagebrush. A small portion of the area is within Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. The area intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area along the northern portion of the polygon. The polygon is surrounded by roads. A road and private land parcel protrude into the middle of the polygon splitting it nearly in half. There are four roads in the vicinity or that cherry stem the area. Bureau of Land Management land (eastern boundary) is adjacent and is undeveloped. It is within the 2007 Inyo Complex (a 30,000-acre fire). The Inyo Complex wildfire burned through the area at moderate to high intensity in 2007, which impacted hydrologic and soil conditions in the area. Erosion rates in the area were accelerated following the fire, but are recovering. Riparian vegetation around the springs is recovering, but is not likely at pre-fire canopy levels. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Owens Valley pm10 planning area). There is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass is abundant). Grazing is occurring in the area. A few historic structural remains occur in the area. Known sites include several prehistoric sites (milling slicks and lithic scatter) and a historic rock structure, a stone foundation near Baxter Pass. No other developments were noted.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is in the vicinity of roads and within 1.5 miles of Highway 395, which are visible and can be heard from much of the area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering or cherry stemming the polygon. One road nearly bisects the polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. The area is popular for hunting and receives low to medium use during the fall months. The area receives a low amount of use other times of the year.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes scenic views of Inyo Mountains, alluvial fans with springs, rare pinyon rockcress and outstanding spring wildflower displays within the Inyo Complex fire area.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with an existing wilderness area, the John Muir Wilderness, along the western edge of the polygon. The area intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area along the northern portion of the polygon. The polygon is surrounded by roads. A road and private land parcel protrude into the middle of the polygon splitting it nearly in half. There are four roads in the vicinity or that cherry stem the area. Bureau of Land Management land (eastern boundary) is adjacent and is undeveloped. A small portion of the area also contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering or cherry stemming the polygon. One road nearly bisects the polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The appearance of naturalness is degraded by the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass), as well as the impact to the hydrologic and soil conditions from the 2007 Inyo Complex fire. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10. There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1112 (Escarpment between Goodale Creek and Sawmill Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1112 consists of 4,949 acres with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 10,500 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment south of Goodale Creek and north of Sawmill Creek, and in the vicinity of Division Creek Powerhouse and Sawmill Pass Trailhead (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). This is shaped by the existing wilderness boundary, along the western edge of the polygon.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 35 percent of the polygon (1,721 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 540 acres of the polygon consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The ecosystem types are sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and lava flows. The area intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (northern portion of the polygon). The area has a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversion dam on Division Creek. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence of invasive plant species (Russian thistle and cheatgrass are abundant). Frequent fires have resulted in a change to species composition. Fish stocking has also altered native aquatic

assemblages. The conditions of riparian areas are poor due to invasive plant species. There has been little cultural resource survey work in the area. There are approximately twenty documented sites that include prehistoric rock shelters, lithic and artifact scatters, as well as portions of the Division Creek Power Plant, town site, and construction camp within the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is dissected by motorized trails, and is in the vicinity of forest roads and the Division Creek Powerhouse. In addition, Highway 395 is also visible, except within the lava flow area, and can be heard from much of the area. Proximity to motorized recreation (roads and trails), the Division Creek Powerhouse and Highway 395, limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. A portion of the area is popular for motorized recreation (four wheel drive), dispersed camping, mineral prospecting and hiking (western edge, near Armstrong Canyon). The Sawmill Pass Trail is also in the area and receives some hiking use. Hunting is a popular activity in the fall.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes rare narrow leaved cottonwood, Panamint Mountain lupine, and Big Pine biscuit root. A small portion of the area is Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat. Springs in the area may contain rare springsnails. There are scenic lava flows and a scenic entrance to Spooky Canyon. The area includes outstanding spring wildflower displays.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the western border of the polygon. Bureau of Land Management land (eastern boundary) is adjacent and is undeveloped. The area intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (northern portion of the polygon). Motorized trails are located within the polygon, and forest system roads border and cherry stem the polygon. A small portion of the area also contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to the proximity to motorized roads and trails, Division Creek Powerhouse, and visibility to Highway 395 and noise from the highway. There may be some opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are some developments, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Division Creek Powerhouse and water diversion dam and their effect to the undeveloped quality is localized. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,721 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 540 acres. The natural quality is degraded by the presence of invasive plant species (Russian thistle and cheatgrass). Invasive plant species are present within riparian areas and fish stocking has also altered native aquatic assemblages. There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon, as the western edge of the polygon which adjoins designated wilderness contains motorized trails.

Polygon 1115 (Escarpment – Tinemaha Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1115 (Escarpment-Tinemaha Creek) consists of 3,485 acres with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 6,400 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness along the southwest and southern boundaries and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). It includes Birch Creek, Tinemaha Creek and Red Mountain Creek, and is in the vicinity of Red Lake Trailhead. This is an oddly shaped polygon due to roads along the northwestern edge of the polygon which separates this area from the existing wilderness boundary (there is a gap between this portion of the polygon and existing wilderness boundary). The existing wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude motorized trails and the forest boundary along the eastern side of the boundary (private land parcel and Bureau of Land Management land).

National Vegetation Classification System data provided by The Wilderness Society indicates 84 percent of the polygon (2,935 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent group is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 540 acres of the polygon consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The ecosystem type is sagebrush. The area contains gentle slopes. There has been moderate human impact to plant communities and there is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass and Russian thistle are abundant and increasing). This area contains several unauthorized or gated authorized roads. Use in this area is very limited, and impacts to wildlife are minimal. Motorized trails that run east to west dissect this polygon in three locations. The polygon intersects with the Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area along the southern portion of the polygon, south of motorized trails and Red Mountain Creek. Historic fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Grazing has occurred in this area. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are three motorized trails that run east to west and dissect the polygon in three locations, which limits the opportunity for solitude. In addition, the topography is gentle slopes, with not much screening. Highway 395 is visible from much of the area. Nothing was noted related to primitive and unconfined recreation, although there may be opportunity for primitive-type recreation activities, such as cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes springs that may contain rare springsnails. The presence of Panamint Mountains lupine and riparian water birch contributes to the uniqueness of the ecosystem found in the area which is tracked by California Fish and Wildlife. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there are known cultural resource sites including two prehistoric lithic scatters.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with existing wilderness on the southern end of the polygon; however there are multiple motorized trails that bisect the area. The northern portion of the polygon is separated from the existing wilderness boundary by a road. There are private land parcels along the boundary of the polygon, including lands owned by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The area is also adjacent to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,935 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 540 acres. The apparent naturalness has been degraded by the presence of invasive plant species (cheat grass and Russian thistle) and fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the motorized trail system and Highway 395.

Polygon 1116 (Escarpment – McMurry Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1116 consists of 2,437 acres with elevations ranging from 6,800 to 8,500 feet. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between Little Pine Creek on the north and Tinemaha Creek to the south (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest Evaluation Maps evaluation map G). It is southwest of the Crater Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Bureau of Land Management) and includes McMurry Meadow. It is shaped by the existing wilderness boundary on the western edge and private land parcels on the northern and southern boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 61 percent of the polygon (1,478 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent group is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 911 acres of the polygon consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany and sagebrush. There are perennial stream channels such as Birch Creek, Fuller Creek and an unnamed perennial flow through this area. It intersects a small portion of the Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area along the western edge of the polygon. Fire in 2002 contributed sediment to the channels, impacts to stream morphology and the function is unknown. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass and Russian thistle are abundant and increasing). Historic fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Drainages and slopes are impacted from grazing activities including trampled soils and trailing in shrubs. Meadows are mostly in functional-at-risk watershed condition, but old watershed channel structures provide stability. Motorized trails dissect the north half of the polygon. The air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is moderate to gentle, with some screening from slopes, canyons, and drainages. There are very few trees that provide screening. There are authorized motorized trails within the north half of the polygon, limiting the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The area receives low to moderate amounts of use, primarily focused around the roads, motorized trails and Birch Lake Trailhead.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat. Springs may contain rare springsnails. The area includes the sensitive plant, Inyo star-tulip, as well as riparian water birch, a unique ecosystem tracked by California Fish and Wildlife. McMurray Meadows is a large, botanically diverse, unique meadow on the eastern escarpment. Roughly half the area has been surveyed for cultural resources; five documented cultural resource sites include prehistoric lithic and artifact scatters.

Manageability

Roads and motorized trails dissect the north half of the polygon. There is a road along the eastern boundary which narrows the polygon along the southern half. There is also a private land parcel that protrudes into the southern half of the polygon. The area contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. There are two existing water rights.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,478 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 911 acres. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and authorized forest system roads along the perimeter; sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small polygon. The appearance of naturalness is degraded by the presence of invasive cheat grass and Russian thistle. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Air quality is excellent. The location of the roads, motorized trails, and forest boundary do not allow the polygon to be reshaped.

Polygon 1140 (Coyote)

General Description

Polygon 1140 (Coyote) consists of 75,299 acres with elevations ranging from 4,800 to 10,400 feet. It is located southeast of Bishop Creek Recreation Area and southwest of Bishop, west of Big Pine, and north of Big Pine Creek Recreation Area (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map E). The southwest portion of the polygon is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. There are private land inholdings and roads that protrude into this polygon. The western boundary follows Highway 168 and recreation developments in Bishop Creek, as well as the John Muir Wilderness boundary along the southwest portion of the polygon. The southern boundary follows road and recreation developments in Big Pine Creek and the eastern boundary follows the forest boundary (Bureau of Land Management and private land).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 29 percent of the area of the polygon (21,951 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent groups are inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, and Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush shrubland. An additional 27,271 acres of the polygon consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include alpine, Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush, sub-alpine forest, white fir, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography is highly variable, with steep to gentle varied aspects. There are gentle open ridges at the top, with minimal vegetation, steep slopes and canyons to the north and along the west edge dropping into Bishop Creek. This polygon is very large and is adjacent to or includes developed areas such as trailheads, campgrounds, trails, day-use areas and dispersed camping sites. The air quality is excellent. The majority of this polygon provides a contiguous habitat for wildlife. The area includes contiguous habitat for aquatics. Some streams flow to Big Pine Creek, which flows to diversions of the Owens Valley. Fish barriers prevent introduced trout from invading frog habitat. Along the escarpment (eastern portion of the polygon), streams that flow down the escarpment do not make it to the Owens River due to diversions and sub-terrain flows. There are several lakes and numerous perennial stream channels, including Coyote Creek, Baker Creek, Cow Creek and Onion Creek. There are also numerous areas with high water tables and meadows. Meadow restoration projects have been implemented. Areas are mostly stable and the degree and severity of current impacts is unknown.

The area includes active grazing allotments and improvements, as well as a landing strip that is still evident. Shannon Canyon and other canyons are used as cattle trails to access higher elevations. There are legacy and current grazing impacts to meadows and riparian areas. There are legacy and current grazing impacts to meadows and riparian areas. Meadow restoration projects have been implemented. There was also historic mining activity, with scattered mining sites noticeable in the lower elevations. There are structures related to Schober Mine (western portion of the polygon, west of Lookout Mountain) and these are deteriorating. There are other mining prospects noted on the United States Geological Survey Quad in the western portion of the polygon. Most of the area is unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there are two known prehistoric sites with lithic scatter and a rock cairn of indeterminate age. Within the Bishop Creek wildland-urban interface there is planning for fuels treatments.

Public comments indicate there are trails used by mountain bikers in the area. There is minimal to moderate impact to plant communities, however, there is cheat grass (invasive plant species) at lower elevations and it is increasing. Historic fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. The Coyote Flat area is managed for rare amphibians including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is some screening due to topography and vegetation. There is some visibility to developments in Owens Valley (including Highway 395), as well as the Bishop Creek Recreation Area and the Big Pine Creek Recreation Area. The polygon is close to recreation developments

along the western (Bishop Creek) and southern (Big Pine Creek) perimeter. Housing developments and recreation from local neighborhoods occur within adjacent areas.

Numerous motorized trails dissect this area from the north to south and east to west. In addition, there are private land inholdings and the roads that protrude into this polygon. Sights and sounds within the polygon are affected by off highway vehicle recreation, recreational shooting and dispersed camping, which are popular activities in the area. Bishop Creek (Highway 168) has developed recreation facilities. The south side of the polygon is Big Pine Creek which has concentrated recreation use and developed recreation facilities. Along the eastern portion of the polygon (along the escarpment), Highway 395 can be heard, along with the buzzing of the power lines nearby. There is a moderate to high potential for encounters with other visitors. The area is popular during the spring and summer, and during hunting season in the fall. There is minimal use during the winter. Use is primarily focused along motorized trails and developed recreation sites adjacent to area. Shannon Canyon and other canyons along the eastern escarpment are used as cattle trails to access higher elevations. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, particularly in the Green Lake area. There are opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including hiking, fishing, hunting, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge.

Other Features of Value

Many rare plant and sensitive plant species, including Father Crowley's lupine, Inyo beardtongue, Big Pine biscuitroot, and Morefield's cinquefoil are found in the polygon. Springs within the area may contain rare springsnails. Coyote itself is a unique geologic feature, including a high plateau extending from the Sierra Nevada, with mixed carbonate and granitic geology and relict moraines. The area includes outstanding views of glaciers, the high Sierra, Big Pine Creek, Bishop Creek and the White Mountains.

Manageability

This is a large polygon located between the John Muir Wilderness and the forest boundary (within one mile of the Owens Valley), and bordered by concentrated recreation areas along the western and southern perimeter. The polygon intersects with Coyote North, Coyote Southeast and Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Areas. There are numerous cherry stem roads and motorized trails throughout the polygon along the edge and in the middle. There are six private land inholdings in the middle of the polygon. Southern California Edison operates a diversion at Green Creek. There may be a pipeline from Green Creek. There are seventeen water rights within the polygon. There is an important mountain bike route (on old non-system road) that connects through this polygon from Road 31E305. There are mountain bike trails leading into Big Pine Canyon. This area may be used for tribal traditional purposes (Paiute Mountain School). There are special uses authorized including outfitter guides (packer and mountain guides), as well as livestock grazing and improvements in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 21,951 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 22,271 acres. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized

motorized trails within the center polygon; three large authorized forest system roads cherry stem the borders of the polygon in the northern, southern and eastern portions; a high use paved road along the western boundary. The sights and sounds from the authorized motorized trails, forest system roads and paved road likely penetrate much of the polygon. There are developments related to historic mining activity, range improvements, and a landing strip that is still evident on the ground. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1147 (Pine Creek East)

General Description

Polygon 1147 (Pine Creek East) consists of 1,351 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to over 10,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the eastern and northern boundaries and is located in Pine Creek (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map E), in the vicinity of Pine Creek Mine, which was one of the largest producers of tungsten in the nation by the 1940s. This polygon is shaped by the paved road, Pine Creek Mine and patented mining claims (private land in Morgan Canyon).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 22 percent of the polygon (296 acres) consists of an ecological group, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland that has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include sagebrush and subalpine forest. The area includes steep, rock/talus slopes with sparse vegetation. There are extremely steep rocky canyon walls with loose scree slopes between sheer ridges and rock walls. The air quality is excellent. Perennial stream channels include Morgan Creek and Pine Creek, tailings ponds have limited hydrologic function of the creek. The area intersects with Wheeler Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area and is an important Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep lambing area. This area is located adjacent to a paved road and a developed mining site. The evidence of mining activity is substantially noticeable, including an old town site, portal, mill remains, powder magazine building, roads, platforms, towers, mining debris, and tailing piles. Tram towers and other mining structures are in various places along Morgan Creek. The Pine Creek mining complex operators indicate they have re-vegetated mine areas that may be within this polygon with a grass seed mix designed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide feed for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Included in the area are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking, but also self-reproducing. There are reduced frog populations due to the trout. Stocked fish do not allow for connectivity of isolated frog populations. There is a mapped meadow on Morgan Creek.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The polygon is near Pine Creek Road, a paved road that provides access to Pine Creek Trailhead and pack station. There is a four wheel drive trail along Morgan Creek that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). The opportunity for solitude is degraded by these features. The area receives a moderate amount of recreation use in the summer months, with very little use in the winter. Climbing in the crags in the southern and eastern parts of the area is a popular activity and occurs year around. The area also is a popular viewing area for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, particularly in the winter and spring.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes habitat for Yosemite toads, with some occupied habitat. Within the area are Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, including a popular viewing area. There is outstanding geologic scenery including towering rock walls that provide a spectacular setting.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with an existing wilderness area (John Muir Wilderness) along the northern and eastern boundaries. The southern boundary of the polygon is Pine Creek Road, and there are patented mining claims and private land in Morgan Canyon, along the western boundary of the polygon. There is a four wheel drive road in Morgan Canyon to access the patented mining claims. There is also a private inholding at the end of Pine Creek Road (Pine Creek Mine). These features are substantially noticeable, impacting manageability of the area for wilderness characteristics. The existing wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude these features. The area contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. This polygon includes extremely important lambing areas for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Extensive climbing, including commercially guided, occurs in this area. There are many fixed climbing anchors, mostly placed with power drills.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a paved road along the eastern boundary, and an authorized forest system road and private land road to the south and west of this small polygon. There is substantial departure from appearance of naturalness due to mining activity that is visible from approximately 50 percent of the area, including a patented tungsten mine located to the south and west; with highly visible and intrusive human materials in and adjacent to the polygon, including several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes and equipment, some of which may need costly rehabilitation. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. There is not an opportunity to reshape this polygon.

Polygon 1148 (Pine Creek West)

General Description

Polygon 1148 (Pine Creek West) consists of 1,756 acres with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 13,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the western and southern boundaries and is located in Pine Creek, in the vicinity of Pine Creek Mine, Pine Creek Trailhead, and Pine Creek Pack Station (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map E). The polygon is shaped by Pine Creek Road (including trailheads and pack station), private land with a patented mining claim, a four wheel drive road along Morgan Creek, and an existing wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 8 percent of the polygon (136 acres) consists of two ecological groups, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, and Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which have less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The terrain is steep with talus slopes and alpine vegetation. Ecosystem types include red fir and subalpine forest. Perennial stream channels include Morgan Creek and Pine Creek. There is riparian vegetation throughout the area, although the tailings ponds have limited riparian vegetation on Pine Creek. The polygon intersects with Wheeler Ridge and Horton Inventoried Roadless Areas. There has been extensive mining activity in the area. There are no known invasive plant species present. Trout were introduced and are maintained by fish stocking and are self-reproducing. Stocked fish do not allow for connectivity of isolated frog populations. There is evidence of mining activity that is substantially noticeable from the majority of the area; including roads, platforms, towers and mining debris. Tram towers and other mining structures are in various places along Morgan Creek. The Pine Creek mining complex operators have reportedly re-vegetated mine areas that may be within this polygon with a grass seed mix designed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide feed for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Mining activity has likely resulted in some water quality impairment; however, it is not State-listed as impaired or threatened. Tailings ponds have limited hydrologic function of Pine Creek. There is a mapped meadow on Morgan Creek. The air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The polygon is near Pine Creek Road, which is a paved road that provides access to Pine Creek Trailhead and pack station. There is a four wheel drive trail along Morgan Creek that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). There are designated trails in the area, including trails to Gable Lakes and Pine Lake that receive low to moderate use.

Other Features of Value

The area is a habitat for Yosemite toads, with some occupied habitat.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with the existing John Muir Wilderness area, along the north, west and southern boundaries. Pine Creek Road, trailheads and a pack station are in the southeastern corner of the polygon. There is private land (patented tungsten mining claims) and a four wheel drive road in Morgan Canyon, along the eastern boundary of the polygon. There is also a private inholding at the end of Pine Creek Road (Pine Creek Mine). These features substantially limit the appearance of naturalness. The existing wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude these features.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There is substantial departure from appearance of naturalness due to mining activity that is visible from the majority of this small polygon, including a patented tungsten mine, several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes and equipment. Some of the mining structures may need rehabilitation requiring mechanized tools. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to proximity to roads, Pine Creek Mine and a four wheel drive trail that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). There is not an opportunity to reshape this polygon.

Polygon 1154 (Rock Creek East and Sand Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1154 (Rock Creek and Sand Canyon) consists of 5,243 acres with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the eastern and southern boundaries. It is located along the east side of the Rock Creek Recreation Area and in the vicinity of Swall Meadows, a private community located to the east (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It is shaped like a horseshoe, as it follows the existing wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 10 percent of the polygon (537 acres) consists of two ecological groups, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, and Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which have less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 2,100 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is along the eastern escarpment of Wheeler Crest with steep slopes. Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and subalpine forest. At lower elevations, open shrublands dominating the moraines contain scattered pockets of aspen that add to the diversity of the landscape. Perennial stream channels include Rock Creek and Birch Creek. There are intermittent stream channels from Wheeler Ridge. The polygon intersects with a small portion of the Rock Creek West and Wheeler Ridge Inventoried Roadless Areas, south of Swall Meadows. The east border of the eastern portion of the horseshoe is adjacent to private land communities. There are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking and self-reproducing. Stocked fish do not allow for connectivity of isolated frog populations. Soils are in desired condition. Part of Ainslee Meadow is in this polygon. There is riparian vegetation associated with a high ground water table and in canyons. There is a special use permit issued to Rock Creek Lake Resort for a small Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydro project. Public comments indicate there are trails used by mountain bikers in the Sand Canyon area. The area is partially within the 2002 Birch Fire Area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography has steep slopes with mostly open forests, so screening is limited. Within the west and north ends of the horseshoe-shaped polygon there is a network of authorized motorized trails. The west is bordered by a paved road that includes concentrated recreation areas (Rock Creek) with campgrounds, trailheads, picnic areas, and resorts. The portion on eastside of the polygon that does not contain authorized motorized trails is located is bordered by the communities of Swall Meadows and Paradise, and within 1-2 miles of old Highway 395 (east of the area). The area receives year round recreation use, with higher use during the summer months focused around the developed recreation facilities in Rock Creek, as well as Wheeler four wheel drive trail, mountain biking in Sand Canyon and climbing activity on granite crags. During the winter months, there is some cross-country skiing that occurs, including recreation use associated with Rock Creek Resort, which is open year round. The proximity to communities, concentrated recreation area and motorized trails limits the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

Within the polygon there may be rare springsnails in spring habitat and Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep. It also contains water birch (riparian community tracked by California Fish and Wildlife). There are views of Owens Valley, Volcanic Table lands and White Mountains. No cultural resources are known, but archaeological remains and ruins associated with historic and prehistoric occupation may exist.

Manageability

The area is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, and is in proximity to a concentrated recreation area with developed facilities (campgrounds, hiking trails and trailheads, and resorts), motorized trails, and communities. The existing wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude these features. The area contains habitat for listed species, including Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Yosemite Toad, and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. There is one water right in the area. There is small Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydro project that is under special use permit with Rock Creek Resort.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the presence of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and a paved road with highly developed recreation sites along the western perimeter; sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 537 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 2,100 acres. The polygon cannot be reshaped.

Polygon 1155 (Rock Creek West)

General Description

Polygon 1155 (Rock Creek West) consists of 3,498 acres ranging in elevation from 7,600 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the western and southern boundaries and is located along the west side of the Rock Creek Recreation Area and in the vicinity of Aspen Springs and Toms Place (private communities located to the north) (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). The polygon is elongated and narrow, between Rock Creek Road and the wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3 percent of the polygon (112 acres) consists of two ecological groups, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, and Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which have less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,100 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area includes steep slopes above Rock Creek Canyon with mostly open forests. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, subalpine and alpine forest. There are unnamed perennial stream channels throughout this area, as well as numerous intermittent channels. It intersects with the Rock Creek West Inventoried Roadless Area. No invasive plants species are documented. There are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking and self-reproducing. Stocked fish affect connectivity of isolated frog populations. The area is located adjacent to a residential community which has led to habituation of wildlife, such as black bears. The condition of riparian areas and meadows is unknown. The air quality is excellent. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but it contains prehistoric and historic sites including prehistoric lithic scatter and a multicomponent site with lithics, historic refuse, and a partially dismantled log cabin.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography has steep slopes above Rock Creek Canyon with limited screening. The area is located in the vicinity of a concentrated recreation area (Rock Creek), which has a paved forest highway, campgrounds, trailheads and picnic areas, a pack station and resorts along the eastern boundary. The northern boundary borders private communities in Little Round Valley, including Aspen Springs and Toms Place. Highway 395 is in the vicinity of the northern boundary. Sounds from vehicles, campgrounds and other developed recreation features, highways and communities would be present in most locations in the area. The area receives year round recreation use, with higher use during the summer months focused around the developed recreation facilities in Rock Creek. During the winter months, there is some cross-country skiing and recreation use associated with Rock Creek Resort. The lower portion of Rock Creek Road to the Sno-Park is plowed in winter. The existing wilderness boundary is currently drawn to exclude these features.

Other Features of Value

The entire area has outstanding views of high peaks in Rock Creek and many lakes, as well as outstanding examples of glacial moraines and large Sierra junipers. The area contains habitat for listed species, including Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

Manageability

The polygon is an elongated, narrow strip that mostly parallels Rock Creek Road (paved forest highway) along the eastern boundary. The western and southern boundary is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. The polygon is in proximity to concentrated recreation areas with developed facilities (campgrounds, hiking trails and trailheads and resorts), residential communities, a paved forest road and Highway 395. There are nine existing water rights in the area; there is a small hydropower development operating under an existing special use permit that includes use of motorized tools and motorized access.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a paved road along the eastern and northern borders with highly developed recreation areas; sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small elongated polygon. The polygon is in proximity to developments such as recreation facilities. Fish stocking that altered native aquatic assemblages. This polygon

presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 112 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,100 acres. The polygon cannot be reshaped.

Polygon 1156 (McGee Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1156 (McGee Creek) consists of 5,129 acres with elevations ranging from 7,400 to over 10,500 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the southern boundary and is located southwest of Crowley Lake and Highway 395, extending north and west of McGee Creek and south of Lower Hilton Lakes Trailhead (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It includes McGee Mountain at 10,871 feet in elevation. The polygon has three segments due roads that protrude into the area.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 24 percent of the polygon (1,236 acres) consists of two ecological groups, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, and Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which have less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,700 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is mostly steep open slopes along McGee Mountain above the low-angled alluvial run-out toward Crowley Lake. Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and subalpine forest. There are open shrublands and forests. The area contains perennial stream channels such as Hilton Creek, McGee Creek and Whisky Creek. Hilton Creek is on the state list of impaired or threatened streams for dissolved oxygen. No mapped meadows are present. The air quality is excellent. Invasive plant species occur in the area; cheatgrass is expanding. The majority of polygon intersects with Nevahbe Ridge, Laurel Mcgee and Whisky Creek Inventoried Roadless Areas. Sheep grazed the area up until five years ago but the allotments are now closed. The area is located adjacent to a residential community which has led to habituation of wildlife, such as black bears.

There is a county television translator installation near McGee Mountain with infrequent access using the Tobacco Flat Road. The former McGee Mountain Ski Tow Site consists of the remains of three rope tows, including fallen poles with pulleys and rope guards attached, rope remnants (one rope along the route of the tow), and remains of tows or platforms located at the top of the three routes. Wooden remains from the structures built to house the tow motors are located at the tops of Rope Tow 1 and 2.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography of this polygon has mostly steep, open slopes along McGee Mountain above low-angled alluvial run-out toward Crowley Lake, with visibility to recreation activities, development, and roads and highways. It includes open forests and shrublands, so screening is limited. There are many developments in the vicinity of the area, including campgrounds and trailheads (Bureau

of Land Management and Forest Service), and old Highway 395 and current Highway 395 just northeast of area. There is a four wheel drive road along the northwest boundary. A paved forest highway in McGee Creek, which provides access to a pack station and trailhead, is cherry stemmed into the area nearly splitting it in half. Noise from these developments would be present from most locations in the area. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high, particularly in the lower and eastern sides. There is a lower potential for encounters on McGee Mountain. The area has higher use during the summer, but it is also popular for winter motorized recreation in the winter. There is a heli-ski competition that has been authorized under special use permit on McGee Mountain. There is a hang gliding launch in the McGee Mountain area (Road 4S47), and there is some mountain bike use on routes along the eastern side of area. The area likely provides some opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, cross-country skiing, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge. Opportunities for

Other Features of Value

The area has designated sage grouse habitat and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep critical habitat. It contains water birch (riparian community tracked by California Fish and Wildlife) and views of Crowley Basin.

Manageability

The polygon parallels Highway 395 along the northeastern boundary and the existing wilderness boundary along the southern edge. There are paved and other forest system roads that cherry stem the polygon, nearly splitting it into three sections. The polygon is in proximity to high use recreation developments and activities, residential communities, roads and Highway 395. Existing uses that occur in the area include motorized winter recreation, mountain biking, pack station, authorized pastures, non-wilderness day rides, hang gliding launch near McGee Mountain, and a heli-ski competition that has been authorized under special use permit. There is also a county television translator installation near McGee Mountain under special use permit. The area is currently within the wildland-urban interface. The area contains habitat for listed species, including Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act The area also contains priority habitat for sage grouse. There are three water rights in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to US Highway 395, Crowley Lake residential community, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and highly developed recreation facilities along the perimeter of this polygon; some authorized forest system roads (including a paved road) nearly split the polygon into three sections. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,236 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,700 acres. The location of the roads, developments, and the forest boundary do not allow the polygon to be reshaped.

Polygon 1159 (Mammoth Escarpment–Lakes Basin, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek and Convict Lake)

General Description

Polygon 1159 (Mammoth Escarpment-Lakes Basin, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek and Convict Lake) consists of 14,833 acres with elevations ranging from 7,500 to over 10,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the western and southern boundaries and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment southwest of Mammoth Lakes to southeast of Convict Lake (Figure B-5. Inyo National Forest evaluation map D).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 11 percent of the polygon (1,664 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent group is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 2,200 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The Mammoth Escarpment rises from gentle slopes of sagebrush-bitterbrush to very steep, often precipitous terrain. Ecosystem types include alpine, Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush and subalpine forest. At lower elevations, open shrublands dominating the moraines contain scattered pockets of aspen that add to the diversity of the landscape. There are many perennial streams in the area such as Mammoth Creek, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek and streams in the Lakes Basin between the lakes. Mammoth Creek is on the state list of impaired or threatened water bodies for metals below this area. There are some intermittent stream channels. It includes the Lakes Basin, Sherwin Lakes, Laurel Lakes and Convict Lake. Air quality is nonattainment for pm10 (Mammoth pm10 planning area). Several mapped meadows are present and there is riparian vegetation throughout the area. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Laurel McGee, San Joaquin and Sherwin Inventoried Roadless Areas.

There may be some localized impacts to soil conditions related to concentrated recreation use, legacy mining, grazing activities and historic logging. There are two cattle allotments in the lower elevation areas. There are very few invasive plant species (stable trend) in most areas; within the Lakes Basin, there are a variety of invasive plant species that are stable to increasing. There are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking and self-reproducing. Stocked fish impact connectivity of isolated frog populations. There are areas of dense forest due to fire suppression, particularly in areas close to communities, recreation developments, and the domestic water supply infrastructure for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Fuels reduction work is currently being planned to enhance wildfire defensible space around developments and to create a strategic fuel break near Mammoth Pass.

Other noticeable developments include a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Snow Survey Course with associated improvements in the Mammoth Pass area, United States Geological Survey installations in the Laurel Pond and Mammoth Pass areas and historic mining activity (i.e., old railroad cars, buildings, adits, roads, trails and tailing piles). About a quarter of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources, with roughly 40 documented cultural resource sites, primarily prehistoric sites with lithic scatters, isolated artifacts and an extensive prehistoric village site. The major paved roads and highly developed sites in a portion of the area have led to fragmented habitat and habituation of wildlife such as bears and small mammals. Evidence of

civilization includes the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Airport and Highway 395. Other portions of the polygon are less impacted by development and roads.

Public comments indicate Solitude Canyon is an area with a diverse conifer forest. Public comments indicate there is a network of front-country trails used by mountain bikers in this area, including Mammoth Rock, Laurel Canyon and trails in the Lakes Basin.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Topography is variable, but includes some steep slopes. There are mostly open views to Long Valley and Mammoth Lakes. Within the Lakes Basin, there is screening from large trees. There are many developments in the vicinity of the area, including developed recreation facilities and concentrated recreation use, paved roads and highways (including Highway 395 just north of area in the eastern portion of the polygon), and the Town of Mammoth Lakes with homes and businesses prominent. There is a motorized trail, which accesses Laurel Lakes (four wheel drive experience and popular dispersed camping destination) and nearly splits the polygon. There is also a motorized trail that nearly bisects the polygon near Convict Lake. Several paved forest highways (Lakes Basin and Convict Lake) cherry stem the polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in many locations, due to sight and sounds from developed use. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high. It is extremely high during summer months, especially adjacent to Mammoth Lakes Basin, Convict Lake, and system trails in Sherwin Creek. The area is also popular for winter recreation, including over snow vehicles, cross-country skiing and backcountry skiing. There is winter backcountry and over-snow vehicle use in the Sherwin Bowls area and at the base of the escarpment. Several public comments indicate Solitude Canyon as an area with opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

The area includes Yosemite toad, Yuba Pass willow (sensitive species), Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat, and sage grouse habitat. The upper watershed supplies water for Town of Mammoth Lakes. The area's mixed carbonate and granitic geology create unique geologic and ecological diversity.

Manageability

The polygon includes four distinct geographic locations. Lakes Basin (western portion of the polygon) is in the vicinity of a concentrated recreation area with substantial developments (campgrounds, trailheads and hiking trails, paved bike trails, boat ramps, resorts, pack stations, and recreation residences). In 2010, a community-driven collaborative planning effort was completed for the Lakes Basin, called the Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS). The LABSS provided recommendations for potential additional recreation development including expanding the multi-use path that runs through the Basin. The Sherwin Creek area (western half of the polygon, east of Lakes Basin), located south of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, has fewer recreation developments (campground, trailhead and hiking trail, organization camps) and less concentrated recreation use. In 2010, a community-based collaborative planning effort produced the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan. The document identified the potential for trail enhancement and development in the Sherwins Area to include additional motorized access, mountain-bike trails, equestrian and hiking trails, including multi-use paths. The Laurel Lakes area on the eastern half of the polygon, between Sherwin Creek is less developed, with the recreation use focused on the motorized trail that provides access to Laurel Lakes, which is popular for dispersed camping. The Convict Lake area (eastern portion of the polygon) is in proximity to a

concentrated recreation area with developments (campground, trailhead and hiking trail, resort and boat ramp).

There is a private land inholding (Mammoth Consolidated Mine) on the western side of the polygon near the Lakes Basin, along Mammoth Creek. Existing uses within the polygon or in the vicinity include campgrounds, system trails and trailheads, authorized motorized trails, mountain biking, boating and fishing, resorts, pack stations, guided fishing, motorized trails, motorized winter recreation, dispersed camping, cross-country and backcountry skiing, organization camps, grazing, community water systems, and Forest Service water systems. Both motorized uses (off highway vehicles and over snow vehicles) and mountain biking are popular activities in the area. There are existing vegetation treatments and maintenance treatments, as well as planned treatments. The area contains habitat for listed species, including Yosemite toad, and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. The area contains sage grouse priority habitat. There are seventeen existing water rights in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon has or is in proximity to substantial developments and improvements, including campgrounds, trailheads, resorts, boat ramps, pack station, recreation residences, private land communities, motorized trails, roads and highways. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited: due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, including those that split the polygon; due to the many authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to nearly split other sections of this polygon; and areas adjacent to highly developed recreation areas, recreation residences, and developed communities. Sights and sounds from roads and highly developed recreation areas would likely penetrate a large portion of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,664 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 2,200 acres. It is difficult to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1161 (Reds Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1161 (Reds Meadow) consists of 1,656 acres ranging in elevation from 7,500 to 9,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness along the southern and eastern boundaries (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It is located on the back side of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, west of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This is a concentrated recreation area that includes developed campgrounds, trailheads, pack stations and access to Devils Postpile National Monument. It is a narrow and elongated polygon, which encompasses the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and development and areas of prior wilderness designation. Ecosystem types include red fir and sagebrush. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail goes through the southwest corner of the polygon, near Rainbow Falls. U-shaped valleys, steep precipitous slopes, and basaltic outcrops characterize the area. This place is predominantly mid-elevation to high elevation red fir forest. It includes the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (4 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The majority of the polygon intersects with the San Joaquin Inventoried Roadless Area. Developments within the polygon are historic sites, including Reds Meadow Ranger Station. The vegetation is dense in many areas due to fire suppression; past and future hazardous fuels reduction work is to enhance wildfire defensible space around developments and to create a fuel break along the narrow, one way in and out access road. This polygon includes developed campgrounds and trailheads, and is adjacent to a major paved road. There is some habitat fragmentation and habituation of wildlife such as bears and small mammals. There are a few invasive plant species, including cheatgrass. There are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking and self-reproducing. Stocked fish affect connectivity of isolated frog populations. Public comments indicate there are trails in the area used by mountain bikers.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is valley with surrounding slopes. There is some screening from mid-elevation red fir forest. This area is the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and developments, and areas of designated wilderness. There are many developments in the vicinity, including campgrounds, day use sites, trailheads, resorts, pack stations, a paved road, and a National Park Service ranger station with employee housing. Noise from these developments would be present from most locations in the area; the Reds Meadow Valley may see nearly 2,000 visitors per day during the peak summer season, limiting the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high, particularly during the summer months. The road is seasonally closed and infrequently used by snowmobiles during the winter months.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes a northern goshawk breeding area, the rare plant Robbins pondweed and the sensitive plant, short-leaved hulsea. There are outstanding features located adjacent to but not within the area and protected by other special designations (e.g., Minaret Falls in Ansel Adams Wilderness and columnar basalt formations in the Devils Postpile National Monument).

Approximately half of the area was surveyed for cultural resources, with nine documented cultural resource sites including prehistoric lithic scatters, historic trash scatters, the Red's Meadow Ranger Station, and the Rainbow Falls toilet.

Manageability

The polygon is an elongated, narrow strip that mostly parallels Reds Meadow Road (paved forest road). The western boundary is contiguous with Devils Postpile National Monument, which has campgrounds and day use facilities, as well as a National Park Service ranger station and employee housing. The south and eastern boundary is contiguous with the existing the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The polygon is in proximity to a concentrated recreation area with developed facilities and a paved forest road. The majority of the polygon intersects with the San Joaquin Inventoried Roadless Area. Fuels reduction work is currently being planned to enhance wildfire defensible space around developments and to create a fuel break along the narrow, one way in and out access road.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon is in proximity to developments, such as recreation facilities (campgrounds, trailheads, pack stations and resort) and paved forest road. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the high use paved road and highly developed recreation sites; sights and sounds would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. Mechanical fuels management activities may need to continue within the polygon to protect adjacent high value areas. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The polygon cannot be reshaped.

Polygon 1164 (Minaret Vista and San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail)

General Description

Polygon 1164 (Minaret Vista and San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail) consists of 1,017 acres ranging in elevation from 8,800 to 10,000 feet. It is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness along the northern and eastern boundaries. It is located to the northwest of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area west of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and northeast of Reds Meadow Road (, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). The polygon is shaped by the Reds Meadow Road and existing wilderness boundary. It is a narrow and elongated polygon encompassing the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and development and areas of prior wilderness designation.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates none of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include red fir and subalpine forest. There is moderate to high human impact on plant communities. There are few invasive plant species, including some cheatgrass. Vegetation is dense due to fire suppression. The majority of the polygon intersects with the San Joaquin Inventoried Roadless Area, but the area is adjacent to a major paved road and some developed sites that have fragmented habitat, causing wildlife to have to cross the road leading to some mortality. Small mammals are fed by recreationists around developed sites. Public comments indicate there are trails used by mountain bikers in this area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This area is the narrow buffer left between Reds Meadow Road, areas of concentrated recreation use and developments (Minaret Vista and Reds Meadow Information Station), motorized trails (San Joaquin four wheel drive trail) and areas of designated wilderness. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is in the vicinity. Noise from these developments would be present from most locations in the area. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due the proximity to concentrated recreation use and developments in this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

None were noted.

Manageability

The polygon is an elongated, narrow strip that mostly parallels Reds Meadow Road (paved forest road) and includes San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail. The northern boundary is contiguous with existing wilderness (Ansel Adams Wilderness). The polygon is in proximity to a paved forest road, motorized trail within the polygon, and concentrated recreation area with developed facilities. The area is adjacent to communities and there is a need for wildfire defensible space around developments and to create a fuel break along the narrow, one way in and out access road.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon is in proximity to developments, such as recreation facilities and paved forest road. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System in the area. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to the proximity to concentrated recreation use, including motorized trails, winter motorized recreation and mountain biking, and the paved forest road. The location of the road, developments and the forest boundary do not allow the polygon to be reshaped.

Polygon 1179 (Lower Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake Loop)

General Description

Polygon 1179 (Lower Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake Loop) consists of 7,212 acres ranging in elevation from 7,600 to 9,000 feet. It is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness along the western boundary and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment from Lower Lee Vining Canyon to Silver Lake (June Lake Loop) (Figure B-2, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is oddly shaped (elongated vertically from north to south) as it follows the existing wilderness boundary along the western edge and roads and private land parcels protrude into the polygon along the eastern edge. The north half of the polygon intersects with the Horse Meadow Inventory Roadless Area. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. It is designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. It includes highly diverse conifer forests and aspen. There are numerous perennial stream channels, such as Walker Creek, Gibbs Creek and Parker Creek.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 10 percent of the polygon (734 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Approximately 3,000 additional acres are comprised of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area has fish stocking (current and historic) as well as fish barriers to keep trout out of frog habitat. Fuels reduction projects are being implemented (understory thinning). The area includes habitat improvement for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep and sage grouse. There are aspen enhancement projects within the area. There are no open allotments in this area, although there was grazing by sheep in the past.

Fish barriers are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading frog habitat in upper reaches. These fish barriers may need to be mechanically maintained. There are potentially some Los Angeles Department of Water and Power structures. Walker Lake Dam is in the area.

The mixed conifer forest in the western portion of the polygon includes limber pines in Bloody Canyon. There is some departure of fire from its range of natural variability. There has been minimal human impact to the plant community. The area is very diverse, with low invasive plant species. Some cheatgrass is present and probably increasing. There are no open range allotments in this area, although there was grazing by sheep in the past. Historic and current stocking have altered aquatic assemblages. Stocked trout reside in most of the perennial streams, displacing native invertebrates. Walker Lake is an important fishery for Kamloops. Fish barriers are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading frog habitat in upper reaches and may need to be mechanically maintained. This area does provide contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife, since developments only account for a small portion of the polygon. Public comments indicate an isolated population of southern alligator lizards exists along the Parker Bench trail, and there are goshawk and peregrine falcon nests known to be in the area. There are numerous perennial stream channels such as Walker Creek, Gibbs Creek and Parker Creek. Riparian vegetation is present on perennial channels and other canyons, condition unknown. Numerous meadows are present, but their condition is unknown. The soil quality is likely at the desired condition and air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep, with many streams or drainages. Screening is minimal in some areas, but there is good screening from topography along the western side of the polygon. This area is the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use, private land and areas of designated wilderness. There are developed recreation facilities in Lee Vining Canyon and June Lake Loop. The southern portion of the polygon is located immediately adjacent to Highway 158 (June Lake Loop), and the northern portion is located immediately adjacent to Highway 120. The proximity to concentrated recreation use and highways limits the opportunity for solitude. There may be opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

Walker Lake is an important fishery for Kamloops trout. Springs may contain springsnails. The area is a Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat and houses the rare plant, Robbins pondweed. There are views of Mono Basin and Mono Craters.

Manageability

The polygon is elongated vertically from north to south as it follows the existing wilderness boundary along the western edge and roads and private land parcels protrude into the polygon along the eastern edge, making for an irregularly shaped boundary. The polygon is in proximity to concentrated recreation use and facilities, and highways in the south and north portions of the area. The northern perimeter and southern perimeter overlap with a wildland-urban interface that surrounds recreation developments in Lee Vining Canyon and along the north shore of Silver Lake. The area overlaps a wildland-urban interface and there are needs for wildfire defensible space around developments and access roads. The area contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. Fish barriers that need to be mechanically maintained are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading frog (federally listed frog species) habitat in upper reaches. There

is existing outfitting and guiding (pack station). The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power manages lands adjacent to the boundary. Motorized winter recreation is an existing use. There are five water rights in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The wilderness characteristics are affected by fish stocking, fuels reduction activities and habitat improvement projects. There were some developments noted within the area, including Walker Lake Dam, fish barriers and possibly Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure. The polygon is in proximity to developments, such as recreation facilities, residences and highways. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 734 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 3,000 acres. The opportunity for solitude is degraded due to the proximity to concentrated recreation use and highways. There may be opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The proximity to concentrated recreation use and facilities and highways would make it difficult to manage for wilderness characteristics, particularly along the northern half and eastern side of the polygon. In addition, existing nonconforming uses, such as winter motorized recreation, occurs in the area.

Polygon 1195 (West of Mono Lake and Highway 395, North of Lee Vining)

General Description

Polygon 1195 (West of Mono Lake and Highway 395, North of Lee Vining) consists of 2,008 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness along the western boundary and is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between Lundy Canyon and Lee Vining, and between Highway 395 and the wilderness boundary (Figure B-2, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is shaped (elongated vertically from north to south) by the existing wilderness boundary along the western edge and private land parcels along the eastern edge. The eastern edge is within one mile of Highway 395.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 21 percent of the polygon (414 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Approximately 1,000 additional acres are comprised of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and subalpine forest. The area is within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. It includes steep terrain along the escarpment that overlooks the Mono Basin and Highway 395. About half of the polygon intersects with Log Cabin Saddlebag Inventoried Roadless Area. There are numerous ephemeral and intermittent stream channels with riparian vegetation. There are no mapped meadows in the area. Soils are likely at the desired condition due to limited management activities in this area. This area is within the Mono Basin PM-10 nonattainment area for air quality.

Pinyon pine forests have expanded due to fire suppression. There are some invasive plant species, including cheatgrass. Stocked trout reside in most of the perennial streams, displacing native aquatic organisms. There are a few developments within the area, including Highway 395, avalanche control infrastructure for Highway 395, residential communities and developments within Mono Basin. Public comments indicate there is an important connecting trail used by mountain bikers in the corridor between Mono Lake and the Hoover Wilderness. It is not certain, however, if the trail is located within the polygon boundary.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Within this polygon, the topography is steep terrain along the escarpment that overlooks Highway 395 and Mono Lake. There is very little screening with Mono Lake and residential communities visible. The proximity to the highway limits the opportunity for solitude as the highway can be seen and heard from much of the area.

Other Features of Value

The area features great views of Mono Basin and across to the White Mountains. It contains unique meta-sedimentary rocks ("rooftop pendant"). The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources but there is one known prehistoric lithic scatter site.

Manageability

The polygon is in proximity to the highway and adjacent to recreation developments and private land inholdings. There is avalanche control infrastructure in the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to US Highway 395. Sight and sounds may penetrate most of the small polygon. The area is an avalanche control zone for Cal Trans to address safety concerns along the highway. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 414 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,000 acres. The polygon cannot be reshaped.

Polygon 1208 (Saddlebag Lake)

General Description

Polygon 1208 (Saddlebag Lake) consists of 2,516 acres ranging in elevation from 10,000 to 10,800 feet. It is contiguous with the Hoover Wilderness and is located north of Highway 120 and includes Saddlebag Lake (Figure B-2, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is shaped (elongated from north to south) be the designated wilderness boundary (which excludes the recreation developments) along the west, north and eastern edge. The southern edge is Highway 120, just outside the entrance to Yosemite National Park.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (25 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include alpine, mountain mahogany, red fir, and subalpine forest. There are perennial stream channels present including Lee Vining Creek, and numerous intermittent channels. The majority of the polygon intersects with Hall Natural Area and Log Cabin Saddlebag Inventoried Roadless Areas. Saddlebag Lake is a reservoir with a dam. There is a motorized ferry that operates during the summer months. Other developments in the area include campgrounds, trailheads and resorts. There is fish stocking in the area and fish barriers are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading frog habitat in upper reaches. The Bennettville – Great Sierra Mine is located in the southern portion of the polygon and is likely substantially noticeable. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources. In addition to the large mining center, the sites include the remains of a historic sawmill and a historic cabin on the north side of Saddlebag Lake. There is a developed spring for water on the east side of lake. There are several trails used by mountain bikers in the area around the lake.

Stocked trout reside in most of the perennial streams, displacing native invertebrates. Fish barriers are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading frog habitat in upper reaches. These may need to be mechanically maintained. Toad habitat has been disrupted from heavy recreation use in area. This area does provide for connectivity, but disturbances from the presence of developed areas may limit the amount of movement for some wildlife species. The area has developed campgrounds, trailheads and resorts located throughout the area. This has led to some habitat fragmentation, disturbances and habituation of some wildlife species. There are perennial stream channels present including Lee Vining Creek, and numerous intermittent channels. Numerous meadows are present. There are user trails through meadows west of Saddlebag Lake. There are effects from upstream water manipulation. The air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This area is the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and developments and areas of designated wilderness. There are many developments in the vicinity of the area, including campgrounds, day use sites, trailheads and a resort. Noise from these developments would be present from most locations in the area. Potential for encounters with other visitors is high during the summer months. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited. When Highway 120 is closed during the winter months, the area receives little to no use.

Other Features of Value

The area is a habitat for the Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Saddlebag Lake lies within the polygon. There is habitat for the sensitive *Botrychium spp.* (moonworts).

Manageability

The polygon is elongated vertically from north to south as it follows the existing wilderness boundary and follows the forest road accessing Saddlebag Lake. The southern boundary follows Highway 120 to the Yosemite National Park boundary at the Tioga entrance station. The polygon is within a concentrated recreation area with campgrounds and day use facilities, trailheads and a resort. The existing wilderness boundary as currently drawn excludes these features. Saddlebag Lake is a reservoir with a dam. There is a motorized ferry that operates during the summer months. There is also an accessible non-motorized trail. The area contains habitat for Yosemite

toad and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act. Two water rights are present.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to concentrated recreation developments and use, adjacency to Highway 120, the Tioga Pass entrance to Yosemite National Park, and Saddlebag Lake. There are developments within the area that are substantially noticeable, including developed recreation facilities and mining sites. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Sight and sounds may penetrate most of the small polygon. There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1211 (Lundy Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1211 (Lundy Canyon) consists of 1,949 acres with elevations ranging from 7,600 to 10,400 feet. It is contiguous with the Hoover Wilderness and is located on the north side of Lundy Lake and Lundy Canyon (Figure B-2, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is oddly shaped (elongated from east to west) as it follows the forest boundary along the north, existing wilderness boundary on the west, and Lundy Canyon Road on the south.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4 percent of the polygon (80 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, sagebrush and subalpine forest. It is currently within a wildland-urban interface. Topography is severely steep rocky slopes and gullies. There is little water present, with some ephemeral streams. The majority of polygon intersects with Mt. Olsen and Hoover–Mt. Olsen Inventoried Roadless Areas. There are some invasive plant species, with cheatgrass increasing. There is contiguous habitat and connectivity for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. The air quality is excellent. The polygon contains remnants of historic mining. The area is adjacent to a concentrated recreation area and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission infrastructure. Public comments indicate there are trails used by mountain bikers in the area. It is not certain, however, if the trails are located within the polygon boundaries.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is severely steep rocky slopes and gullies. There is some screening present, with some visibility down to developments in Lundy Canyon. There is southern exposure above a dammed lake and recreational developments. The area is adjacent to a concentrated recreation area and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission infrastructure. Travelers can see and hear evidence of civilization. The area receives a high amount of recreation use during the summer months, with little to no use during the winter months. Potential for encounters with other visitors is low once away from developments on south side. The opportunity for solitude is limited by the

proximity to the recreation use at Lundy Lake and the paved forest road. The opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation is limited by steep terrain.

Other Features of Value

The area is a habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep and a small portion is within a priority habitat for sage grouse. There are unique metasedimentary rocks ("rooftop pendant") in the area, as well as scenic aspen stands.

Manageability

The polygon is elongated from west to east as it follows the existing wilderness boundary and parallels the paved forest road accessing Lundy Canyon. The polygon is in the vicinity of a concentrated recreation area with campgrounds and day use facilities, as well as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed infrastructure. The existing wilderness boundary as currently drawn excludes these features. The area contains habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities under the Endangered Species Act.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to a paved access road in the southern boundary, and to a highly concentrated, authorized recreation use area. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1232 (Willow Springs)

General Description

Polygon 1232 (Willow Springs) consists of 3,205 acres with elevations ranging from 4,400 to 6,800 feet. It is contiguous with the Inyo Mountain Wilderness, is located east of Mazourka Canyon Road and includes Willow Springs and Bee Springs (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). The polygon border follows the existing wilderness boundary on the east and the forest boundary on the west.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (4 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The terrain includes the steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains with canyons, steep slopes and drainages. The majority of polygon intersects with Paiute Inventoried Roadless Area. There is an authorized motorized trail that bisects the polygon along the wilderness boundary. Highway 395 and the town of Independence area can be seen in the middle distance (approximately 8 miles west). Mine sites on Bureau of Land Management lands are within a half mile of the western boundary. The area has historic mining found in many areas with mine prospects, tailings, roads, adits and buildings throughout the polygon. These mining features are substantially noticeable.

Buildings and trailers are reported to be maintained at Black Eagle Mine. There is some cheatgrass and Russian thistle, but they are not widespread. There are unique desert springs flowing and in good condition. There have been some areas of historic timber harvest from mines. This area provides some contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains with canyons, steep slopes and drainages. There is some screening due to canyons and vegetation. There is a motorized trail, Betty Jumbo Mine Road, along the eastern boundary that parallels the existing wilderness boundary. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the Betty Jumbo Mine Road, a highly visible authorized motorized trail along the eastern boundary. Sight and sounds of motorized use would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. There are authorized forest system roads that cherry stem a portion of the western boundary. Hikers park off of Betty Jumbo Road, a motorized trail that parallels the wilderness boundary to walk to Winnedumah Paiute Monument. There are some opportunities for primitive recreation such as canyoneering, wildlife observation, spring wildflower observation, photography and exploring old mine sites.

Other Features of Value

The area includes the rare plant Parry's monkey flower and Townsend's big-eared bats (habitat associated with mine adits). There are unique desert springs, flowing and in good condition. This polygon contains the uppermost elevations of the Mojave Desert in this region, with creosote bush and Mojave Desert species, such as *Lycium cooperi*. There are outstanding views toward the Sierra Nevada. Little cultural resource surveying has been completed in the area. The five documented properties are all extensive mining sites (Betty Jumbo Mine, Clifford Mine, Omega Mine, Black Eagle Mine and Alhambra Mine).

Manageability

The polygon has a motorized trail that runs along the wilderness boundary. If this was cherry stemmed, it would isolate the remaining portion of the polygon, disconnecting it from the adjoining wilderness boundary so that it would have a narrow attachment to the existing wilderness. The existing wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude the motorized trail (Betty Jumbo Mine road). There is a network of old mining roads in the area. It would be difficult to prevent vehicle incursions from the Betty Jumbo Road, as well as the network of old mining roads. Off highway vehicle recreation, rock hounding and hunting are the primary uses of the area and adjoining Bureau of Land Management land.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The developments related to mining activity are widespread and substantially noticeable. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to the proximity to motorized recreation (authorized motorized trails and Mazourka Canyon Road). There is not an opportunity to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1236 (West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1236 (West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness) consists of 73,128 acres with elevations ranging from 4,400 to 9,500 feet. It is contiguous with the Inyo Mountains Wilderness and is located west of the Inyo Mountains Wilderness, between Eureka Valley Road and Mazourka Canyon, and includes Harkless Flat, Andrews Mountain, Mazourka Peak, and Santa Rita Spring. It is a large polygon on the west side of the Inyo Mountains Wilderness between Eureka Valley Road on the north and Mazourka Canyon on the south (Figure B-7, Inyo evaluation map F and Figure B-8 evaluation map G).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 44 percent of the area of the polygon (32,500 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub and Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush shrubland. An additional 26,000 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes the steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains, with steep slopes, canyons, extremely rugged terrain; and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. The majority of this polygon intersects with the Paiute and Andrews Mountain Inventoried Roadless Areas. There are remnants of historic mining throughout the polygon, including mine prospects, mine tailings, mining road and mining adits There is a boundary fence along the south side of T. 12 S., R. 35 E., section 35 and mining relics east of Forest Service Road 12S103. Old mining shacks are found at the narrows (T. 10 S., R. 36 E., section 15). There are mining site and ruins west of Andrews Mountain. There are also mining ruins, adits and a dump in T. 10 S., R. 36 E., section 20. No mining infrastructure is being maintained. There are active grazing allotments in the polygon, with associated fences and other range improvements. There are fences along the existing wilderness boundary in T. 11 S., R. 36 E. and section 18. The area includes the former Saline Valley Road alignments along the northeast perimeter. There are no other known structures or dwellings. Very little cultural survey work has been done in the area, but there are 20 documented cultural resource sites including prehistoric sites with rock rings and artifact scatters and historic sites associated with historic mining in Mazourka Canyon. The polygon is mostly unsurveyed for invasive plant species. In the northeastern corner, there is some cheatgrass and Russian thistle, but they are not widespread. This area provides some habitat and connectivity for wildlife. Mostly intermittent stream channels and some springs are found. Riparian areas are mostly in good condition. Some salt cedar (non-native plant species) is present.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Topography includes the steep western escarpment of Inyo Mountains, with steep slopes, canyons, extremely rugged terrain and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. There is some screening due to topography and vegetation. Screening is variable along the western escarpment due to topography, but there is little vegetation. There is some visibility of Highway 395. In the northeastern corner of the polygon there are views to

Death Valley National Park. The western boundary (along the escarpment) is approximately one mile from the Owens Valley (roads, transmission lines, livestock grazing) and 3 to 5 miles from Highway 395. The northern perimeter is bounded by the paved Eureka Valley Road and Saline Valley Road. The southeastern perimeter is bounded by Mazourka Canyon Road (county road), which accesses mining claims and the communication site on top of Mazourka Peak. There are numerous authorized roads and motorized trails within this polygon, including through the middle of the polygon. Off highway vehicle recreation, dispersed camping, mineral exploration and sightseeing are popular activities throughout this area, primarily during the spring and fall months. There is lower use in the summer due to heat. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited in some the road and motorized trail system areas. In most of the area, the potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium. Marble Canyon is a scenic destination for day hikers. The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas offer some primitive recreation opportunities like hiking, horseback riding and deer hunting (fall). Backpacking opportunities are limited to the few areas with surface water. There are also opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature. Winter snowpack sometimes allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations.

Other Features of Value

There are steep escarpments of the Inyo Mountains with complex geology. The Narrows of Marble Canyon is a unique geologic feature in the northeastern corner. The area includes vistas of the Sierra Nevada range, prehistoric cultural resource sites and remnants of historic mining. The area includes habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat, some in historic mining areas. There are many rare plants, including pinyon beardtongue, Inyo milkvetch, pinyon rockcress, Mojave fishhook, and cliffdweller (Forest Service sensitive species). The lowest elevation bristlecone pine forests occur here, in an ecological refugium that may be challenged as the climate continues to warm.

Manageability

This is a large polygon located between the forest boundary within one mile of the Owens Valley, and the Inyo Mountains Wilderness. There are numerous cherry stem roads and authorized motorized trails throughout the polygon, including a large cherry stem in the northeastern portion, dividing the polygon into two non-motorized areas. One of the non-motorized areas is partially bordered by the Inyo Mountains Wilderness, but most of the polygon is separated from the wilderness by roads or motorized trails. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are developments related to mining activity as well as range improvements. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 32,500 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 26,000 acres. The opportunity for solitude is limited in the authorized motorized areas.

Polygon 1242 (North of Little Cowhorn Valley)

General Description

Polygon 1242 (North of Little Cowhorn Valley) consists of 2,678 acres with elevations ranging from 7,600 to 8,400 feet. It is contiguous with Piper Mountains Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management) and located west of the Piper Mountains Wilderness, north of Little Cowhorn Valley (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data shows 53 percent of the area of the polygon (1,410 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,100 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The combination of alkali flats and old growth pinyon-juniper is a unique feature of this area. Sagebrush converting to alkali flat in areas. The topography is flat and rolling hills. The area is not within any inventoried roadless areas. There has been some historic mining and timber harvest but for the most part, there has been very little impact from humans within this area. Human impact on plant communities is low to moderate. There are some invasive species present (some cheatgrass and Russian thistle). The area does provide some contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife. Most of the polygon is within a mapped wildfire restoration zone (60 percent) and a wildfire maintenance zone (40 percent).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is flat and rolling hills with some screening present from topography and trees. Potential for encountering other visitors is low. The eastern portion of the polygon follows the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management, and is contiguous with Piper Mountain Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). The polygon is surrounded by a road system to the north, west and south, and there is one road that cherry stems the northwest corner. The Eureka Valley Road is within a half mile of the southern boundary of the polygon. There are opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities such as cross-country hiking, general forest exploration and photography during the summer, and deer hunting in the fall.

Other Features of Value

There are many rare plants including Little Cut Leaf, Compact Fleabane, Inyo Milk Vetch, Pinyon Beardtongue, and Inyo onion. The combination of alkali flats and old growth pinyon-juniper is a unique feature of this area. Alkali flats were identified as an under-represented type in the R5 research natural area system during the plan revision assessment phase. The area has had very little survey for cultural resources; however, there are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Manageability

The polygon is surrounded by a road system and would form a finger-shaped extension to the Piper Wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The combination of alkali flats and old growth pinyon-juniper is a unique feature of this area. Potential for encountering other visitors in this area is low. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, general forest exploration, photography and deer hunting. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. There are road systems that surround the area, including one that cherry stems the northwest portion of the polygon. The Eureka Valley Road is approximately half mile from the southern boundary of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,400 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 1,100 acres.

Polygon 1246 (North of Eureka Valley Road)

General Description

The Polygon 1246 (North of Eureka Valley Road) consists of 43,231 acres with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 8,600 feet. A very small portion along the southeast corner is contiguous with the Piper Mountains Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management. It is a large polygon located between Eureka Valley Road on the south and Highway 168 to the north, between the White Mountains and Inyo Mountains (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 48 percent of the area of the polygon (20,900 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub and Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush shrubland. An additional 20,600 acres are comprised of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. It intersects with the Soldier Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. CARMA (Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-Wave Astronomy, a special use authorization) has developments that are substantially noticeable in the northern portion of the polygon. There are large numbers of prehistoric sites. There is some cheatgrass that is moderately widespread in portions of the polygon. The area provides some contiguous habitat connectivity for wildlife. There is limited water. Intermittent streams include Deadman Canyon, Crooked Road Canyon and Soldier Canyon. There are no mapped meadows. Soils are at desired condition. Air quality is excellent. Ancient bristlecone pines are reported on some north-facing slopes of the Inyo Mountains.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep to gentle slopes and there is some screening in the area from vegetation and canyons. There is very little visibility of developments. The northern boundary is Highway 168 and the southern boundary is Eureka Valley Road, a paved road and less traveled route to Death Valley National Park. There are numerous roads and motorized trails within this polygon,

located along the edge and through the polygon. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in these motorized use areas is very limited. Off highway vehicle recreation, dispersed camping, mineral exploration and sightseeing are popular activities throughout this area, primarily during the spring and fall months. There is lower use in the summer due to heat.

There are opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Travel in the lower elevation desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water and steep topography. The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas offer primitive recreation opportunities typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding and deer hunting in the fall. Backpacking is generally confined to the few areas with surface water. The degree of challenge is accentuated by the scarcity of surface water and lack of trails. There are also opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature. Winter snowpack sometimes allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations. Along the western escarpment of mountains, there are some opportunities for primitive recreation such as canyoneering, wildlife observation, spring wildflower observation, photography and exploring old mine sites. Several of the canyons along the western escarpment of the mountains are scenic destinations for day hikers, though some also have motorized trails and off highway vehicle recreationists. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist,

Other Features of Value

The area includes rare plants including Mojave fishhook cactus and little cutleaf. There are large numbers of prehistoric sites including prehistoric encampments, rock rings and lithic scatters. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. The polygon includes outstanding views of Mt. Palisade glacier area and the Sierra Nevada. There is some limestone geology and also unique sedimentary and metamorphic geology.

Manageability

This is a large polygon located between the straight-line forest boundary along the western and eastern edge. There are numerous cherry stem roads and motorized trails throughout the polygon, along the edge and routed through the polygon. There is illegal off highway vehicle use occurring that is widespread along the western and southern portion of the polygon. The area includes one water right.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in areas away from roads and motorized trails. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. Most recreation use is around roads and motorized trails where the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is very limited. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 20,900 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 20,600 acres. The opportunity for solitude is degraded due to the proximity to motorized recreation (roads and motorized trails). There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1248 (Redding Canyon, Black Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1248 (Redding Canyon, Black Canyon) consists of 38,756 acres with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet. It is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Silver Canyon, and north of Highway 168, and includes Redding Canyon, Black Canyon, Marble Canyon and Black Mountain at 9,083 feet in elevation. The polygon follows the straight-line forest boundary along the western perimeter, Highway 168 along the southern perimeter, White Mountain Road along the eastern perimeter and Silver Canyon along the northern boundary (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 41 percent of the area of the polygon (15,818 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub and Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush shrubland. An additional 20,000 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. Public comments indicate an ancient bristlecone pine population is on the north slopes of Black Mountain. The area is a sage grouse priority habitat. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged. Authorized motorized trails are dispersed throughout the polygon; however, much of the polygon intersects with the Black Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. There is some historic and modern firewood harvest in the area from Westgard Pass Road. This area includes the Historic Poleta Mining Complex. There are also prehistoric encampments (rock rings), lithic scatters, and several historic rock structures and associated refuse. Public comments indicate there are single track trails used by mountain bikers and motorcycle riders in the area. There is some cheatgrass but it is not widespread. The area provides contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife. Water is limited in the area. Perennial stream channels include Redding and Poleta canyons. Marble Canyon is a major intermittent stream. Some riparian vegetation is present in canyons. There are no mapped meadows. Soils are mostly at desired conditions, with some localized mining and grazing impacts, but good overall. The air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is extremely steep and rugged. There is good screening from canyons and pinyon pine trees. The western boundary is generally within two miles of the Owens Valley, the southern boundary is Highway 168, the eastern boundary is White Mountain Road (a National Forest Scenic Byway) and the northern boundary is Silver Canyon (road and transmission lines). There are numerous roads and motorized trails within this polygon, including some that run through the polygon. Off highway vehicle recreation, mineral exploration and sightseeing are popular activities throughout this area. The opportunity for solitude is very limited in the areas in proximity to the forest system roads and extensive motorized trail system. There are some quiet places free from motorized noise within the polygon, away from roads and motorized trails, especially in the canyons. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. Most of the use is around roads and motorized trails.

The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas offer primitive recreation opportunities typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding and deer hunting in the fall. Backpacking opportunities are limited to the few areas with surface water. The degree of challenge is accentuated by the steep terrain along the western escarpment of the White Mountains and lack of trails. There are also opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature, particularly in the subalpine areas off of White Mountain Road. Winter snowpack allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations, but gaining access requires more than a 10-mile hike into the area. Along the western escarpment of mountains, there are some opportunities for primitive recreation such as canyoneering, wildlife observation, spring wildflower observation, photography and exploring old mine sites. Several of the canyons along the western escarpment of the mountains including Redding Canyon and Black Canyon, are scenic destinations for day hikers, though some also have motorized trails and off highway vehicle recreationists. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist, travel in the lower elevation desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water and steep topography.

Other Features of Value

The area includes a sage grouse priority habitat, Townsend's big eared bat populations, and the Panamint alligator lizard. The rare Shockley's milkvetch plant occurs here. There are outstanding views of Volcanic Crater Mountain, Palisade glacier area and the Sierra Nevada.

Manageability

This polygon is located between the straight-line forest boundary along the western edge and the White Mountain Road on the east. There are some cherry stem roads along the edge and motorized trails that run along the edge and through the polygon, including the trails in Black Canyon. It was noted that there is illegal motorcycle use in the northern portion of the polygon. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in areas away from roads and motorized trails, especially in the canyons. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. Most recreation use is around roads and motorized trails where the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is very limited. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 15,818 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 20,000 acres.

Polygon 1258 (Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South)

General Description

Polygon 1258 (Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South) consists of 35,248 acres with elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,800 feet. It is located east of White Mountain Road and partially within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest (including Schulman Grove), south of Wyman Canyon Road and north of Highway 168 (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F). It is shaped by cherry stem roads that form a polygon with sections. The western boundary runs along White Mountain Road.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 35 percent of the area of the polygon (12,458 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, and Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush shrubland. An additional 17,200 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and subalpine forest. The northwest portion of the polygon is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and includes the Discovery Trail (National Recreation Trail). The topography is steep with rugged slopes. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Birch Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. The southwest corner of the polygon has motorized trails. Historic mining and grazing has occurred in the area. Developments include Wilkerson Mining Complex, the Mexican Mine (cabins, adits, and tailings), a stone cabin, hunting blind and rock structure, as well as numerous prehistoric rock ring and artifact scatters. The area contains the Schulman Grove Visitor Center. There are numerous springs and perennial channels including Birch Creek. There are many intermittent channels. The air quality is excellent. Some cheatgrass and salt cedar is present, but is not widespread. The area provides some contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife. The species composition is natural. The legacy grazing and mining impacts are highly localized and the rest of the area is likely at desired condition for soil conditions.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep with rugged slopes. There is abundant screening and very little visibility to developments or roads. The western half of the polygon is in proximity to paved forest highway (White Mountain Road, which is a National Forest Scenic Byway), Highway 168, and roads and motorized trails, which limit the opportunity for solitude in these areas. The northern boundary follows Wyman Canyon Road, which is a lightly traveled system road, but is a main route that connects to Silver Canyon Road on the west side of the White Mountains, and traverses to the east side of the White Mountains to Deep Springs Valley.

Although there are some roads that cherry stem the eastern half of the polygon, these are more lightly traveled roads providing opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in this eastern section. The area receives low amount of recreation use, except near Schulman Grove and along the White Mountain Road on the western boundary of the polygon. Notable opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation exist in the western half of the polygon, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, where there are several trails including the Discovery Trail (National Recreation Trail) and Methuselah Trail. The western half of the polygon is a popular area for hiking, wildlife observation, dark skies observation, photography, exploring old mine sites and enjoying nature. Overnight camping is not allowed in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, so there are no opportunities for backpacking in this portion of the polygon. Opportunities for primitive recreation in the eastern portion of the polygon focus on hiking and hunting in the Birch Creek drainage, which has an unmaintained trail in the drainage. Most of the rest of the polygon is steep terrain and there are no trails, so there are opportunities for challenging cross-country trips. Winter snowpack allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations, but gaining access requires more than 10 miles ski into the area.

Other Features of Value

The area includes the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. It is a sage grouse priority habitat and also a habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat, a proposed species of conservation concern and Forest Service sensitive species, which is associated with the mine adits. Many rare plants are known here, including spiny-leaved milk vetch, little cutleaf, Nevada ninebark, Bristlecone pines, compact fleabane, and sensitive Dedecker's clover. There are outstanding sedimentary and metamorphic geology and colorful rock features. Approximately 20 percent of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources. The roughly 25 documented cultural properties include remains of the Wilkerson Mining Complex, the Mexican Mine (cabins, adits, tailings), a stone cabin, hunting blind and rock structure, as well as numerous prehistoric rock ring and artifact scatters.

Manageability

The polygon is irregularly shaped, with cherry stemmed roads that protrude into the middle of the polygon. The polygon is bounded by a National Forest Scenic Byway on the west, a native surface system road on the north which is a main route that traverses to the east side of the White Mountains to Deep Springs Valley, forest boundary on the east and Highway 168 to the south. Wyman Canyon Road along the northern perimeter frequently needs maintenance due to wash outs. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. There is one water right. The area contains the Schulman Grove Visitor Center.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation exist in the eastern and western half of the polygon, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, where there are several trails including the Discovery Trail (National Recreation Trail) and Methuselah Trail. There are developments in the area, including Schulman Grove Visitor Center, and remnant historic mining features, primarily in the western half of the polygon. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 12,458 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 17,200 acres.

Polygon 1275 (North of Silver Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1275 (North of Silver Canyon consists of 10,435 acres with elevations ranging from 4,800 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and is located west of White Mountain Road, north of Silver Canyon, within the White Mountains. It is a rectangular-shaped polygon, which follows the straight line boundary of the White Mountains Wilderness on the north and a power line corridor to the south (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F). The area is bounded by roads along the western perimeter with a prominent cherry stem road and follows the White Mountain Road in the northeastern corner.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 59 percent of the area of the polygon (6,168 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe and inter-mountain

basins mixed salt desert scrub. An additional 3,200 acres are comprised of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and subalpine forest. The northeast corner of the polygon is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. There are steep canyons along the western escarpment of the White Mountains. Although the majority of polygon intersects with Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area there is an extensive network of cherry stem forest system roads that form a cookie cut out in the western portion of the polygon, and is adjacent to a network of authorized motorized trails that occur within the polygon. From the ridge tops, Bishop and the Owens Valley are visible. The area has limited water; Silver Canyon and potentially Gunter Creek are perennial channels. There are no mapped meadows. There is riparian vegetation within canyon areas. The air quality is excellent. This area does provide some contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife. There are some localized impacts to soils (off highway vehicle incursions); however, the majority of the area is at desired condition for soils. There is historic mining on the western side of the polygon, including Gunter Creek Mining Site. The Gunter Creek Mine area contains several structures, including roads, trash, pipe, lumber, adits, shafts and platforms. Cheatgrass is the only notable invasive species. Public comments indicate there are single track trails used by mountain bikers and motorcycle riders in the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography has steep slopes and canyons along the western escarpment of the White Mountains making it difficult to access. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in in steep canyons and other interior portions of the polygon where the potential for encounters with other users is low. The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine zone along the eastern side of the polygon offer primitive recreation opportunities typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding and deer hunting in the fall. There are also opportunities for photography and enjoying nature, particularly in the areas off of White Mountain Road. Winter snowpack allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations, but gaining access requires more than a 10 mile ski into the area.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited within the western portion of the polygon due to an extensive network of roads and motorized trails both within the polygon and along the border. The White Mountain Road, a National Forest Scenic Byway runs along the perimeter in the northeast corner. Along the western escarpment of mountains, there are some opportunities for primitive recreation such as canyoneering, wildlife observation, spring wildflower observation, photography and exploring old mine sites.

Other Features of Value

There is outstanding geology and views to the Volcanic Tablelands and the Sierra Nevada. Although very little of the area is surveyed for cultural sites, three documented properties include an historic can dump area, a prehistoric lithic scatter and the Gunter Creek Mining Site.

Manageability

The boundary on the west side of the polygon is in proximity to roads and motorized trails, however, due to steep terrain there is little chance of vehicle incursion. There are general tribal

concerns about access and use. Off highway vehicle recreation is a popular activity in the western portion of the polygon associated with the historic mining sites.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the western portion of this polygon due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails and roads within the polygon or forming a cookie cut border. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the eastern corner is limited by White Mountain Road. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in steep canyons. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 6,168 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,200 acres. There may be an opportunity to reshape the polygon to exclude the motorized trails, as well as tie the boundary to a natural feature, adding a projected extension to the White Mountain Wilderness.

Polygon 1276 (Gunter Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1276 (Gunter Canyon) contains 1,048 acres with elevations ranging from 4,800 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with White Mountains Wilderness and is located northwest of Gunter Canyon, within the White Mountains. It is a small polygon between Gunter Canyon Road and the White Mountains Wilderness, with the forest boundary on the west (with Bureau of Land Management) (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 73 percent of the polygon (764 acres) consists of ecological groups that have has less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. None of the groups are prevalent in the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. A small portion of the polygon (buffer between the road and White Mountain Wilderness) intersects with Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. The polygon includes an area that parallels a system road that was excluded during the designation of the White Mountains Wilderness. There are a few intermittent stream channels and no perennial stream channels. Historic mining occurred in the area. There are no known developments, although according to the United States Geological Survey quad there is one open pit mine in the area, and shafts along the western boundary. There are a few invasive plant species (possibly cheatgrass).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The polygon is a small polygon that is surrounded by road systems and historic mining activity. Part of the polygon encompasses the small buffer between an existing road system and White Mountains Wilderness. It is a popular paragliding location.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value were noted.

Manageability

The polygon is small in size and surrounded by a road system.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that cherry stem the boundary of this small polygon; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the polygon. There is an open pit mine and shafts in the area. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 764 acres. There may be an opportunity to reshape the polygon, although it would add a very small area that is isolated by the road system to the White Mountains Wilderness.

Polygon 1281 (Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1281 (Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow) consists of 11,210 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and located east of White Mountain Road, northeast of Schulman Grove. It parallels the existing wilderness boundary to the forest boundary on the east. It is an elongated, rectangular shaped polygon that runs west to east, east of White Mountain Road to the forest boundary, following the existing straight line wilderness boundary (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F). The southern straight line boundary is the power line corridor.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 31 percent of the area of the polygon (3,419 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 6,300 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and subalpine forest. The western portion of the polygon is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. The topography features the plateau area of the White Mountains with steep to gentle slopes. The majority of polygon intersects with Boundary Peak and Blanco Mountain Inventoried Roadless Areas. The area provides some contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife. Perennial channels include Crooked Creek, Mill Canyon and Water Canyon. There are numerous springs present. There are no mapped meadows, but riparian vegetation is associated with perennial channels and springs. These are in unknown condition. There are highly localized legacy grazing and mining impacts. The area is at desired condition for soils and the air quality is excellent. There are authorized motorized trails within the polygon; a motorized trail in the vicinity of Dead Horse Meadow runs north to south and bisects the polygon. A utility right of way and Wyman Canyon Road exist along the southern perimeter.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area has steep to gentle slopes with some screening present due to topography, especially from vegetation and canyons. Wyman Road is approximately one quarter mile from the southern boundary. The western boundary is White Mountain Road. There is a motorized trail in the vicinity of Dead Horse Meadow that runs north to south and bisects the polygon. This motorized trail cherry stems the White Mountain Wilderness. The canyon areas are free from motorized sounds. Sight and sounds of use on motorized trails and high speed road would likely penetrate much of the 300 acre finger of the polygon that is adjacent to White Mountain Road (paved forest road that is a National Forest Scenic Byway). The motorized trail in the vicinity of Dead Horse Meadow is currently heavily damaged by rains and motorized travel is difficult. There may be some impacts to solitude in area adjacent to the route. Visitor use in the area is low with most of the use occurring during the summer and fall months.

Notable opportunities for primitive recreation exist in the western half of the polygon, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest: hiking on three unmaintained forest system trails, wildlife observation, dark skies observation, photography and enjoying nature. The high elevation and lack of maintained trails adds challenge to the visitor experience. Overnight camping is not allowed in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, so there are no opportunities for backpacking in this portion of the polygon. Opportunities for primitive recreation in the eastern portion of the polygon focus on hiking, horseback riding and hunting in the Crooked Creek drainage. Most of the rest of the polygon is steep terrain without trails, so there are opportunities for adventurous cross-country trips. Winter snowpack allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations, but gaining access requires more than 10 miles ski in to the area.

Other Features of Value

The area features outstanding metamorphic and sedimentary geology. It includes sage grouse habitat, the rare Booth's evening primrose, and Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Only about 20 percent of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources. The six documented sites include prehistoric encampments (rock rings and artifact scatters) and one potential historic structure or ruins.

Manageability

The east-west boundary on the southern side of the polygon is not based on easily identified natural or man-made features. Utility right of way and Wyman Canyon Road exist along the southern perimeter. Wyman Road is approximately a quarter mile from southern boundary. The western boundary is White Mountain Road. There is a motorized trail in the vicinity of Dead Horse Meadow that runs north to south and bisects the polygon. This motorized trail is cherry stemmed where it enters the White Mountain Wilderness. The area contains sage grouse habitat, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. There is one private land inholding, access is unknown.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in much of the area that is free from motorized noise, especially in the canyons. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,419 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System

comprises an additional 6,300 acres. Within the motorized trail areas, there are limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. One of the motorized trail areas is adjacent to White Mt road (FR 4S01), a high use and speed road.

Polygon 1295 (White Mountain Road, Barcroft Research Station)

General Description

Polygon 1295 (White Mountain Road, Barcroft Research Station) consists of 2,265 acres ranging in elevation from 10,500 to 12,500 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and located along the White Mountain Road, between Patriarch Grove and White Mountain Research Station (Barcroft), near White Mountain Peak (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 16 percent of the area of the polygon (657 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The ecosystem type is sagebrush. The south corner of the polygon is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. The entire polygon is within a mapped wildfire restoration zone. The polygon encompasses an area that was excluded (cherry stemmed) during the 2009 legislation due to power lines, White Mountain Road, and the White Mountain Research Station facilities. A small portion (north half) of the polygon intersects with the Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. There is limited water and no perennial streams. There are possibly some intermittent channels.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is immediately adjacent to White Mountain Road (National Forest Scenic Byway) and Barcroft Research Station, which limits the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value were noted.

Manageability

This polygon is the area that was cherry stemmed during the 2009 legislation which designated the White Mountains Wilderness, due to the power line corridor and White Mountain Road.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to White Mountain Rd; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the polygon. The boundaries drawn for the White Mountains Wilderness as part of the 2009 legislation excluded this area from wilderness designation due to existing uses and developments. There is likely a need for motorized access to maintain a powerline that runs through middle of this polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10

percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 657 acres.

Polygon 1297 (North of Jeffrey Mine)

General Description

Polygon 1297 (North of Jeffrey Mine) consists of 1,092 acres with elevations ranging from 5,500 to 6,500 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and located west of White Mountain Road, north of Silver Canyon, within the White Mountains. It is a small polygon on the west side of the White Mountains, east of Hammil Valley and north of Jeffrey Mine (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 83 percent of the area of the polygon (903 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The majority of the polygon intersects with Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. The polygon encompasses an area that was excluded (cherry stemmed) during the 2009 wilderness designation legislation due to roads, mining, and water system access. There is an historic open pit mine. There is an aqueduct and ditches. Perennial streams include Willow Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Lone Tree Creek.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter, several cherry stem to form the boundary of this polygon and nearly splitting it into thirds. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value were noted.

Manageability

This polygon is the area that was cherry stemmed, due to roads, mining and water system access, during the 2009 legislation that designated the White Mountains Wilderness. Motorized access may be needed to maintain an existing water system that carries irrigation water to Chalfant Valley.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The boundaries drawn for the White Mountains Wilderness as part of the 2009 legislation excluded this area from wilderness designation due to roads and existing uses. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter, several cherry stem to form the boundary of this polygon. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of this small polygon. Motorized access may be needed to maintain an existing water system that carries irrigation water to

Chalfant Valley. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 903 acres.

Polygon 1301 (Leidy Creek South)

General Description

Polygon 1301 (Leidy Creek South) consists of 3,010 acres with elevations ranging from 5,500 to 7,600 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and recommended wilderness and located on the east side of the White Mountains, west of Fish Lake Valley, south of Leidy Creek (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). It is shaped along the Von Schmidt Line (state line) with the boundary with recommended wilderness. It follows the forest boundary on the east side of the polygon.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 74 percent of the area of the polygon (2,224 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands and blackbrush. A small portion of the polygon intersects with the Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. The connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. Brook and rainbow trout were introduced into previously fishless waters, and are self-sustaining populations that have displaced endemic species. There is departure from natural conditions in spring channels due to fish introductions. There is some alteration from invasive plant species, mining and wild horses. Cheatgrass and halogeton are increasing. Pinyon pine has expanded due to fire suppression. There are no mapped meadows. Soils are likely at the desired condition. The air quality is excellent. The area is mostly open with little screening, except in the canyons on the west side. From the eastern portion of the polygon, private land development (Fish Lake Valley), power lines and Highway 264 are visible.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep on the western edge leading to the White Mountains Wilderness. Low angle open alluvial fans are found on the lower slopes on the east side. The area is quiet and free from motorized sound, especially on the western side of the polygon, which adjoins the White Mountains Wilderness. There is a lightly used road along the northern boundary. The potential for encounters is low. The area is largely undeveloped with opportunity for primitive-type recreation activities such as cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the terrain.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value are noted.

Manageability

Management of the Paiute cutthroat trout population, which is federally listed as threatened, requires road and equipment access. The population is within White Mountains Wilderness, and

the road access is along Leidy Creek, along the north perimeter of the polygon. There are two water rights.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited along an authorized forest system road in the northern portion and Highway 264 to the east. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of this small polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,224 acres. There may be opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The polygon is currently oddly shaped due to the Von Schmidt line and it adjoins recommended wilderness. The polygon has the potential to be reshaped.

Polygon 1308 (Indian Creek to Leidy Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1308 (Indian Creek to Leidy Creek) consists of 13,886 acres, ranging in elevation from 5,200 to 9,000 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and located on the east side of the White Mountains between Indian Creek on the north and Leidy Creek to the south (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 76 percent of the area of the polygon (10,534 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Inter-Mountain big sagebrush shrubland and inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub. An additional 3,100 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its total national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. There is steep terrain in the western portion of the polygon, but in the eastern portion it is relatively flat and open (down on alluvial fans). The western portion of polygon intersects with Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. Leidy Creek and Indian Creek are perennial streams located along the perimeter of the polygon. Marble Creek, within the polygon, is an intermittent stream that flows into the summer. Grazing occurs in the area. Soil impacts due to legacy grazing and mining are highly localized. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is excellent. Stable invasive plant species include cheat grass, halogeton, Russian thistle and sweet clover. Brook and rainbow trout were introduced into previously fishless waters and these self-sustaining populations have displaced endemic species. The eastern boundary is Bureau of Land Management land. Green Monster Mine is located on private land in the western portion of the polygon, and was excluded from the White Mountain Wilderness. Other visible development includes private land development along Indian Creek on the northern boundary, and power lines, Highway 264 and developments in Fish Lake Valley.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is steep terrain in the western portion of the polygon; the eastern portion is relatively flat and with open alluvial fans. The southwestern side of the polygon has steep terrain and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are lightly used roads along Indian Creek and Leidy Creek to the north. There is low to moderate potential for encounter with other visitors. Most of the area is largely undeveloped and there are likely opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, such as cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remoteness and terrain. However, in the lower open eastern portion of the polygon, there is limited opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due Highway 264.

Other Features of Value

Paiute cutthroat trout populations occur in the adjacent wilderness area.

Manageability

There is private land development along Indian Creek on the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is Bureau of Land Management land. Green Monster Mine is located on private land in the western portion of the polygon, and was excluded from the White Mountain Wilderness. Management of Paiute cutthroat trout population, which is federally listed as threatened, requires road and equipment access to the border of the White Mountains Wilderness, and the road access is along Leidy Creek, along the north perimeter of the polygon. Current uses in the area include grazing and guided hunting. There is one water right.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation throughout most of the area since it is free from sight and sounds of motorized use, especially along the western perimeter of the polygon. The northern and southern perimeters are bounded by lightly used roads. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 10,534 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,100 acres. The appearance of naturalness is affected in some areas by private land development, power lines, and Highway 264. The polygon has the potential to be reshaped to include the western perimeter that is adjacent to the White Mountains Wilderness, and would include cherry stem roads.

Polygon 1311 (Chiatovich Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1311 (Chiatovich Creek) consists of 11,214 acres ranging in elevation from 5,200 to 9,700 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness and is located on the east side of the White Mountains, between Middle Creek on the north and Indian Creek to the south (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). It includes Chiatovich Creek and Black Mountain (9,704 feet).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 37 percent of the area of the polygon (4,130 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain

basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 4,300 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, subalpine forest and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The entire polygon is within a mapped wildfire restoration zone. It is a sage grouse priority habitat. The topography includes steep terrain in the western portion of the polygon, but in the eastern portion it is relatively flat and open (down on alluvial fans). The polygon intersects with the Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. Chiatovich and Davis Creeks are perennial streams located within the polygon; Middle Creek and Indian Creek are perennial streams located along the perimeter. Riparian vegetation associated with the perennial streams is in unknown condition. Condition of meadows is unknown. Soils are likely at desired condition; soil impacts due to legacy grazing and mining are highly localized. The air quality is excellent. Invasive plant species are present, including cheat grass, which is likely increasing. Brook and rainbow trout were introduced into previously fishless waters; they are self-sustaining populations and have displaced endemic species. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact; it has a mostly natural fire regime. Public comments indicate range improvements (fences) may extend into the polygon.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is steep terrain in the western portion of the polygon, but the eastern portion is relatively flat and open from alluvial fans. The polygon is shaped by roads and private land, including a cherry stem road and private land parcels that nearly dissect it in half, and include an area of authorized motorized trails within the polygon.

In the lower eastern portion, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to exposure in the alluvial fan areas. Fish Lake Valley, power lines and Highway 264 are visible and motorized use heard. The western side of the polygon has steep terrain and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are areas free from motorized sounds where not adjacent to roads and motorized trails in Middle, Chiatovich, Davis and Indian Creeks. The potential for encounters is low in winter months. There are likely opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remoteness and steep terrain, particularly along the western portion of the polygon.

Other Features of Value

The polygon is a sage grouse priority habitat and includes bristlecone pines. There are steep, scenic mountains in this area. There are several documented cultural resources sites; ruins are associated with both prehistoric settlement (rock rings and artifact scatters) and historic settlement (rock walls, depressions, trails, and structural remains).

Manageability

White Mountain Estates and associated infrastructure is located along Middle Creek and Chiatovich Creek, adjacent to the forest boundary; there is one private land parcel along Indian Creek (inholding within the forest boundary). There are regularly used roads and motorized trails, as well as the private land parcels that protrude into the area, nearly bisecting the polygon. The

area contains priority habitat for sage grouse, which may require management activities. Existing uses include grazing and guided hunting. There are three water rights.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of the polygon. There is a portion of authorized motorized trails in the polygon. Private land developments, authorized forest system roads and motorized trails in the eastern portion nearly bisect the polygon. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate these portions of the polygon. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,130 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 4,300 acres. The polygon has the potential to be reshaped, adjacent to the White Mountains Wilderness, to exclude the areas near the private land development, although sight and sounds associated with motorized use in cherry stem roads and motorized trails would still be present.

Polygon 1312 (Boundary Peak)

General Description

Polygon 1312 (Boundary Peak) consists of 8,133 acres with elevations ranging from 6,800 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the Boundary Peak Wilderness and a small portion of the White Mountains Wilderness on the northwest corner. It is located on the east side of the White Mountains, east of the Boundary Peak Wilderness between Queen Valley on the north and Middle Creek to the south (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is elongated horizontally, following the boundary with the Boundary Peak Wilderness. It is narrow in some places due to the road system, and roads cherry stem to form the polygon.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 29 percent of the area of the polygon (2,388 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 3,500 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper and subalpine forest. The entire polygon is within a mapped wildfire restoration zone. The topography includes steep canyons along the northern and eastern sides of the White Mountains. There is steep terrain, especially south of Trail Canyon. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. It has a mostly natural fire regime. There are numerous perennial stream channels throughout the area including Trail Creek and Buffalo Creek. Dry Creek is a major intermittent channel. Soils are likely at the desired condition. There is localized soil compaction from wild horses and livestock in riparian areas. The air quality is excellent. Watershed restoration treatments in meadows on Trail Creek included

meadow headcut treatments with filter cloth and rock. There is an historic mining dam on Trail Creek. There are many old structures related to mining activity in the Queen Canyon area, which substantially affect the appearance of naturalness. The invasive cheatgrass is stable. Brook and rainbow trout were introduced into previously fishless waters, are self-sustaining populations, and have displaced endemic species. Queen Canyon Road and mine area are likely visible from in the northeastern portion of the polygon. There is a major community development, White Mountain Estates, along Middle Creek, in the southeast, outside of the polygon and forest boundary. There is a small private land parcel to the northwest, Orchard Springs, outside of the polygon.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are steep canyons along the north and east side of the White Mountains. There is steep terrain, especially south of Trail Canyon. There is good screening. Recreation use is focused in the area related to the Boundary Peak Wilderness and along roads and motorized trails. There are authorized forest system roads that form the northern and eastern border, many that cherry stem the polygon. There are two areas of authorized motorized trails within the polygon. Opportunities of solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited motorized areas, including near Queen Canyon Road (the northern half is largely along slopes above the road) and Trail Canyon Road. Most use is limited to the two trails approaching Boundary Peak, Queen Canyon route or Trail Canyon route, and visitors exploring the mine areas. There are opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to remoteness and steep terrain features.

Other Features of Value

The area includes bristlecone pine above Queen Canyon and is a sage grouse priority habitat. There are rare and distinctive plants, including fishhook cactus. It has variable geology, including granitic and volcanic that form distinct visuals in Queen Canyon. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources. The few documented sites include two large historic mining centers with mill remains, foundations, stone structures, adits and mining and living refuse, as well as evidence of prehistoric occupation and use including bedrock mortars and lithics.

Manageability

This polygon is narrow, elongated strip (typically one mile wide) adjoining the Boundary Peak Wilderness. Most of the northern portion of the polygon is within one mile of Queen Canyon Road. The southern portion, south of Trail Canyon is generally more than one mile from a road and separated by a ridge as well. The polygon is irregularly shaped along the eastern perimeter due to many cherry stem roads. The cherry stem road in Trail Canyon nearly splits the polygon in half. There are two motorized trails within the polygon. Old mining roads and mine ruins are scattered throughout the northern portion of the polygon, especially evident in Queen Canyon. Old mining roads will remain on the landscape for hundreds of years unless rehabbed prior to designation. There is a major community development, White Mountain Estates, along Middle Creek, in the southeast, outside of the polygon and forest boundary. There is a small private land parcel to the northwest, Orchard Springs, outside of the polygon. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness. Current uses in the area include grazing and guided hunting. There are also wild horses in the area, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness. There are six water rights.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in some areas due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of the polygon. There are two areas with authorized motorized trails in the polygon. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate these portions of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is affected in the Queen Canyon area, in the northern portion of the polygon, due to substantial mining developments. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,388 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,500 acres. The polygon has the potential to be reshaped to exclude motorized trails and developments that are substantially noticeable.

Polygon 1326 (Queen Valley)

General Description

Polygon 1326 (Queen Valley) consists of 5,464 acres with elevations ranging from 6,400 to 8,800 feet. It is located on the east side of the White Mountains, southeast of Highway 6, and includes Queen Valley, Sagehen Flat and Mustang Point at 9,689 feet in elevation (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is shaped by roads and private land parcels that create a polygon with many narrow appendages.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 37 percent of the area of the polygon (2,027 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon. An additional 3,000 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. Topography along the northwest side is moderate angle alluvial fans, leading to steep-walled canyon and 9,000 foot peaks on the east side. A portion of the polygon intersects with the Sugar Loaf Inventoried Roadless Area. It is White Mountain Horse Territory. There is moderate screening. Except for canyons, Highway 6 is visible from much of the area. The developments in Queen Valley Ranch (Hereford Valley Ranch), including roads, are also visible in some areas. There has been some alteration to natural conditions from historic mining, wild horses and livestock grazing. There is substantial evidence of historic mining with structures in various states of disrepair. There is an old stamp mill that is in good condition near Sugarloaf. The United States Geological Survey map shows an aqueduct and pond. Invasive plant species are present, including cheatgrass and halogeton, both of which are increasing. Wild horses are not native, but occur in the area and are associated with soil compaction. There are non-native aquatic species (gambusia fish and mosquito fish) in spring channels that affect the natural endemic distribution of macro-invertebrate species. There is little surface water in the area. Riparian vegetation is in canyons and Brownie Creek. The air quality is good.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Highway 6 is visible from much of the area. The developments in Queen Valley Ranch (Hereford Valley Ranch), including roads, are also visible in some areas. There are sights and sounds present from outside the area, especially along the western portion of the polygon, where the presence of Highway 6 is highly evident. The area is remote with very little recreation use. There is moderate opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation activities, such as cross-country hiking and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location and rugged terrain, but it is not very attractive due to lack of water.

Other Features of Value

Sugarloaf is a unique geologic feature, but with historic gold mining developments. Although unique for the White Mountains, it is not unique for the Great Basin. The area includes a sensitive plant, *Mono phacelia* and is a sage grouse proposed critical habitat. Historic mining ruins have not been formally documented as cultural properties. There is an old stamp mill that is in good condition near Sugarloaf. Historic trash scatters and prehistoric lithic scatters are also present in the area. It is White Mountain Horse Territory.

Manageability

The polygon has an irregularly shaped boundary due to the presence of private land parcels (Queen Valley Ranch and Montgomery Pass), as well as cherry stem roads. Highway 6 is within a half mile of the polygon and highly visible from much of the area. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness. There are no known water rights; however, the United States Geological Survey map shows an aqueduct and pond with levee. The area is a proposed critical habitat for sage grouse.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are many old structures related to historic mining in the Sugarloaf and Queen Canyon area, which substantially affect the appearance of naturalness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter, proximity to Highway 6, and private land developments; sight and sounds would likely penetrate the eastern portion of the polygon. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,027 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,000 acres. There is not a potential to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1332 (Pizona South, Northwest of Highway 6)

General Description

Polygon 1332 (Pizona South, Northwest of Highway 6) consists of 5,244 acres with elevations ranging from 6,400 to 7,600 feet. It is located northwest of Highway 6 and southeast of Truman Meadows and includes West Queen Canyon (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). It is shaped by roads and private land parcels that dissect to form many narrow appendages.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 44 percent of the area of the polygon (2,300 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent

protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 2,800 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It is a sage grouse priority habitat. The terrain includes steep south facing slopes with many short steep canyons. The polygon is not within an inventoried roadless area. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There is little to no surface water, primarily ephemeral stream channels. In some areas pinyon pine expansion is evident, and in other areas pinyon pine removal is noticeable where chaining treatments were used. It is within a wild horse management area (fences, corrals). Historic mining sites are substantially noticeable, including abandoned tailing piles and altered species composition. Invasive plant species are abundant, particularly on the south-facing slopes (cheatgrass and halogeton). Wild horses impact meadows and riparian areas. There are good soil conditions. There is good air quality, with likely limited impacts from Mono Basin to the west of this area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is very limited because Highway 6 is highly visible and can be heard from within the area. Roads, highways or mining activities are within less than a mile in most of the area. There is low to moderate potential for encounters. The potential is lower in winter because snow and slippery soils on roads reduce access. There is opportunity for mineral prospecting.

Other Features of Value

The area is a sage grouse priority habitat and populations of the sensitive plant species, *Mono phacelia*, occur in the polygon. Documented cultural properties include prehistoric rock rings, prospects and trash associated with historic mining activities. Cultural sites are being preserved in their current condition.

Manageability

This polygon is shaped by roads and private land parcels that dissect to form many narrow appendages, and in some places the polygon is not more than half mile wide. There is a large parcel of private land to the northwest which protrudes into the area that is undeveloped. There may be patented mining claims. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse. The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require fencing, corrals, and helicopter use.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the boundary; their sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is substantially affected in areas by historic mining activities and pinyon pine removal by chaining. The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require fencing,

corrals, and helicopter use. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,300 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 2,800 acres. The proximity to Highway 6, which is visible from much of the area, impacts the opportunity for solitude. There may be opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, but not much draw due to lack of water. The polygon has an irregularly shaped and narrow boundary due to the location of the private land parcel and short- spur cherry stem roads. This would make management of this area for wilderness characteristics difficult. There is not the potential to reshape the polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness.

Polygon 1339 (Pizona–Truman Meadows)

General Description

The Polygon 1339 (Pizona-Truman Meadows) consists of 19,826 acres with elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. It is located on the east side of the White Mountains, southeast of Highway 6, and includes Queen Valley, Sagehen Flat and Mustang Point at 9,689 feet in elevation (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is shaped by the forest boundary and roads, including several that cherry stem to form the border.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 35 percent of the area of the polygon (6,974 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland and inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 12,600 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It is a sage grouse priority habitat. The topography includes moderate rolling hills, broad, open sagebrush flats, and ancient volcanic flows. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area. There are springs and canyons that have surface water, as well as riparian vegetation associated with springs. Highway 6 is visible from parts of the area and power lines are visible along the western perimeter. Developments include mining claims and a recently authorized exploration plan of operation; watershed treatments in Truman Meadow; historic military operations in which replica towns were constructed and destroyed; a windmill. The allotments are closed. Watershed treatments related to the road are present in Truman Meadow. They are not substantial, but noticeable when driving the road. The invasive cheatgrass is stable. Pinyon pine has expanded in range. There are non-native aquatic species (gambusia fish, mosquito fish) in spring channels, affecting the natural distribution of macro-invertebrate species. Wild horses impact meadows and riparian areas. Truman Meadow is stable. Work was completed on the road through the meadow to stabilize wet areas. There are good soil conditions, and the air quality is likely influenced by dust from Mono Basin to the west of this area. Mono Basin is in Non-attainment PM-10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is some screening present due to topography and vegetation. Highway 6 is visible and heard from many parts of this polygon. Power lines are adjacent to part of the western border. Sights and sounds from outside the area are minimal, with some lightly used roads adjacent to some borders. There is one short segment motorized trail within the eastern portion that accesses Truman Springs. It provides access to a popular dispersed campsite. In addition, there are some motorized routes that are being used, and are being considered for addition to the forest's trail system. There is a low potential for encounters in the area. Although limited by the lack of water, there are likely opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location and rugged terrain.

Other Features of Value

The area includes dry alkali flats, which is a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest, and Great Basin springs. Wild horses occur in the area and there is sage grouse priority habitat. The rare plant, Parish's popcorn flower, grows within the polygon. There is a rare meadow feature for the area (Truman Meadow). One significant prehistoric site has been formally documented in the area. There are a lot of historic sites in the area (remnant rock foundations, stage coach lines) as well as some prehistoric sites.

Manageability

Some small parcels of non-Federal land are adjacent or along the border of the area (McBride Spring, Truman Meadows). The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require fencing, corrals and helicopter use. Existing uses of the Federal land in the area include authorized outfitting and guiding related to wild horses, mineral exploration, and dispersed recreation (roads and motorized trails, camping). There is one motorized trail which is a short segment on the eastern edge that accesses Truman Springs and provides access to popular dispersed campsite and for outfitting and guiding. In addition, there are some motorized routes that are being used and considered for addition to the forest's trail system. There are mining claims and an exploration plan of operation was recently authorized.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined due to low motorized use, however, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the small area with the authorized motorized trail at the eastern edge of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is somewhat affected by historic mining activities, Highway 6, power lines, and past vegetation treatment conducted by the military. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 6,974 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 12,600 acres. There is not much potential to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1342 (Montgomery Pass)

General Description

Polygon 1342 (Montgomery Pass) consists of 6,144 acres with elevations ranging from 6,600 to 7,200 feet. It is located on the east side of the White Mountains, southeast of Highway 6 and east

of Montgomery Pass (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is shaped by roads and private land parcels that form narrow appendages and some straight line borders.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates thirty-5 percent of the area of the polygon (2,173 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 3,300 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. There is limited seasonal surface water but riparian vegetation is found in the canyons. There are no meadows. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. The area is a sage grouse priority habitat and part of the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area. The area does not intersect with inventoried roadless area. The polygon is surrounded by roads and private development. A gypsum mine is visible. Highway 6 is located in the northwestern boundary and is visible from many parts of this polygon. Historic mining remnants are apparent. The invasive cheatgrass and halogeton are present and likely increasing. Pinyon pine has expanded due in part to fire suppression. The polygon is dissected in the eastern portion by an authorized motorized trail. There are non-native aquatic species (gambusia fish, mosquito fish) in spring channels that affect the natural endemic distribution of macro-invertebrate species.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within the polygon, and Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter; sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. The most remote areas are one mile from roads and developments. There is one cherry stem road and motorized trail that protrudes into the polygon along the eastern boundary. In addition, there are some motorized routes that are being used, and are being considered for addition to the forest's trail system. There is a moderate potential for encounters in the area. There may be opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

The area is a sage grouse priority habitat, including habitat surrounding a breeding area. The area includes the sensitive plant, *Mono phacelia* and the rare sagebrush cholla. Although the area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, documented properties include prehistoric rock ring and lithic scatter sites.

Manageability

The polygon is shaped by private land parcels and short spur roads that protrude into the polygon, there is one large parcel of non-Federal land along the western border of the area (Montgomery Pass). The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse and occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area that includes fencing, corrals and helicopter use. There is an authorized motorized trail in the northeastern corner of the polygon. In addition, there are some motorized routes that are being used, and are being considered for addition to the forest's trail system.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within the polygon, and Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter; sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. The most remote areas are approximately one mile from the road system. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,173 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,300 acres. There is not much potential to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1355 (Excelsior Mountains- Adobe Hills)

General Description

Polygon 1355 (Excelsior Mountains-Adobe Hills) consists of 10,297 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 7,600 feet. It is located in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Lake, within the Adobe Hills (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is shaped by roads, the California-Nevada state line, and the forest boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 31 percent of the area of the polygon (3,165 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 7,100 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The topography consists of low rolling hills comprised largely of pinyon-juniper woodland, which has expanded due in part to fire suppression. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior and Huntoon Inventoried Roadless Areas. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area, but the area does overlap the Montgomery Wild Horse Territory and the appearance of naturalness is somewhat affected by wild horse expansion. There is limited water with a few intermittent and ephemeral stream channels. The air quality is good; not excellent due to dust from Mono Basin, which is Non-attainment for PM-10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is remote, with low recreation use and has good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. Lightly traveled roads and transmission lines are visible from in some areas of the polygon. Recreation opportunities may be limited by the lack of available water. There is some visibility down to Highways 6 and 120 from parts of this polygon, with visitors able to hear traffic from some areas of the polygon. There is a high opportunity to engage in primitive or unconfined recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location. There is lower recreation use in winter.

Other Features of Value

There are dry alkali lakes, a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest. There are some sand dunes in this polygon, a unique geologic feature, with two rare but not sensitive plant species: globe spring parsley, and dune horse brush. There is likely a nice view of Mono Lake from top of Adobe Hills.

Manageability

The polygon is primarily bordered by Federal land, including the Inyo National Forest, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests and Bureau of Land Management, and by roads and the forest boundary. There is also a transmission line along the western perimeter. The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management activities for wild horses that may be inconsistent with wilderness, including fencing, corrals and helicopter use. This area is adjacent to an inventoried roadless area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon is bounded by lightly traveled roads and a power line corridor; however, the area is remote and has good opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Available water is limited. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. Highways and transmission lines are visible from the polygon. Managing the polygon to preserve its wilderness characteristics would be affected by overlap with the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area; management includes fencing, corrals, and potential helicopter use. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,165 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 7,100 acres. There are limited opportunities to redraw the polygon.

Polygon 1357 (Excelsior Mountains)

General Description

Polygon 1357 (Excelsior Mountains) consists of 5,805 acres with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 7,500 feet. It is located in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Hills (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is somewhat narrow and elongated.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 52 percent of the area of the polygon (3,030 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 2,800 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. Pinyon pine has expanded due in large part to fire suppression. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands. The majority of the polygon

intersects with Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area does overlap the Montgomery Wild Horse Territory. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the expansion of wild horses. Wild horses have expanded heavily into this area. Their effects are not natural in this ecosystem. There is limited water. No meadows or riparian areas are known. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is good but may be affected by dust from Mono Basin. Mono Basin is nonattainment for pm10. The area remains largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there is a documented prehistoric site.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless areas. There is a high opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration. The area has low recreation use due to remoteness and limited water. The power line corridor is visible from some of the area due to minimal topographic relief, likewise the sound of traffic from the roads. The interior of the polygon is within one mile of roads, which surround the polygon on all sides. There is lower use in winter.

Other Features of Value

There are dry alkali lakes which are a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest. Populations of two different Forest Service sensitive species, Williams combleaf and Long Valley milkvetch, are found here. The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management activities for wild horses that may be inconsistent with wilderness, including fencing, corrals and helicopter use. There are unique and interesting views to the dry lakebeds of Adobe Valley.

Manageability

The polygon is elongated and narrow and surrounded by a road system. The interior of the polygon is generally less than a mile from a road. There is also a transmission line along the western perimeter. The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management activities for wild horses that are inconsistent with wilderness, such as fencing, corrals and helicopter use.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area. There is a high opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration. The area has low recreation use due to remoteness and limited water. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,030 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 2,800 acres. The area is bounded roads and a power line corridor. There is not much potential to reshape the polygon.

Polygon 1361 (Excelsior Mountains–Huntoon Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1361 (Excelsior Mountain-Huntoon Creek) consists of 8,855 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 7,800 feet. It is located in the Excelsior Mountains and includes Huntoon Creek (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is somewhat narrow and elongated and follows the forest boundary and the California-Nevada state line.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 35 percent of the area of the polygon (3,066 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 5,700 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It is a sage grouse priority habitat. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior and Excelsior Mountains Inventoried Roadless Areas. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area does overlap the Montgomery Wild Horse Territory. There is a departure from natural conditions due to the presence of wild horses that have expanded heavily into this area. There is limited water. Huntoon Creek is an intermittent stream that flows through the area. There are no meadows and there are limited or no riparian areas present. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is good but may be affected by dust from Mono Basin. Mono Basin is nonattainment for pm10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This polygon is very remote, with the potential for good solitude. There is moderate screening. The power line corridor may be visible from some of the area. Visitors may also be able to hear traffic from the roads that are located along the northern, western and southern perimeters. There is a high opportunity to engage in primitive or unconfined recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location. Currently, the area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. There is lower use in winter.

Other Features of Value

The area is a sage grouse priority habitat. This area remains largely unsurveyed for cultural resources. Documented sites include one prehistoric lithic scatter and one historic mining site (tailing piles).

Manageability

The polygon is somewhat narrow and elongated, particularly the southeastern half, due to the forest boundary. The polygon is primarily bordered by Federal land (Inyo National Forest, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, and the Bureau of Land Management). The area is bounded by roads along the northern, western and southern perimeters and the forest boundary along the eastern perimeter. There is also a transmission line along the western perimeter. There is one

private land inholding (40-acre parcel) in the southwestern corner of the polygon. The land owner is unknown, as is access to the private land parcel. The area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management activities for wild horses that may be inconsistent with wilderness, including fencing, corrals and helicopter use. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness. This area is adjacent to an inventoried roadless area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This polygon is very remote, with potential for opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation may be limited by the lack of available water. Opportunities for solitude may be limited by Forest system roads along the periphery, and transmission lines that are visible from within the polygon. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,066 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 5,700 acres. Managing the polygon to preserve its wilderness characteristics would be affected by overlap with the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area: management actions include fencing, corrals, and potential helicopter use. There may be the potential to reshape this polygon to make it suitable or manageable for wilderness character.

Polygon 1376 (Watterson Meadow and Benton Range)

General Description

Polygon 1376 consists of 9,922 acres with elevations ranging from 6,800 to 8,000 feet. It is located within the Benton Range, east of Banner Ridge and includes Watterson Meadow (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is shaped by roads, a private land parcel and the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management. It is bisected by motorized trails, which run east to west through the middle of the polygon.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 15 percent of the area of the polygon (1,499 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. None of these ecological groups, however, comprise at least 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes broad, open sage flats with rocky-topped ridges and exposed granite faces. The area contains pinyon pine and sage brush. The polygon intersects with the Benton Range Inventoried Roadless Area. Kelty Canyon runs through the far northwest part of this unit and likely runs water all year. There are many prominent intermittent stream channels.

There are authorized motorized trails within and bisecting the polygon. In addition, there is a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter. A few forest system roads cherry stem to form the boundary. There are mining site developments that

include prospects, tunnels, and shafts in the perimeter, accessed by motorized trails and roads. There is a grazing allotment with fences and a windmill. There is a popular climbing area near Wildrose Summit with permanent anchors. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources; however there are prehistoric lithic scatters, rock rings, a rock shelter, milling features and historic refuse known to exist in the area. There are few invasive plant species, which are stable. A mapped meadow is present in Kelty Canyon and riparian vegetation is present in canyons. The air quality is excellent. Pinyon pine expansion has occurred in some areas.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is highly variable, but generally includes broad, open sage flats with rocky-topped ridges and exposed granite faces. Topography and vegetation provide screening and the distance from impacts and developments is one to three miles from road systems, Benton Crossing Road and Highway 120 (the northwestern boundary is Benton Crossing Road). From much of the area, paved or unpaved roads, power lines and highways can be seen in mid-distance. The potential for encounters with other users is low within the interior and moderate around the perimeter and climbing area. Motorized trails bisect the polygon. There are several roads and a private land parcel that penetrate the perimeter of the polygon. The proximity to roads and motorized trails, and the visibility to developments limit the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are likely some opportunities for primitive-type recreation activities, including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to rugged terrain.

Other Features of Value

The area has outstanding views of the White Mountains and unique granite faces and high rocky outcrops. It is within priority habitat for sage grouse. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources; however there are prehistoric lithic scatters, rock rings, a rock shelter, milling features and historic refuse known to exist in the area.

Manageability

The polygon is irregularly shaped, with a few cherry stem roads and a private land parcel that protrudes into the area at several locations. The northern and eastern boundaries are the straight line forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management. The northwestern boundary is the Benton Crossing Road. There is a motorized trail that runs east to west into the central portion of the polygon. The area contains priority habitat for sage grouse, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter. A few forest system roads cherry stem to form the boundary. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate large portions of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,499 acres. Because of the proximity to the road and motorized trail system, including the road system on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands, there is not the opportunity to reshape the polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness character.

Polygon 1391 (Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East)

General Description

Polygon 1391 (Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East) consists of 50,992 acres with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 9,400 feet. This U-shaped polygon (Figure B-10, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I) is 50,992 acres, and connected by a narrow sliver that follows the Kennedy Meadows Road along the southern boundary. It includes two distinct geographic areas divided by the South Sierra Wilderness. The western portion of the polygon includes the Monache and Blackrock area. The eastern portion of the polygon is located east of the South Sierra Wilderness and referred to as South Sierra East. This polygon crosses the forest boundary between the Inyo (33,247 acres) and the Sequoia (17,745 acres) National Forests. The polygon was evaluated as one whole unit containing the portions on both forests.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 14 percent of the area of the polygon (3,556 acres) consists of an ecological group, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of its national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 14,000 acres consists of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Western Portion

Monache and Blackrock, the northwest corner, is contiguous to the Golden Trout Wilderness and the eastern boundary is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. It is located in the Monache area, between Monache Cabin on the north and Blackrock on the south. This portion of the polygon is irregularly shaped due to cherry stem roads that protrude well into the polygon, splitting the polygon nearly in half in some places, particularly the cherry stem road in the southern half of the polygon. There are also motorized trails present within the polygon, particularly in the southern half. There is a 75-yard wooden causeway on motorized trail 35E401. The northern portion of the polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. Ecosystem types include red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. The topography includes gentle to moderate slopes. Grazing occurs in the Monache area and there has been some headcut and stream improvement work completed. There are range improvements, including pasture fences in the Soda Creek area.

Eastern Portion

South Sierra East, the southwest corner is contiguous to the Sacatar Trail Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management) and the western boundary is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. Located east of the South Sierra Wilderness, the area includes Olancha Trailhead, Haiwee Pass Trailhead, Talus Canyon, Long Canyon, Tunawee Canyon and Kennedy Meadows Trailhead. The polygon is elongated horizontally, following the boundary of the existing wilderness. The northern portion near Olancha and the southern portion near Kennedy Meadows are narrow due to the buffer between the road and existing wilderness boundary. The majority of the polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, white fir and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. This polygon contains true Mojave Desert ecosystems which are largely intact including Joshua trees, cholla cactus, creosote, plus healthy canyon live oak ecosystems and pinyon-juniper. The topography is characterized as Eastern Sierra escarpment with steep slopes and forested canyons.

Perennial streams include Hogback Creek, Haiwee Creek and Talus Canyon. Riparian areas contain canyon live oak and are in good condition. There are perennial (mostly) channels including Soda Creek and Snake Creek, and springs and meadows are present throughout the area. Vegetation is in good to excellent condition. The air quality is nonattainment for ozone (Tulare County).

There are recreation developments in the eastern portion of the polygon. There is a spring box and water system for Kennedy Meadows Campground and existing dirt road access to Wildrose Trailhead. There is dispersed camping and a dirt parking area at the trailhead. There are range improvements within the polygon. There is drift fence at the Olancha Pass Trailhead area, Wildrose Trail, and Pacific Crest Trail north of Kennedy Meadows campground. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has infrastructure in Haiwee Canyon. Compaction in meadows and the sod layer appears to be less than desired condition in several meadows. Hummocks are present in wet and spring areas. There was fire (Clover Fire in 2008) and a flood event (2010) that impacted Haiwee Canyon.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Western Portion

Within the western portion of the polygon (Monache and Blackrock), the topography is gentle to moderate slopes. There is some screening from trees and topography, but a portion of the area is bordered by heavily used authorized forest system roads and authorized motorized trails. The Monache area is a multiple use recreation area, popular for off highway vehicle recreation and dispersed camping, primarily during the summer and fall months. The area is also popular for hunting during the fall months. The occasional to frequent off highway vehicle traffic limits the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There is no area free from motorized noise in the southern, eastern and northern portions of the polygon. There may be an area free from motorized noise in the western portion, adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium, with most of the use focused around roads, trails and the river corridor. Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking and horseback riding on one forest system trail that accesses the Golden Trout Wilderness; fishing on the South Fork Kern River and deer hunting in the fall. There are some opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature on Monache Mountain. Access for winter cross-country skiing is challenging because this area is at least 25 miles from a plowed road.

Eastern Portion

Within the eastern portion of the polygon (South Sierra East), there is screening from vegetation and topography. Highway 395 is visible along the eastern boundary, but not highly visible. Most of area is several miles from any development and there is little evidence of civilization. A portion is adjacent to developments at Walker Creek, Olancha Pass Trailhead, Sage Flat (private property), Kennedy Meadows Campground and Tunnawee (private property). There are some areas that have existing uses that would limit the opportunity for solitude: dispersed camping and off highway vehicle use on 19S01 (Walker Creek area); dispersed camping and trailhead at Olancha Pass Trailhead; sounds from private residences at Sage Flat; and Kennedy Meadows Campground (paved road and campground noise). The potential for encounters with other visitors is low, based on the low number of current visitors to the South Sierra Wilderness. Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking and horseback riding on several forest system trails that cross the polygon and access the South Sierra Wilderness and deer hunting in the fall. Most of the recreation use is concentrated near Olancha Pass, Kennedy Meadows (Pacific Crest Trail) and Wildrose Trail. The Pacific Crest Trail north of Kennedy

Meadows sees large numbers of through-hikers in May and June. The degree of challenge along trails is similar to the adjacent wilderness, except that the challenge is greater on the Haiwee Trail because of extensive flash flood damage. Travel along or up the steep eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada would be challenging because there are no trails and surface water can be scarce. The portion of the area near the South Fork Kern River is a popular primitive recreation area during spring, summer and fall months. There are opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature. Due to unreliable snowpack, this area is not suitable for cross-country skiing.

Other Features of Value

Western Portion

The western portion of the polygon contains the sensitive plant, Kern milkvetch and the rare plants, mountain yellow violet and field ivesia. Monache Mountain, a unique volcanic feature, is located in this area. Roughly 20 percent of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources and more than 30 properties have been documented, which include prehistoric artifact scatters and one historic debris scatter.

Eastern Portion

The eastern portion of the polygon contains Mojave Desert and oak woodlands. True Mojave Desert and oak woodland ecosystems are largely intact and include Joshua trees, cholla cactus, creosote, plus healthy canyon live oak ecosystems and pinyon-juniper. The area provides rare habitat for a butterfly species of concern, and has habitat for springsnails and the Kern slender salamander. Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are in the northern portion of the polygon. The area includes the rare plants, Kern Canyon clarkia and Charlotte's phacelia. It contains the northern most population of silk tassel bush (uncommon on the east-side). Very little of the area has been surveyed for cultural sites; fewer than 10 properties are known, including remains of a historic corral, historic ditch, historic refuse scatters, and numerous prehistoric artifacts scatters and milling stations.

Manageability

Western Portion

The western portion of the polygon is irregularly shaped due to cherry stem roads (including Monache Jeep Road), as well as cherry stem roads in the southern half of the polygon. These cherry stem roads protrude into the polygon, nearly splitting it half in places. There are authorized motorized trails within the area. The Monache area is a popular off highway vehicle recreation area, and includes roads for four wheel drive vehicles, as well as single-track motorcycle trails. There is a private land parcel along the northeastern perimeter (Anchor Ranch). There is a special use permit for a water diversion for one of the cabins that is located on private land.

Eastern Portion

The eastern portion of the polygon follows the eastern boundary of the South Sierra Wilderness and the straight-line forest boundary along the southern and eastern perimeter. There are very few cherry stem roads that protrude into the polygon; mostly short spurs along the western perimeter (Haiwee Pass Trailhead, 0.9 miles; 21S101, 0.9 miles; and Tunnawee, 0.5 miles). The northern portion of the polygon is narrow and elongated north to south, and there is a buffer between the road system and existing wilderness boundary. The southwestern perimeter is narrow and elongated west to east, and there is a buffer between Kennedy Meadows road and existing wilderness boundary. The remaining areas of the polygon are up to four miles across, with little to no development or permanent intrusions. The polygon borders both the South Sierra Wilderness and the Sacatar Trail Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). Grazing occurs in the eastern

portion of the polygon, as well as on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands. Talus Canyon, Dunmovin spring box, but there is no record of water rights. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has infrastructure in Haiwee Canyon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Western Portion

In, Monache and Blackrock, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in a few specific areas. There are limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in others due to extensive networks of authorized motorized trails, areas with high recreation use, forest system roads or paved roads.

Eastern Portion

In South Sierra East, there are intact true Mojave Desert and oak woodland ecosystems. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in most areas, and limited opportunities in others due to authorized motorized trails or areas with high recreation use or paved roads. Because of adjacency to existing wilderness, and the many intact and unique vegetation features, this portion of the polygon has the potential to be reshaped to exclude developments that are substantially noticeable and existing uses that limit the opportunity for solitude.

Entire Polygon

This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,556 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 14,021 acres. The northern and southwestern portion of the polygon is a narrow buffer between existing wilderness and the road system, which affects manageability. The remaining polygon area east of South Sierra Wilderness has the potential to be reshaped, particularly adjacent to existing wilderness.

Polygon 1550 (McBride Flat)

General Description

Polygon 1550 (McBride Flat) consists of 12,198 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000-8,400 feet located in the southern end of the Excelsior Mountain area, north of the Pizona area, southeast of Mono lake, and just south of the Forest Service boundary between the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B. The polygon is horizontal in shape with designated roads bordering the west, south, and eastern edges. One motorized trail (one mile long) is located in the northwestern portion of the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The ecosystem consists of a mosaic of pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush flats, with some small alkali meadows. The area is within the Pizona-Truman Pinyon Pine Volcanics TEUI landtype association. It includes a combination of mafic and felsic volcanic geology with very deep soils present almost exclusively on the Forest in the northern Glass Mountains and Pizona Area. The polygon is located within the Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area in California. The Nevada portion of the polygon was not included in the inventoried roadless process because at that time (1970) it was not managed by the forest. The polygon is comprised largely of pinyon-

juniper woodland. There are relatively few invasive plant species. Cheatgrass may be present, but in small amounts and concentrated around roads. There is a departure from natural fire regime in some places as evidenced by pinyon pine expansion. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area does overlap the Montgomery Wild Horse Territory; wild horses have expanded heavily in this area. There is limited water with a few intermittent and ephemeral stream channels. These are of unknown condition. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is good, with dust from Mono Basin.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area consists of canyons within the pinyon-juniper woodland, with sagebrush in the lower and higher elevations where the topography is relatively flat and open. Screening is relatively high within the canyons and pinyon-juniper woodlands. There is one motorized trail located in sagebrush, where the effect of sound and visuals would be greater. However, the trail ends in pinyon-juniper and is only one-mile long. There are no other motorized trails within the polygon. Designated roads are located on the west, south, and eastern boundaries and may have some impacts to the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; however, with the high screening and cover of pinyon-juniper, these effects would be minimal within the center of the polygon. The potential for encounters is low and is mostly concentrated around the roads where dispersed recreation activities may occur.

There are no permanent or temporary structures or improvements located within this area. The area is largely undeveloped and there is opportunity for primitive-type recreation activities, such as cross-country hiking, but backpacking may be limited due to the lack of water sources. Winter recreation is limited by snow levels, topography, vegetation, and access.

Other Features of Value

This area does contain habitat for several sensitive plant species: *Plagiobothrys parishii* (Parish's popcornflower) is known to occur in this area; there is habitat for sensitive *Phacelia monensis* (*Mono phacelia*), Masonic Mountain jewelflower (*Streptanthus oliganthus*), and William's combleaf (*Polyctenium williamsiae*), but no populations are known.

The area does contain playas which offer habitat to sensitive plant species, fairy shrimp, and foraging stop-overs for migratory birds. Antelope are also known to occur in this area, a species whose range includes the Inyo NF, but is rare in this area. Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory is also in this area. Active management, including gathers with the use of helicopters, is needed to maintain the herd at the designated animal management level (AML). The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources. The few sites known are dense prehistoric toolstone scatters, one of which includes rock wall hunting blind features.

Manageability

As mentioned above, there is one motorized trail located in the northwestern portion of the polygon. Designated roads border the west, south, and east-portions of this polygon. No timber, vegetation treatments, special uses, or lands activities occur within this area that would require additional access. Management activities for wild horses occur in this area which could include the use of a helicopter. Although there is access to this area, it is not located adjacent to other designated land allocations, such as wilderness or Research Natural Areas. The remoteness of this area may inhibit the manageability of this area as wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is remote and undeveloped with good opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation through the majority of the polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the areas of authorized motorized trails. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory, where habitat restoration activities or horse population management activities may be needed. The polygon has the potential to be reshaped.

Inyo Maps

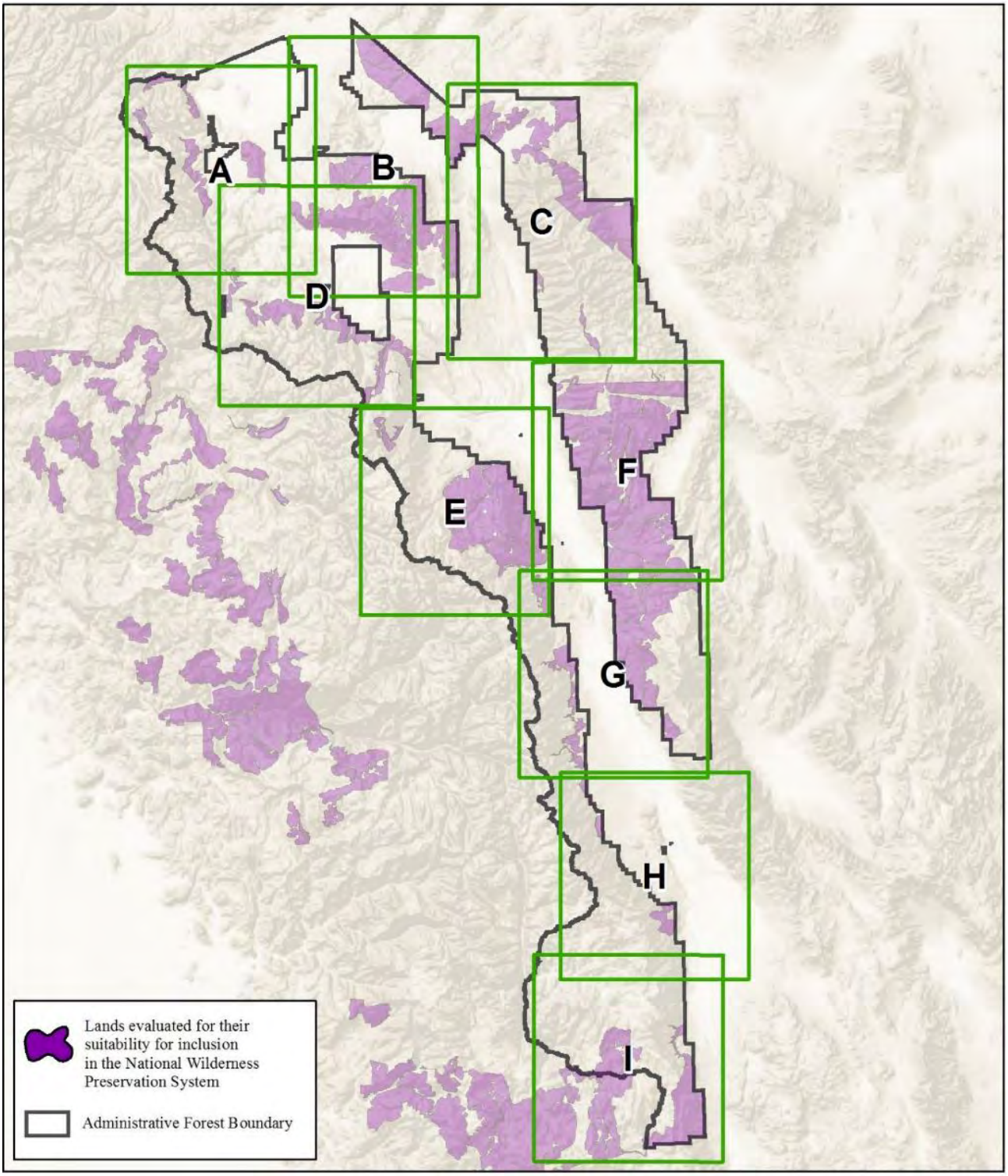


Figure B-1. Map index for Inyo National Forest lands evaluated for their suitability to be recommended for wilderness designation

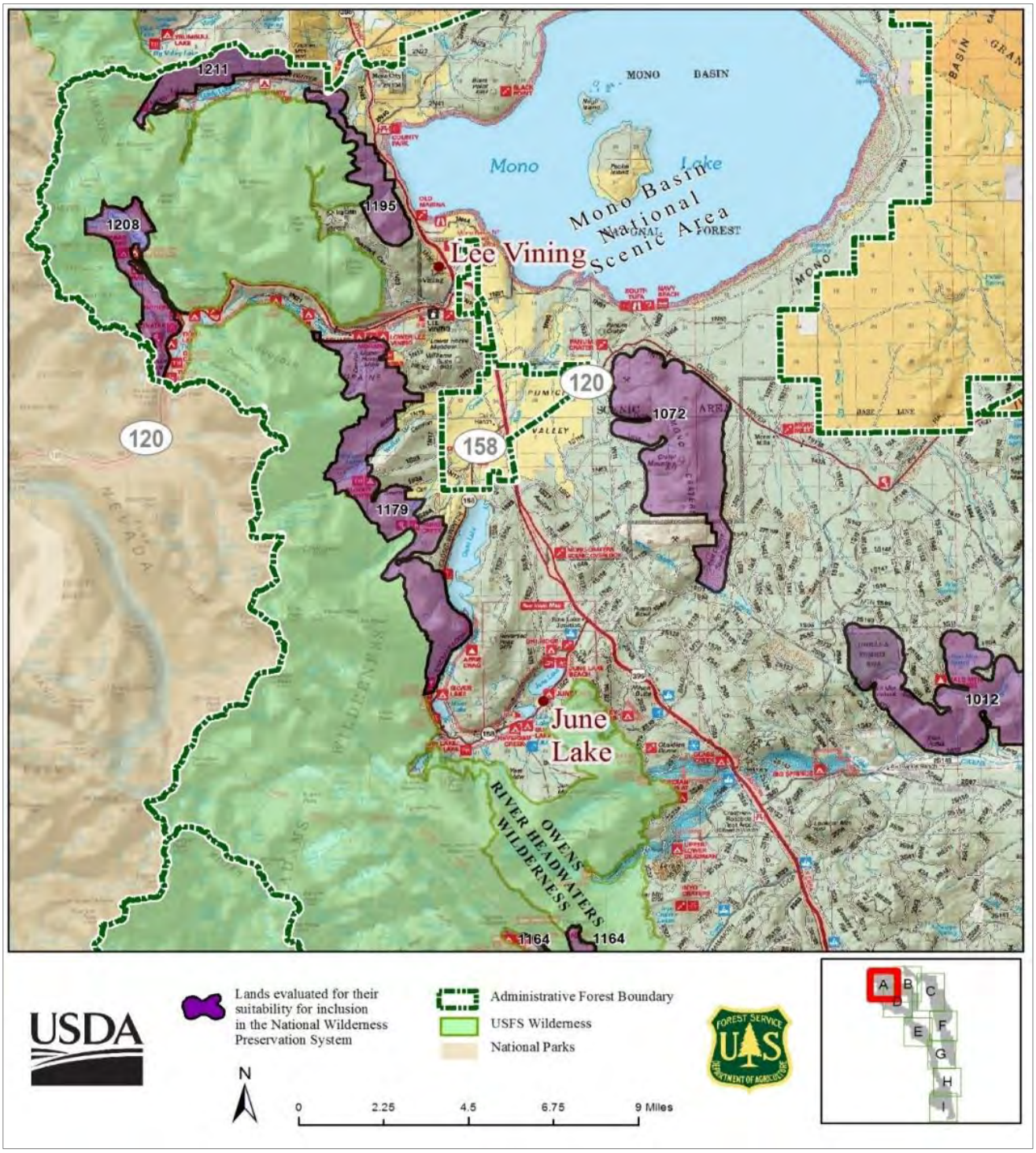


Figure B-2. Inyo National Forest evaluation map A

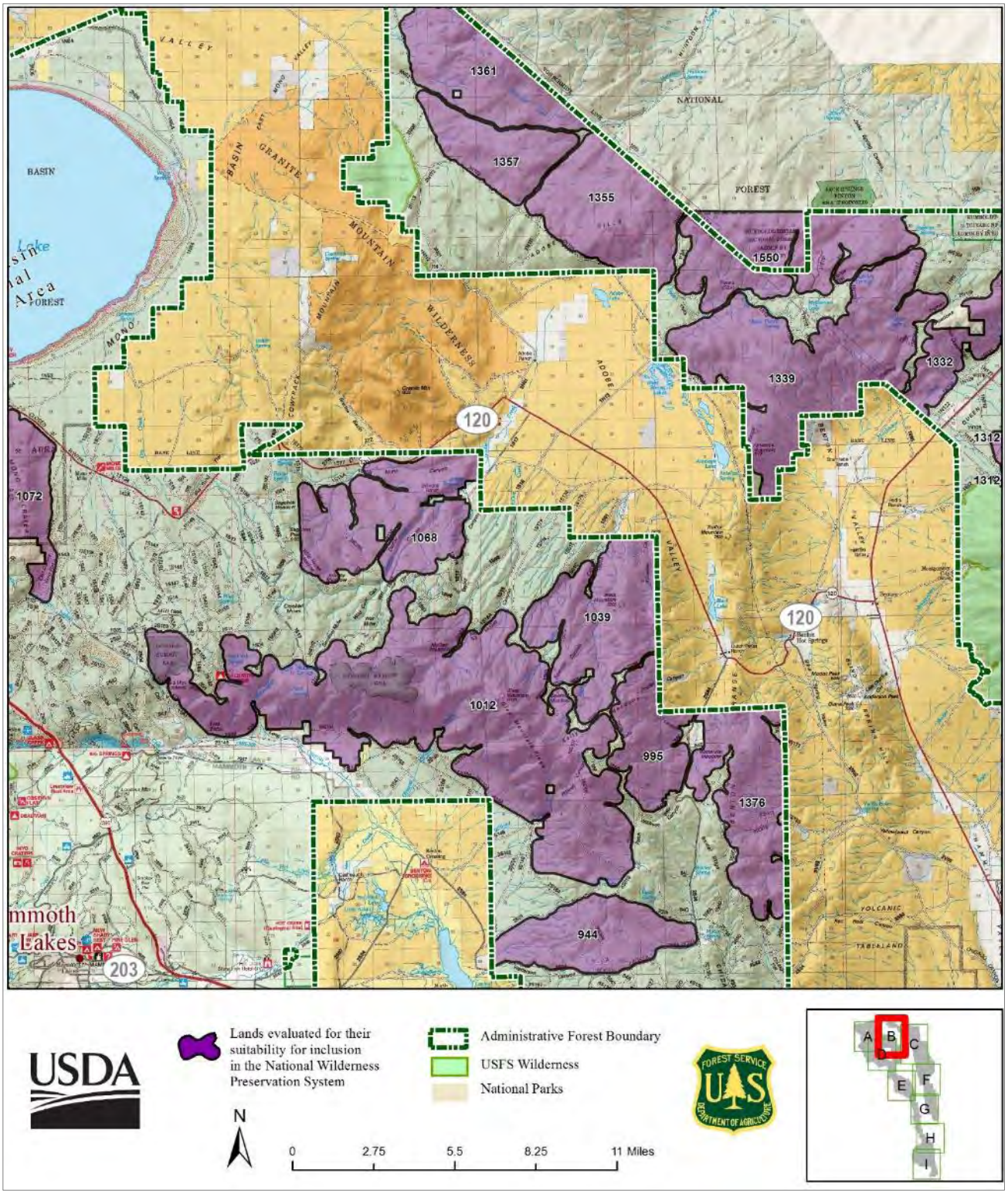


Figure B-3. Inyo National Forest evaluation map B

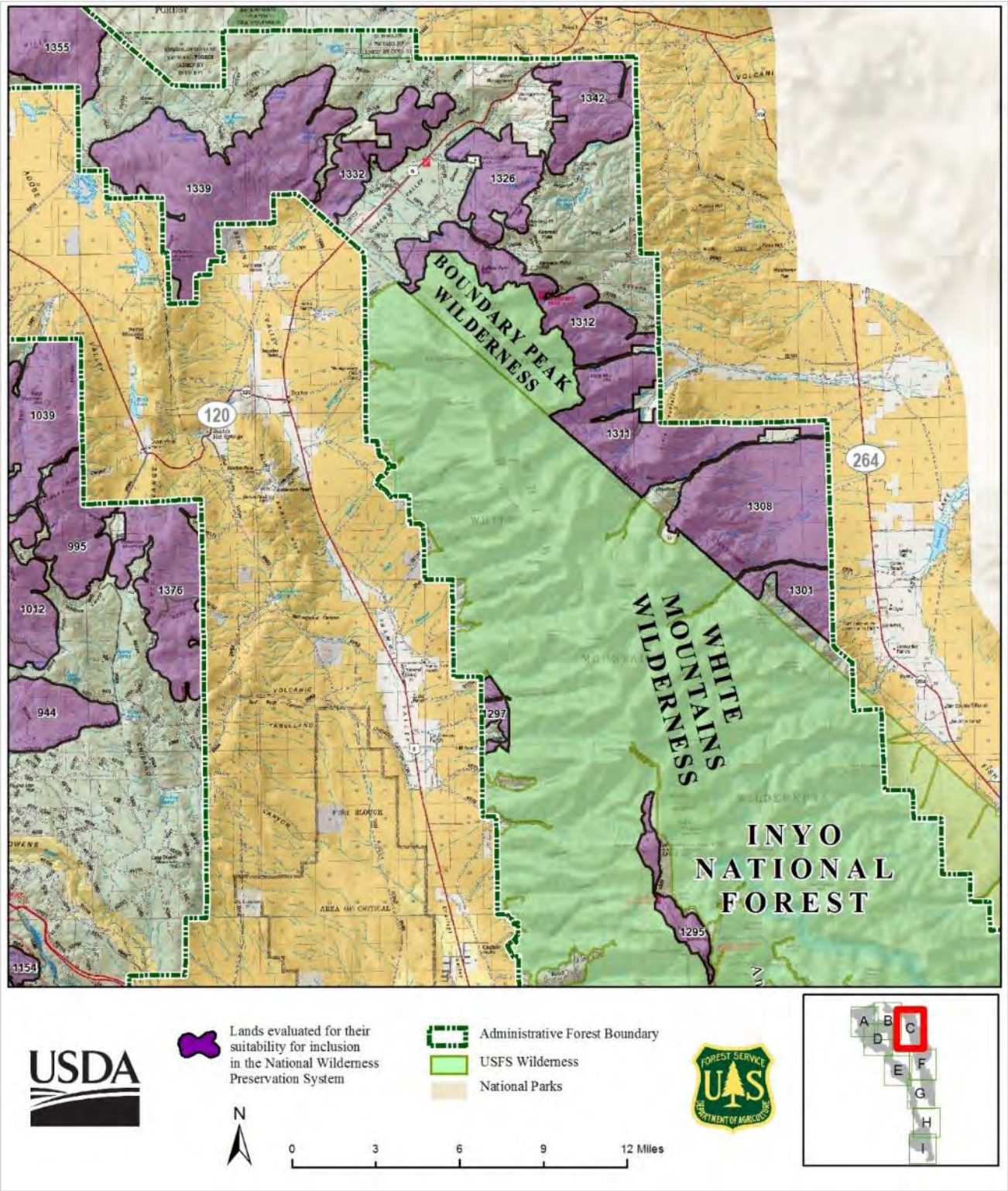


Figure B-4. Inyo National Forest evaluation map C

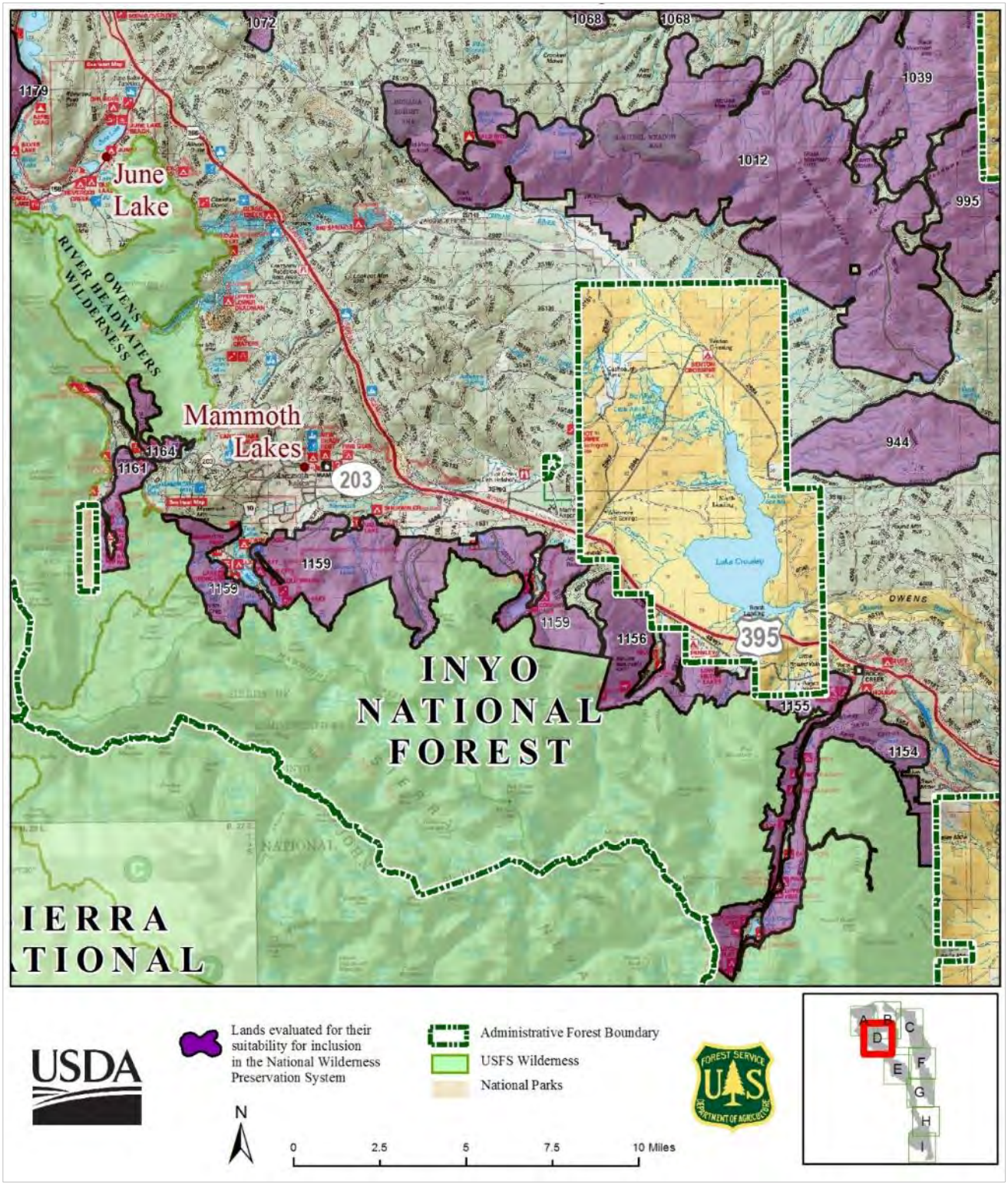


Figure B-5. Inyo National Forest evaluation map D

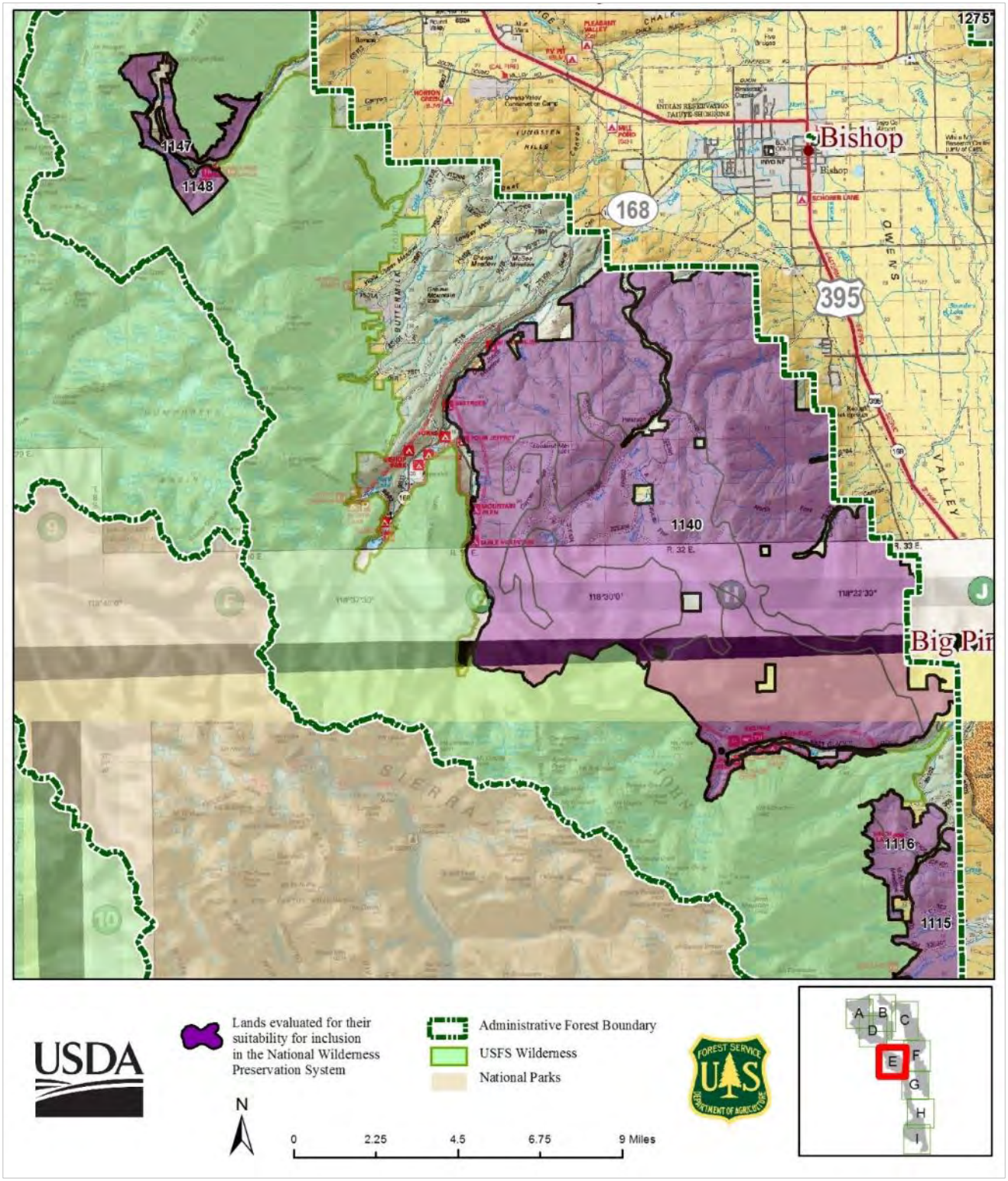


Figure B-6. Inyo National Forest evaluation map E

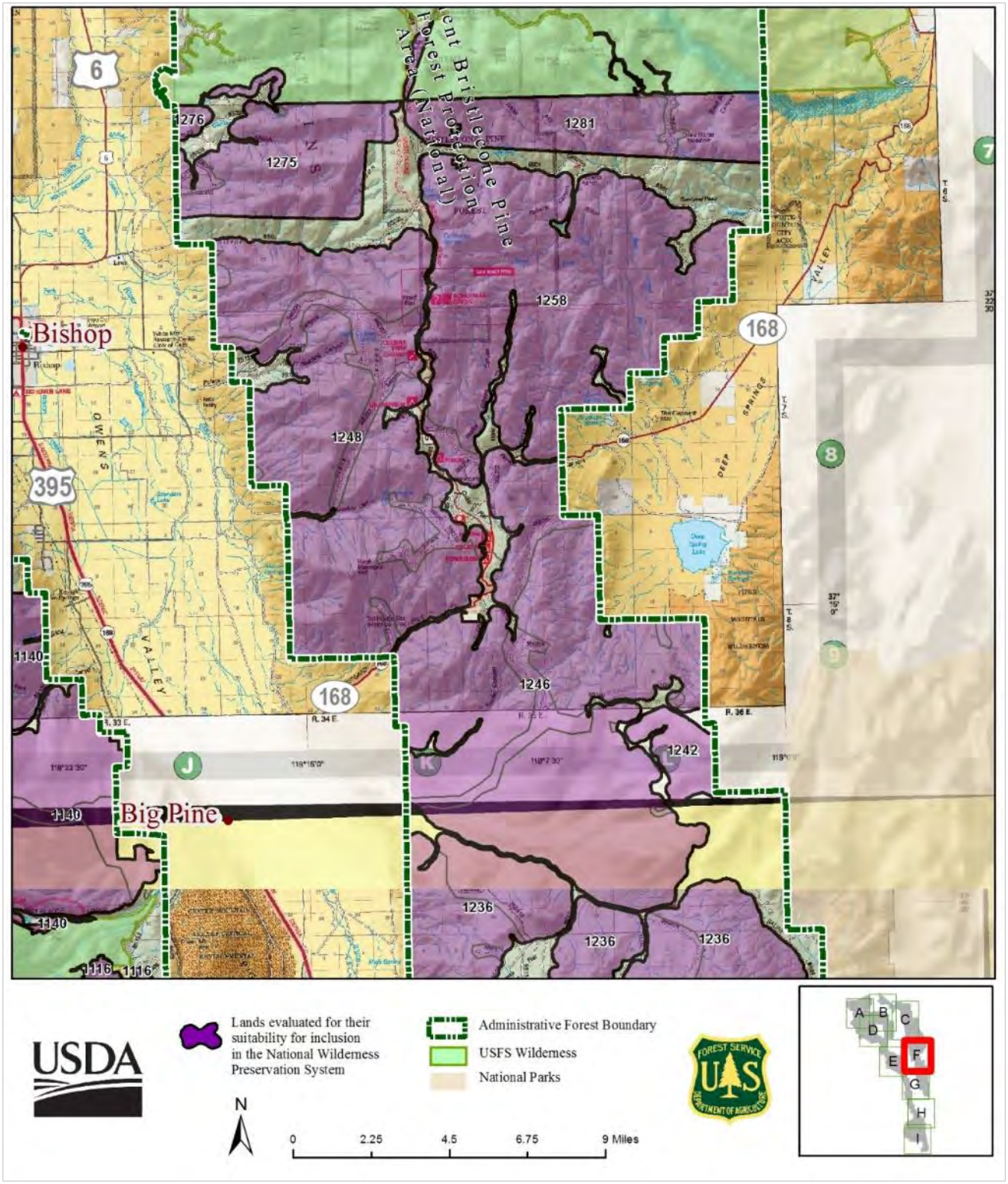


Figure B-7. Inyo National Forest evaluation map F

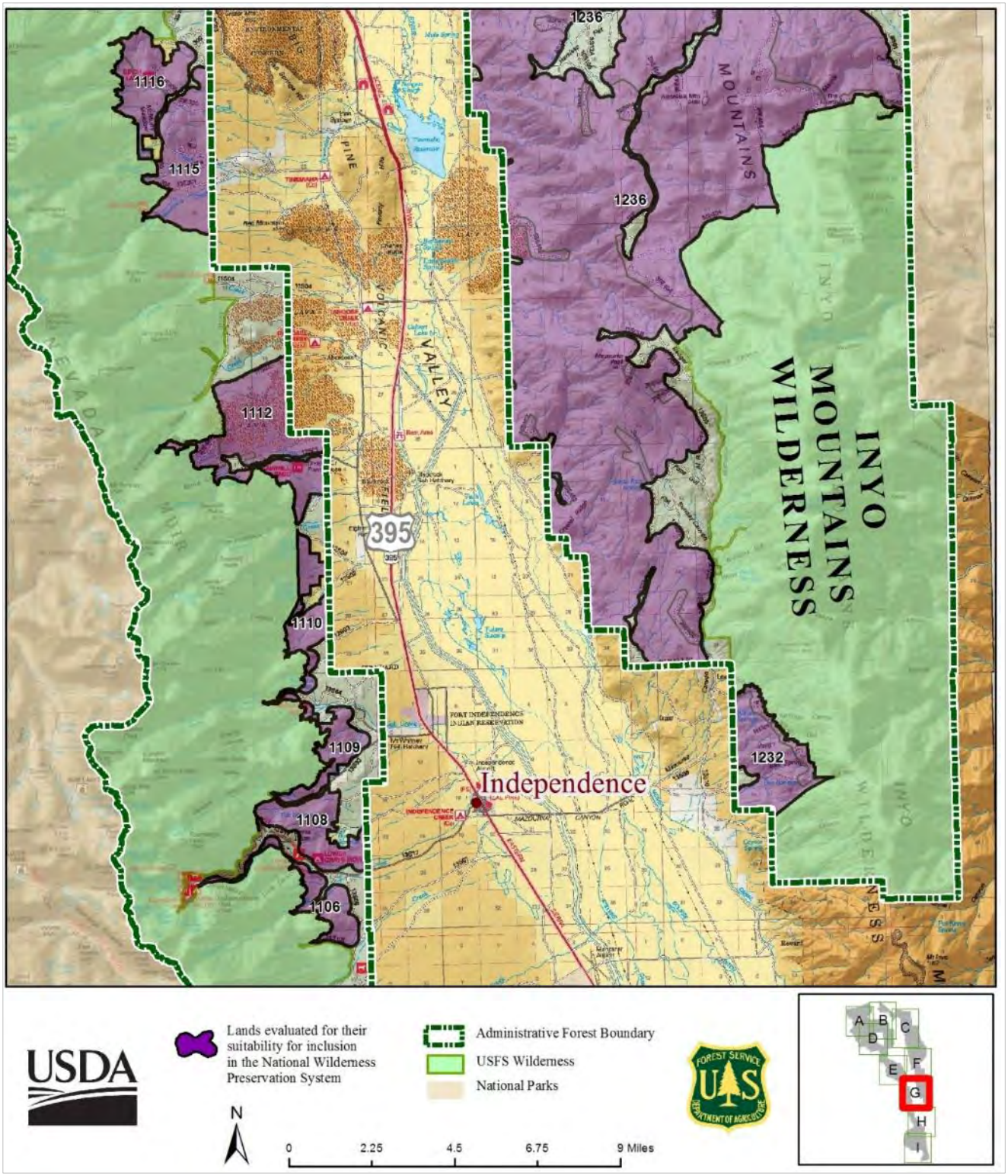


Figure B-8. Inyo National Forest evaluation map G

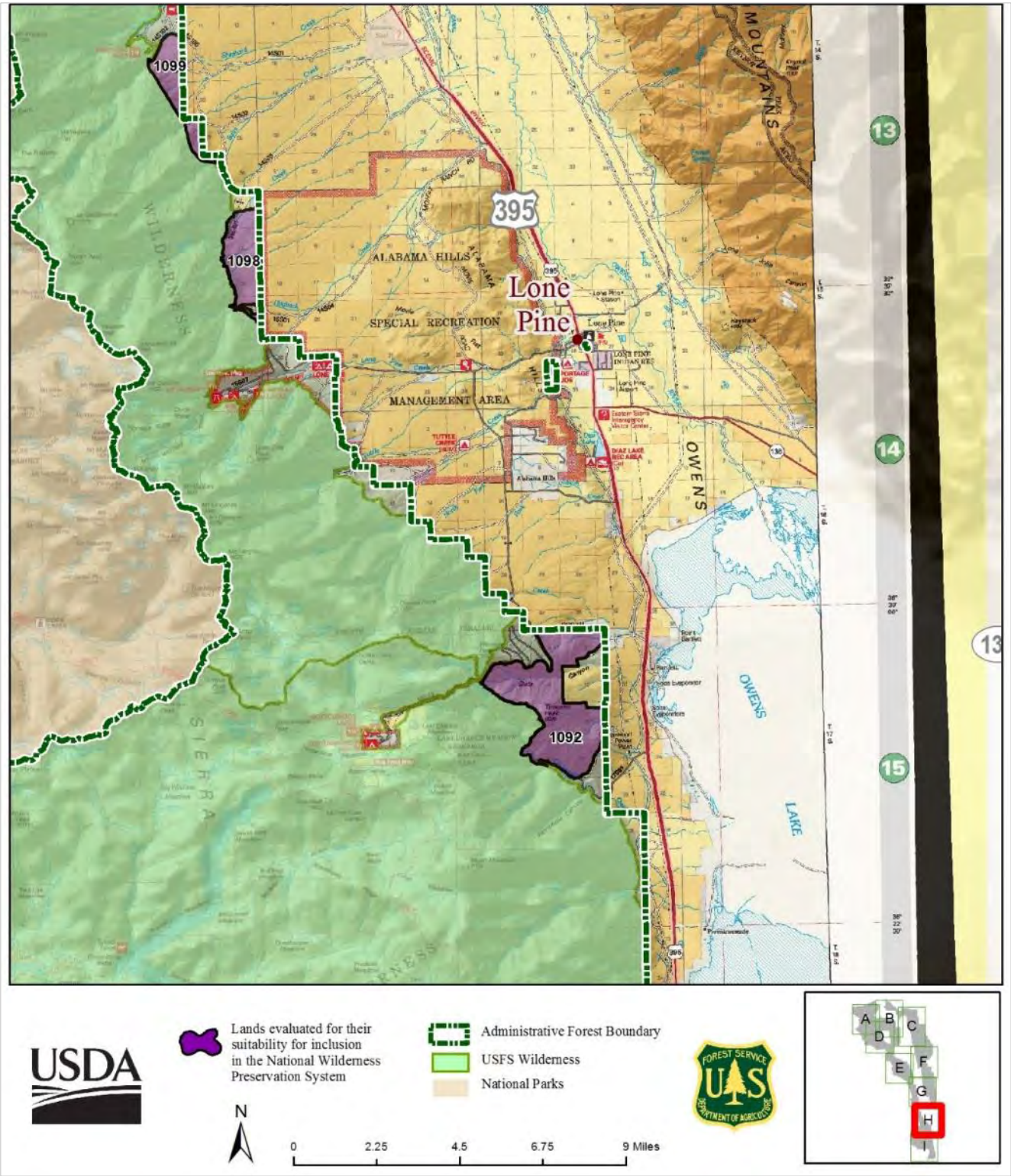


Figure B-9. Inyo National Forest evaluation map H

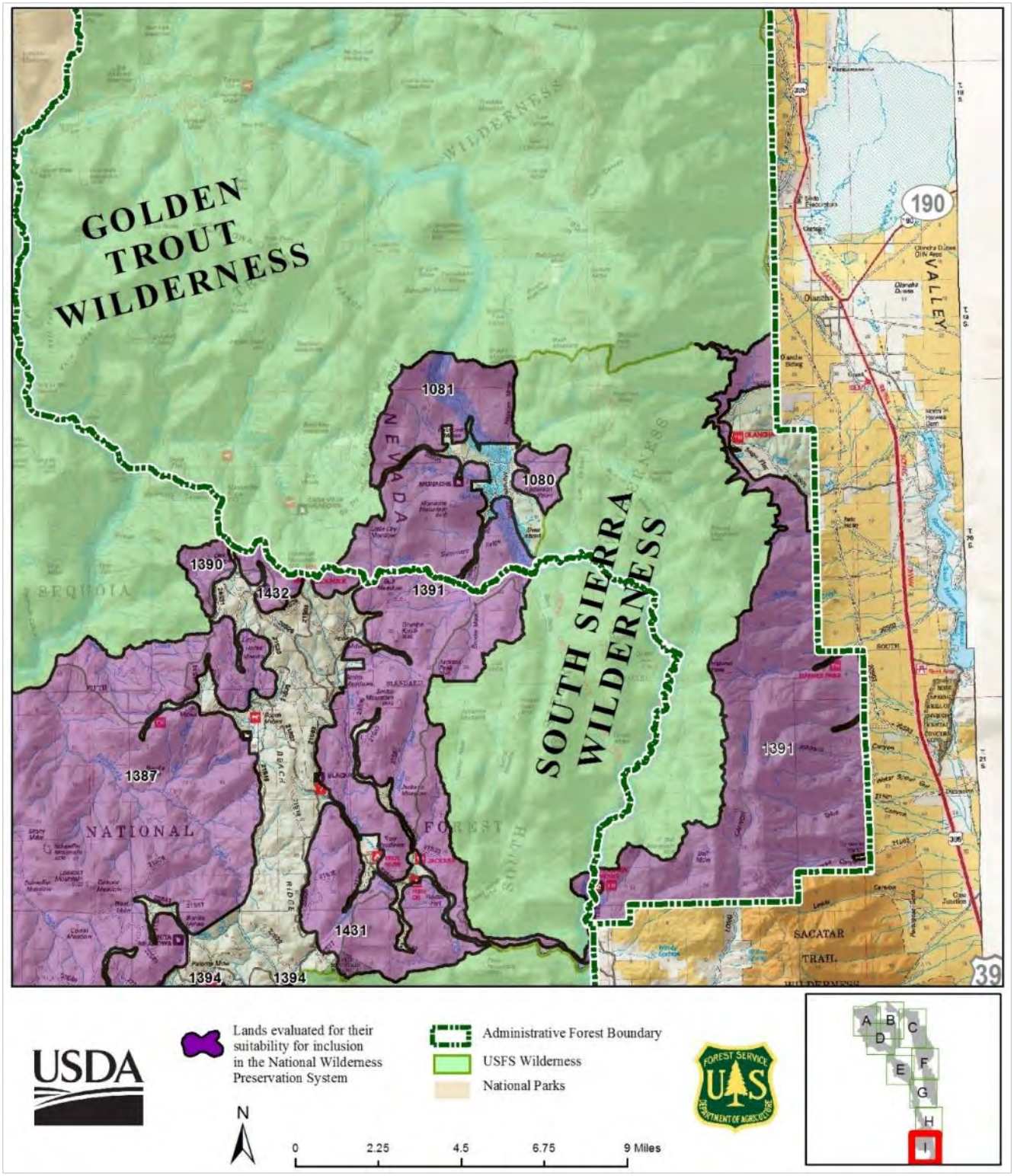


Figure B-10. Inyo National Forest evaluation map I

Sequoia National Forest Evaluations

Evaluation narratives are provided first, followed by the series of maps for each forest. The map section includes an index map (Figure B-11). The appropriate sectional maps are referenced in each polygon narrative.

Evaluation Narratives

Polygon 18 (Southern Paiute Mountains)

General Description

Polygon 18 is a mid-elevation, mountainous canyon area along the south side of the Piute Mountains (Figure B-18, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map G). It ranges in elevation from 5,000 feet to 7,500 feet. The area is 6,337 acres of land and is irregularly -shaped. It is not contiguous with any other roadless or wilderness areas. It is bordered by private land on the east, south and part of the west sides and by National Forest System land on the north and part of the west.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2 percent of the area of the polygon (128 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains five ecological groups with a total area of 2,256 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California Mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation is dominated by chaparral, foothill oak-pine woodland, ponderosa pine and sage brush on upper slopes. Forest system motorcycle trail 34E48 diagonally bisects polygon 18. Unauthorized motorized use is prolific northeast of the system trail. The area was heavily occupied during the Gold Rush and there are multiple historical mining sites within the polygon. All of the recorded mining sites are located on the north-facing portion of the unit near Claraville and evidence includes two standing log cabins, Onion Patch Cabin and Gerry Atkin's Cabin; numerous foundations left from when the area was popular in the 1930s when cabins associated with mining claims were built; and many adits, mine shafts, two mill sites and numerous mining ditches. There is also a ground-sluicing area, greater than 10 acres in size, where an industrial placer mining technique significantly altered the landscape. There may be additional mining near the southern edge of the unit. The Gwenn Mine, one of the largest producers of gold and tungsten in the Piutes, is less than a mile from the boundary of the polygon. A Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) repository is approximately half mile outside the boundary. Historical records suggest the southern escarpment of the Piutes saw a great deal of mining and prospection between 1900 and 1940.

The area is part of the Loco Bill allotment and Piute Grazing allotment and is visited by cattle permittees in the course of managing their livestock and livestock infrastructure. Improvements within the area include grazing-related infrastructure (fences) and several.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Southwest portion of the area is steep, rugged and remote and offers the highest opportunity for solitude and challenge using outdoor skills. The area is very lightly visited, mainly by hunters in the fall, due to limited access and the lack of facilities or special features that attract visitors. There is a private inholding within its boundaries. The polygon is bordered by private land that is mostly undeveloped, facilitating opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the area. There is motorized access on the perimeter of the polygon. Motorized system trail 34E48 bisects the polygon with prolific unauthorized motorized use northeast of that trail and no evidence of unauthorized use southwest of the trail.

Other Features of Value

This area contains a relatively intact stands of black oak forest and canyon live oak woodland. It also has a metamorphic roof pendent running through it with a mile long and 1,000 foot thick piece of marble within it.

Manageability

The size, shape, and steep and rugged terrain would be conducive for managing wilderness characteristics; however the isolated location away from other wilderness in addition to adjacent private lands, a private land inholding, and motorized use complicates management or enforcement; motorized use on remnants of a complex road system has proven to be beyond the resources of the agency at this time.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails and an authorized motorized access to private land within the boundary of the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering the polygon. Sights and sounds from trails and roads would likely affect large portions the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is substantially affected by historic mining activities and developments. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,256 acres.

Polygon 36 (Adjacent to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 36 is a mid-elevation, mountainous area primarily of montane hardwood and mixed conifer vegetation. The area is 2,089 acres and bordered by roads, private land, and has an approximately 0.75 mile contiguous border with Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness. It is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-12 and Figure B-13, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map A and evaluation map B). This is a small polygon that is nearly bisected by a private land parcel.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (14 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups

with a total area of 693 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

A large portion of the area shows signs of current and past human activity. The area includes past timber harvest activity, including plantations. Forest Service Roads 15S09 and 15S09B provide access to a private land inholding. There are communication towers on adjacent private land that can be seen from some areas of the polygon. Appearance of naturalness is affected by OHV trails, level 1 roads, plantations, and uses on adjacent lands. The area has been affected by timber harvest, cattle grazing and fire suppression. The unharvested forest provides valuable wildlife habitat and good water quality. There are bullfrogs in nearby Pierce Pond.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is well used by the public for dispersed recreation. This is a popular off highway vehicle use area. Firewood cutting occurs in the area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to sounds from motorized use.

Other Features of Value

There are no unique or high value special resources that contribute to the wilderness characteristics of the area.

Manageability

Access to private land is provide on forest system routes.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Past timber harvest activity with the associated level 1 roads and some plantations substantially affect the appearance of naturalness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to sounds from motorized use. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 693 acres.

Polygon 63 (Lower Kern River Gorge)

General Description

Polygon 63 is a low elevation, mountainous canyon area along the southeast side of the lower Kern River gorge (Figure B-17, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F). It ranges in elevation from 3,200 feet to 5,800 feet. Vegetation is dominated by chaparral with expansive areas of blue oak woodland, live oak forest, black oak woodland and lower mixed conifer forest. The 5,223 acres area is approximately 3 miles wide and 12 miles long, and roughly rectangular in shape. It is not contiguous with any other roadless or wilderness area. It is bordered by Bureau of Land Management, National Forest System and a small amount of private property. This polygon is bordered by a road that also borders Polygon 73.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (33 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 1,543 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of the ecological groups comprises less than 1,000 acres in the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This area contains a large relatively intact stand of ecologically important blue oak, canyon oak, and black oak. This provides important habitat linkage between low elevation annual grassland and higher elevation mixed coniferous forest (3,500 feet vertical). There is an authorized motorized trail area in the northern portion of the polygon. Forest Service Road 28S09 runs close to the western boundary and Forest Service Road 18S14 runs close to the southern; both are open to all motorized vehicles. The Breckenridge Road, County Route 218, is near the southeastern boundary. The Breckenridge and Cow Flat grazing allotments are active and are visited by cattle permittees in the course of managing their livestock and livestock infrastructure. There are wild pigs and small areas of invasive plants. There is evidence of timber harvest due to the presence of plantations, which are currently authorized for thinning treatments.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This is a very popular off highway vehicle use area. There is an authorized motorized trail network in the northern portion of the polygon. Sights and sounds of adjacent activities on the lower Kern River and the two-lane State Highway 178, a major route connecting the Bakersfield metropolitan area with the Kern River Valley are noticeable along some portions of the northwestern boundary.

Other Features of Value

This area contains a large relatively intact stand of ecologically important blue oak, canyon oak, and black oak. This provides important habitat linkage between low elevation annual grassland and higher elevation mixed coniferous forest (3,500 feet vertical). Condor roosting areas are found in this area as well. It is also provides important riparian habitat for the rare Kern slender salamander.

Manageability

The size and shape of the polygon is conducive for management as wilderness. Management as wilderness would displace existing motorized and non- motorized recreation users and could result in management challenges in the future.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the presence of authorized motorized trails within the polygon. The remaining portion of this polygon is less than 5,000 acres, and configured in such a way that proximity to a highway to the east of the area, a paved County road to the south, and authorized motorized trails and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads to the south and east, directs that sight and sounds from all these sources are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are plantations authorized for treatment in the east corner of the polygon. This polygon

presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,543 acres.

Polygon 66 (Saturday Peak–Greenhorn Roadless)

General Description

Polygon 66 is a low elevation, mountainous canyon area along the north side of the lower Kern River Gorge (Figure B-17, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F). It ranges in elevation from 1,500 feet to 4,500 feet. The area is 8,289 acres of land about 1.5 miles wide and 9 miles long, roughly rectangular in shape. It is not contiguous with any other roadless or wilderness areas, and the western perimeter is on the forest boundary closest to the Bakersfield urban area. It is bordered by private land on the north and by the Kern River on the south.

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 8,289 acres, indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (23 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 3,123 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Central California Valley and Southern Coastal grassland and California Central Valley mixed oak savanna.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation is dominated by annual grassland with areas of blue oak woodland, live oak woodland and chaparral. Visible developments within or adjacent to the polygon include livestock structures, a power transmission line, recreation use along the Kern River, Oak Flat Lookout, a heavily used recreation rental, and a few off-highway vehicle trails near the lookout. It is overlain by the Oak Flat Grazing Allotment and visited by cattle permittees in the course of managing their livestock and livestock infrastructure. The two-lane section of California State Highway 178 runs along the southern and eastern boundary. There are several developed day use sites just outside the perimeter of the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to motorized activities and highly developed recreation sites along the perimeter; especially from Highway 178. Sights and sounds would affect much of the polygon.

Other Features of Value

This area contains a relatively intact stand of ecologically important Blue Oak woodland.

Manageability

Size and shape would be conducive for management.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has minor developments, primarily related to grazing activities and the Oak Flat fire lookout/recreation rental. Sounds from Highway 178 would penetrate most of this polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in a small area due to an authorized motorized trail and a highly developed recreation area. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,123 acres.

Polygon 73 (Lightner Peak – Mill Creek)

General Description

Polygon 73 is a low elevation, mountainous canyon area along the southeast side of the lower and mid elevation Kern River Gorge (Figure B-17. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F). The 15,128 acre area ranges in elevation from 3,200 feet to 6,700 feet and is bordered by Bureau of Land Management, National Forest System land and private property.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (143 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 4,483 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland and savanna and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation in this area is dominated by chaparral with expansive areas of blue oak woodland, live oak forest, black oak woodland, and lower mixed conifer forest. Sycamore forests are found in riparian areas. More than one-third of the polygon has three authorized motorized system routes that are open to the public; one small motorized area is in the southwest corner of the polygon, one large motorized area at the far eastern portion of the polygon, and a large motorized area that bisects the non-motorized area in two. Other developments in the polygon include multiple non-system motorcycle trails and livestock fences. The area is overlain by the Hobo Ridge Grazing Allotments. The appearance of naturalness is somewhat affected by the presence of wild pigs, small areas of invasive plants and tree plantations. Developments adjacent to the polygon include those associated with activities on the lower Kern River, the Forest Service Democrat fire station, California State Highway 178 and Kern Canyon Road.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is visited by motorized recreationists on several authorized and unauthorized motorized system routes within and adjacent to the area. Unauthorized OHV routes are extensive north of road 28S0 between Breckenridge Meadow and Golf Meadow. Visitors enjoy spectacular sycamore riparian forests, salamanders and wildflower displays in the spring, and hunting in the fall. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the majority of this polygon due to the prevalence motorized transportation; the two non-motorized areas of

this polygon are bordered by authorized motorized system routes to the east and west, by California State Highway 178 (a major connector between the Bakersfield metropolitan area and the Kern River Valley) that runs close to the northwestern boundary and a paved road to the south. Sight and sounds from all these sources limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

This area contains large relatively intact stands of ecologically important blue oak, canyon oak, and black oak forests, and sycamore forests. This provides important habitat linkage between low elevation annual grassland and higher elevation mixed coniferous forest (3,500 feet vertical). A stand of endemic Piute cypress (1 of 13 in the Kern Valley area) occurs in the eastern portion of this polygon. Condor roosting areas are found in this area as well. It also provides important riparian habitat for the rare Kern slender salamander.

Manageability

The area is accessed from the bottom along the lower Kern Canyon Road and from the top of Breckenridge Road. The size and shape is conducive for management as wilderness; however, the motorized access within and at the boundaries makes the area difficult to manage as wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Although the area possesses wilderness characteristics and unique ecological and wildlife features, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the majority of this polygon due to the prevalence motorized transportation; the two non-motorized areas of this polygon are bordered by authorized motorized system routes to the east and west, by California State Highway 178 (a major connector between the Bakersfield metropolitan area and the Kern River Valley) that runs close to the northwestern boundary and a paved road to the south. Sight and sounds from all these sources limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,483 acres.

Polygon 99 (Sunday Peak)

General Description

Polygon 99 is a mid-elevation mountainous area. The 9,386 acre areas is elongated and irregularly shaped. It is not contiguous with any wildernesses; it is partially within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E). The communities of Posey, Sugar Loaf, and Panorama Heights are adjacent to this area.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (7 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 3,224 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation primarily consists of oak woodland with open stands of pine along the northern half of the unit. Higher elevations are transitional from oak brush lowlands to open stands of mixed pine with red fir on north facing slopes. The visibility of roads and motorized trails is pervasive in this polygon. There are several authorized motorized routes within the polygon and the polygon is surrounded by roads, including a paved road, and private land developments.

Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species throughout the entire unit. Forest stand average age is lower than it would have been before fire suppression, while the brush field average age is higher. Vegetation management projects to reduce fire risk to adjacent private property structures has recently occurred on about 5 percent of the area, along the northern boundary. Some patches of clear cuts from past timber harvest treatments are noticeable to the general recreational visitor. Apparent naturalness is somewhat impacted on approximately 30 percent of the area by grazing effects altering species composition, especially in oak woodlands. Livestock use is concentrated in two grazing allotments on the west side of the area. Approximately ten percent of the area is considered developed, including pipelines to provide drinking water to private landowners, fence lines, a stock driveway and livestock troughs. Non-native species include wild pigs, rainbow trout, non-native cheat grass and thistle. Air quality is poor to fair during summer months, fluctuating with fire events. Air quality related to human activity in the adjacent San Joaquin Valley has been improving over the past decade.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Hikers use five system trails during the summer for both day use and overnight use. There is some mountain biking. The area is popular in the fall for deer hunting. There is a primitive recreation opportunity along existing trails 32E38 and 31E60 because of the availability of water sources. There is minimal recreational use on the rugged steeper slopes. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in most areas due to the authorized motorized system routes within the polygon and the extensive network of forest system roads and paved road around the perimeter.

Other Features of Value

The area is important habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher, and the Greenhorn fritillary that exists on the western slopes of the Greenhorn Mountains and nowhere else. There are a large number of prehistoric Native American trails and associated sites of significance to Native American tribes.

Manageability

There are 7 special use permits to adjacent private property owners for pipelines that provide drinking water from streams. The dense stand conditions within this polygon are a concern in areas proximate to private property due to high fuel conditions. Portions of the area are within two authorized active restoration and fuels reduction treatments that include use of motorized tools. Authorized motorized route use is prevalent within and bordering this polygon. Managing use would be difficult, due to the number of access points and the difficulty in patrolling.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter. Portions of the area are within two authorized active restoration and fuels reduction treatments that include use of motorized tools. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,224 acres.

Polygon 120 (Lion Ridge Roadless)

General Description

Polygon 120 is a 6,865 acre area that is entirely within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E). It includes the Starvation Giant Sequoia Grove, and is adjacent to Packsaddle and Deer Creek Giant Sequoia Groves.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates none of the area of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 2,580 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 120 is a mid-elevation mountainous area of montane hardwood, shrubs and annual grasses in the lower elevations and to Sierran mixed conifer in the higher elevations. It also contains a grove of giant sequoia. Most of the area, 4,265 acres, is in the Lion Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area. Fire suppression has led to denser stands of shade tolerant species throughout the entire unit. About 25 percent of the area has been logged and some associated road beds exist. The area contains a fuel break. The entire area is in 2 grazing allotments. Grazing improvements are fence lines, a stock driveway and water troughs. Impacts associated with grazing include intense type converted annual grasslands. Grazing also occurs at higher elevations in oak woodlands.

There are three Forest Service system roads in the unit (23S65, 23S65A, 23S65) that are open to public motor vehicle use. Private lands comprise 10 percent of the polygon boundary with the community of Pine Flat and their access roads immediately to the west of the polygon. The area has frequent illegal marijuana cultivation sites with associated illegal herbicide use. Introduced species include feral pigs and invasive plants.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are 2 system trails in the area, one that is designed for bicycle use and one that is designed for pack and saddle stock. There are primitive recreation opportunities at the higher elevations, although historically little use has occurred. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the three Forest Service system roads in the unit (23S65,

23S65A, 23S65) that are open to public motor vehicle use, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and private roads bordering the polygon; and the adjacent community of Pine Flat shares about ten percent of the boundary. Some areas within the interior are screened from sight and sound of roads.

Other Features of Value

The Starvation Giant Sequoia Grove provides a very unique and high value special resource that contributes to the wilderness character of the area. The polygon includes the historic Starvation Grove Nest Site and the Lion Ridge Roost Site, which receive special management for the protection of California condor roosting and nesting habitat. The area is also adjacent to Packsaddle and Deer Creek Giant Sequoia Groves. The area does contain several Forest Service sensitive species including the Greenhorn fritillary, fisher, marten, goshawk, California spotted owl, and occasional visitations by California condor. The area includes a large block of contiguous conifer and hardwood forest.

Manageability

The dense stand conditions within this polygon are a concern in areas proximate to private property due to high fuel conditions. Controlling motorized use within the unit would be difficult due to the number of access points and the difficulty in patrolling.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This area provides habitat for a number of sensitive plants and animals, including the Starvation Grove Nest Site and Lion Ridge Roost Area for the California condor. The appearance of naturalness is somewhat impacted due to approximately 25 percent of the extensively logged, highly departing from the appearance of naturalness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and private roads bordering the entire polygon; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,580 acres.

Polygon 160 (Slate Mountain)

General Description

Polygon 160 is a 16,126 acre area located south of Highway 190 and west of the Western Divide Highway (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (40 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 2,779 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 160 is a mid- to high-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of mixed conifer, Giant Sequoia groves and sub-alpine areas near Slate Mountain. The polygon is partially within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Developments within the area include four Forest Service system roads under special use permits associated with adjacent private property parcels, a historic lookout cabin on Slate Mountain that is not maintained, powerlines. Motorized use is limited to a snowmobile route over a small portion of the unit's eastern edge. The Summit National Recreation Trail bisects the area and allows mountain bike use. The majority of unit is populated with non-obtrusive non-system roads that were used for access. Highway 190 and the Western Divide Highway border the polygon; they are major travel routes into the southern portion of the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Immediately adjacent to this unit are three small communities and a Forest Service heliport. There are adjacent recreational developments.

Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species throughout the entire unit. About five percent of the area was logged with visible associated road beds and plantations. About 25 percent of the unit (southern portion) is part of a grazing allotment. Grazing improvements include fences and water troughs. Grazing activity mostly occurs in meadows; long term monitoring indicates meadows are within their natural range of variation. Some non-native fish are stocked within the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the area, overnight camping generally occurs during hunting season. The Summit National Recreation Trail and Forest Service Trail 31E31 bisect the area and provide good access for recreation visitors. Highway 190 and the Western Divide Highway are major travel routes in the southern portion of the Giant Sequoia National Monument. There are multiple developed and undeveloped campgrounds along the northern perimeter. There is a heliport along the eastern boundary of the unit. Forest Service Roads 22S63 and 22S63A dead end in the unit.

Other Features of Value

There are Giant Sequoia Groves within the polygon and Slate Mountain is an impressive peak with rock outcrops. The Slate Mountain Botanical Area is within this polygon.

Manageability

The dense stand conditions within this polygon are a concern in areas proximate to private property due to high fuel conditions. Controlling motorized use within the unit would be difficult where the unit is adjacent to roads, due to the number of access points and the difficulty in patrolling.

The manageability concerns include the established use of mountain bikes on the Summit National Recreation Trail and 4 special use road permits to adjacent private property owners. Noise from system roads and campgrounds along portions of the perimeter may be heard from a mile away. Noise associated with vehicular travel on adjacent roads and helicopter travel will have some impact on solitude.

Eight percent of the area is within a Wild Urban Interface Defense Zone and 61 percent is within a Threat Zone. Achieving the desired vegetative modification goals would be difficult, if actions to achieve these goals are limited to natural fire.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon is within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The Slate Mountain Botanical Area is within this polygon. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in most of the area. It is bordered by highways to the north and east, and there are developed recreation sites to the north. There is a heliport along the eastern boundary of the unit. The Summit National Recreation Trail bisects the area and allows mountain bike use and provides good access for recreation visitors. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas with authorized forest system roads that are open to the public, or near the highways, heliport and developed recreation areas. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,779 acres.

Polygon 162 (North of Black Mountain)

General Description

Polygon 162 is a low- to mid-elevation mountainous area north of the Black Mountain and south of Highway 190 (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). The 15,806 acre area is oblong in shape and located within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (1 acre) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 6,059 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation is composed primarily of chaparral, oak woodlands and mixed conifers, and a portion of a grove of giant sequoias is located in the southern portion. Highway 190 and recreation developments occur along the north border and are visible. The Tule Indian Reservation is located along the southern border. The polygon is within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Fire suppression has led to denser stands of shade tolerant species throughout the entire unit. Developments within the area are two Forest Service system special uses permitted roads associated with adjacent private property parcels and one special use permit for an oil and gas pipeline. There is one inactive and unnoticeable mine in the area. Only 1 percent of the area has been impacted by historic logging with limited road beds. Two range allotments cover

approximately two-thirds of the area with some water troughs and fence lines. Non-native species in the area include fish, tree-of-heaven, Italian thistle and tocalote.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Portions of Forest Service Trail 30E29 cross the northern edge of the unit, but no current trails provide access to any large portion of the unit. Several old trails once accessed the area but are no longer maintained. The area is primitive and quiet once access is gained by overland hiking that is difficult in some portions due to dense stands of shrubs and steep terrain. Traffic noise originating from the highway corridor and associated recreation facilities can be heard from the interior of the unit; however, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation throughout some of the area, with the exception of the small area with an authorized forest system road that is open to the public.

Other Features of Value

There are likely prehistoric sites and trails in the area as it is adjacent to the Tule River Indian Reservation. A small portion of the Black Mountain Giant Sequoia Grove is within the southern tip of the unit. There are marble outcrops and travertine formations in the area. The area contains a number of rare and important species such as Western Pond Turtle, Delphinium, and Kaweah brodiaea.

Manageability

The dense stand conditions within this polygon are a concern in areas proximate to private property and the Tule River Indian Reservation due to high fuel conditions. Controlling motorized use within the unit would be difficult where the unit is adjacent to roads, due to the number of access points and the difficulty in patrolling. There are two special use road permits to adjacent private property owners and a permit for the oil and gas pipeline.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument as well as an inventoried roadless area. The dense stand conditions within this polygon are a concern in areas proximate to private property and the Tule River Indian Reservation due to high fuel conditions. Traffic noise originating from the highway corridor and associated recreation facilities can be heard from the interior of the unit; however, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation throughout some of the area; however, there are limited opportunities in the small area with an authorized forest system road that is open to the public. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System, however, comprise 6,059 acres.

Polygon 173 (South of Wishon)

General Description

Polygon 173 is a 5,307 acre area located north of Highway 190, east of Forest Service Road 20S91, and south and west of County Road 208 (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates none of the area of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 2,045 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 173 is a lower to mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of chaparral, oak woodlands and mixed conifers. The polygon is bordered by Highway 190, two paved county roads and authorized forest system roads; there are also private property, recreation and residential developments. The western portion is developed with special use permitted activity, most of which are linked to numerous Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed facilities in the unit. The developments within the area include power lines, flumes, aqueduct, penstocks, tunnels, dam, water weir and access roads. The aqueduct runs through the western portion of the unit. The special use permits include motorized access and helicopter flights. The polygon is adjacent to mountain communities to the east and south. Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species. About 5 percent of the area has been logged and some associated road beds and plantations exist. Only the center portion of the unit is undeveloped. The overall character of the area doesn't appear natural. Some non-native species are tocalote, cheatgrass and yellow star thistle.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are very limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the area. It is difficult to escape the noise associated with the motorized and special use permit activities described above in an area of only just over 5,000 acres. There are opportunities for primitive recreation activities away from existing roads and other infrastructure. Currently there is very little established primitive activity use, such as overnight camping away from routes. As the visitor moves away from the roads that encircle this polygon, the steep terrain and undeveloped character of the landscape offers a high degree of challenge and risk while using outdoor skills. Private property, recreation and residential development at the perimeter, and dispersed recreation use along streams limit the experience of adventure, excitement, challenge, initiative or self-reliance in portions of the area.

Other Features of Value

There is likely a prehistoric trail in the area. A portion of the Alder Creek Giant Sequoia Grove is within the eastern edge of the unit. The area contains western pond turtle, Springville clarkia, Pierpoint Springs' dudleya and Meadow star-tulip.

Manageability

There are numerous Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed facilities that require motorized access, including by helicopter, and mechanical maintenance in the unit for both Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison. The dense stand conditions within this polygon are a concern in areas proximate to private property due to high fuel conditions.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a highway, two paved county roads, and a network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this small triangular-shaped polygon. Sights and sounds from roads penetrate throughout much of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is affected by many man made developments within this polygon: power lines; flumes; an aqueduct that bisects the western portion; tunnels; a dam; and a water weir. Many of these are FERC licensed facilities for both PG&E and SCE, and require motorized access and maintenance with motorized tools. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,045 acres.

Polygon 190 (Dennison Peak)

General Description

Polygon 190 is a 7,100 acre area located in the Dennison Peak area, north of Tulare County Road 276 (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). It is within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument, and is adjacent to Sequoia National Park and to Moses Recommended Wilderness.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (14 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 2,530 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 190 is a mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of chaparral, oak woodlands and mixed conifers. The paved Tulare County Road 276 and private land parcels are immediately adjacent to this unit. Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species and denser understory across approximately fifty percent of the area. There is one noticeable mine in the area with two minor structures. There are two special use permitted water lines within the unit. Approximately half of the unit is part of a grazing allotment, with some associated water troughs and drift fences. Non-native species include wild pigs, Italian thistle, tocalote and annual noxious weeds.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Portions of Forest Service Trail 29E16 cross the west side of the unit and Forest Service Trail 19S09 is along the southern edge. Approximately half the unit is covered with dense vegetation (shrub fields) and is not penetrable for cross country travel. The eastern portion of the unit is very steep and rugged and difficult to transverse. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to motorized routes being absent; however, little recreation use has historically occurred in the area. The potential for solitude is high, with only one trail and 1 road.

While some areas within the interior are screened from sight, views of private property, roads and the San Joaquin valley development is frequent at higher elevations.

Other Features of Value

There are likely prehistoric/historic sites and trails in the area. A small portion of the Dillonwood and Dennison Giant Sequoia Groves are within the eastern edge of the unit (the rest of the grove is on Park Service lands). There are scenic granite outcrops in the unit.

Manageability

Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species and denser understory across approximately 50 percent of the area. The reintroduction of a more natural fire regime would restore the ecosystem to the original vegetative look and provide enhanced habitat opportunities to the plants and animals within the unit. However, relying on natural fire ignition to achieve this goal would be difficult where the unit shares a boundary with private property. Controlling motorized use within the unit would be difficult where the unit is adjacent to roads, due to the number of access points and the difficulty in patrolling. There are two special use permits for water pipes. Due to the narrow width of the county road, scenic overlook pullouts are limited.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

It is an inventoried roadless area. The unit is adjacent to National Park Service lands and near Moses Recommended Wilderness contained in the Giant Sequoia National Monument Plan Record of Decision that is adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness. The paved Tulare County Road 276 and private land parcels are immediately adjacent to this unit. Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species and denser understory across approximately fifty percent of the area. The reintroduction of a more natural fire regime would restore the ecosystem to the original vegetative look and provide enhanced habitat opportunities to the plants and animals within the unit. However, relying on natural fire ignition to achieve this goal would be difficult where the unit shares a boundary with private property.

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to absence of motorized routes. Little recreation use has historically occurred in the area. Cross country travel is difficult in areas with dense, impenetrable vegetation. The eastern portion of the unit is very steep and rugged and difficult to transverse.

This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,530 acres.

Polygon 227 (Oat Mountain)

General Description

Polygon 227 is a 15,358 acre area located along the lower reaches of the Kings River. The Pine Flat Reservoir forms the northwest boundary, and the unit is adjacent to the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-12, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map A).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (16 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 11,961 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California Central Valley mixed oak savanna, California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland, and Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 227 is a low elevation, mountainous area consisting primarily of oak woodland and brush. Large areas of private property border the L-shaped polygon to the west and south; smaller private land parcels are located along the north and east borders; one private parcel is within the boundary of this polygon. The west side of the polygon is adjacent to a power transmission line. There is a fire lookout and radio facility on the east side and a highly developed recreation area along the northern border, including Forest Service Camp 4, Camp 4 ½, Green Cabin, and Mill Flat campgrounds. Within the polygon there are access roads to a private inholding that are open to all vehicles, including OHVs. The area has been affected by cattle grazing, fire suppression, non-native wild pigs and areas of invasive plants. The area is visited by cattle permittees in the course of managing their livestock and livestock infrastructure.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational use is light directly in the polygon, but consistent and includes wildflower walks and bird watching in the spring, and wildlife and bird watching, hiking and hunting in the fall. The terrain is steep in the roadless area in the north; in the southern portion there are access roads that are open to the public. There are multiple nearby amenities associated with activities on the Kings River and Pine Flat Reservoir. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to forest system roads providing authorized motorized access to a private land inholding and access to power transmission lines; these routes are open to the public, including OHV use. The area is also surrounded by a paved county road to the north, a network of authorized forest system roads to the east and private roads to the south and west. Sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. In the northern portion of the polygon, there are high use recreation facilities along the border, including several developed campgrounds and a rental cabin. Sights and sounds likely penetrate into that portion of the roadless area, limiting the opportunity for solitude.

Other Features of Value

There are no unique or high value special resources that contribute to the wilderness characteristics of the area.

Manageability

A large proportion of the boundary of this polygon is with private land, which would make management as wilderness difficult. There is a private edge holding on the northwestern boundary that create an odd shape, and the narrow shape of the unit as a whole maximizes the area exposed to activities on the boundaries that are not conducive to wilderness management. Activities are those associated with motorized use, developed facilities, utilities, administrative sites, and multiple forms of recreation use that is not primitive or unconfined in nature. There is

also authorized motorized access to a large private inholding in the center of the eastern portion of the polygon and access to power transmission lines. These roads are open to the public, including for OHVs. Authorized fuel treatments, including mechanical treatments are currently occurring in the southern portion of this polygon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has some wilderness characteristics but would be very difficult to manage as wilderness because of its location relative to human influences and its shape. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to forest system roads providing authorized motorized access to a private land inholding and access to power transmission lines; these routes are open to the public, including OHV use. The area is also surrounded by a paved county road to the north, a network of authorized forest system roads to the east and private roads to the south and west. Sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. In the northern portion of the polygon, there are high use recreation facilities along the border, including several developed campgrounds and a rental cabin. Sights and sounds likely penetrate into that portion of the roadless area, limiting the opportunity for solitude. Authorized fuel treatments, including mechanical treatments are occurring in the southern portion of this polygon. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System, however, comprise 11,961 acres.

Polygon 1364 (North of Coffee Camp)

General Description

Polygon 1364 is an elongated and roughly triangular 9,203 acre area; elevations begin at 1,500 and climb to over 5,000 feet. The entire polygon is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). The western boundary is the forest boundary that is shared with the town of Springville and the Bureau of Land Management; the southern boundary follows Forest Service Road 20S16, the Middle Fork and the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Tule River.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (18 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains eight ecological groups with a total area of 3,514 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The steep and divided terrain is rocky, dominated by lower elevation brush, chaparral, and oak woodlands with some mixed conifer at the highest elevations. The western boundary is with private rural residences and ranches. Improvements and infrastructure include range improvements, a functioning water flume, a communications tower, hydropower plant, quartz mine, roads and utilities infrastructure that are maintained under special uses permits. Frequent access to these uses is provided on roads. Water rights are established for all streams and supply

local communities and a hydropower plant. The large flume runs the length of the polygon, beyond the unit boundary, and delivers water to the power plant. Numerous grazing-related improvements such as fences and water troughs are present. Highway 190, Wishon Road and Bear Creek Road form the boundary with 2 heavily used day use recreation areas, a developed campground and cabin rental, utilities infrastructure and industrial uses on the edge but not within the polygon. The Mountain Home State Forest on the northern boundary has multiple developed recreation facilities. There is a private property inholding.

The composition and succession of the native plant community is altered, encouraging non-native invasive species and altering the role of fire. Tocalote is very prevalent across the area, along with invasive thistles and non-native grasses including cheat grass. Their presence is generally increasing. Upstream management has caused sediment problems although soil conditions are stable, and air quality is poor from human influences outside of the area. Streams and vegetation provide wildlife connectivity and there are no reported feral species.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The river and a nearby state forest are highly developed and heavily used recreation areas, including day-use sites, campgrounds and dispersed recreation areas. The numerous improvements and infrastructure within and adjacent to the area that are under special use permits limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the area. A communication tower and a flume which carries water to the power plant are visible, and frequent access to these facilities must be provided. A quartz mine is lightly active and semi-noticeable. Highway 190, Wishon Road and Bear Creek Road provide access to two heavily used day use recreation areas and two developed campgrounds adjacent to the area, increasing the probability of encounters with other visitors.

Other Features of Value

The area is very typical of foothill communities on the west side of the Sierra Nevada. There is one threatened and endangered species.

Manageability

The eastern tip of the polygon is adjacent to the proposed Moses Wilderness, while the northern and southern boundaries are bounded by highways that provide access to recreation developments, mountain communities and rural residences. Utilities infrastructure and industrial uses are on the edge of Highway 190, Wishon Road, and Bear Creek Road. Private property bounds the western base of the triangle just north of the community of Springville. Views to the north and west are of development outside the area. There are a number of legal easements for the flume, access roads and utilities. There is 1 private inholding with a private access road. There are existing water rights on all streams in the area, 3 active grazing allotments and multiple special use permits. Wilderness characteristics are lacking and are not likely to be restored due to the uses of lands adjacent to the polygon. The elongated shape with heavily used roads on the long boundaries, the proximity to private land, communities, past use and multiple special use permits makes the management of this area as a wilderness difficult. Fuels reduction to protect private property and protect the objects of interest in the Giant Sequoia National Monument would affect wilderness management. Residential development and community growth may require installation of new communication structures, and flume capacity may be increased to expand domestic water supply.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The close proximity to residential and rural landscapes, roads, special use permits for non-recreational uses, and a multitude of popular developed recreation sites affects opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The steep terrain, low elevation cover and elongated shape of the polygon do not screen the heavily traveled roads on the south and north boundaries. The water flume, utility lines and residences are pervasive and further influence the lack of opportunity for solitude or an area free of permanent improvement or modern human occupation. Due to the proximity of local communities, visitor use is high and concentrated, mostly near the edges and encounters are likely. Residential development and community growth may require installation of new communication structures, and flume capacity may need to be increased to expand domestic water supply. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,514 acres.

Polygon 1377 (Adjacent to Monarch Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1377 is an 11,559 acre, mid to high elevation area that is located along the Kings River. The area is adjacent to the Monarch Wilderness, includes the Agnew Roadless area, and is adjacent to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (Figure B-13, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (85 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains four ecological groups with a total area of 2,702 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1377 is a mountainous area primarily of mixed conifer forests. The overall character of the polygon appears natural and includes a few thousand acres of giant sequoia groves and the Windy Gulch Geologic area. This is a highly scenic and natural appearing area. There has been little effect to natural plant, wildlife, watershed and soils conditions. The northern 50 percent of the area includes the Agnew Roadless area, shows very little indication of intrusion by humans, and is very lightly visited by recreationists. The southern half of the area has a significant history of timber harvest, with associated level 1 roads and plantations. This includes eight authorized forest system routes that are open to public use, and several roads that are closed to public use. The roads are all located in the southern portion of the area and are associated with past timber harvest activity. There is one electronic site that is on the boundary of the area, accessed by an existing road. There are several private property parcels along the southern boundary.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The northern 50 percent of the area, mainly the Agnew Inventoried Roadless Area, provides some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the southern half of the area, due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public.

Other Features of Value

The area includes a few thousand acres of Giant Sequoia groves. There is also a portion of the Windy Gulch Geologic area which includes limestone caverns.

Manageability

The area is adjacent to the Monarch Wilderness, includes the Agnew Inventoried Roadless Area, and is adjacent to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The majority of the area would be manageable as an extension of the existing wilderness. The southern 50 percent of the area is significantly impacted by past timber harvest activity and includes many plantations and roads that have been closed to public use. This part of the area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to the extensive road access and potential for future fuels management needs in the plantations.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is adjacent to the Monarch Wilderness, includes the Agnew Roadless area, and is adjacent to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and is located entirely within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Part of the area would be manageable as an extension of the existing wilderness. The southern 50 percent of the area is significantly impacted by past timber harvest activity and includes many plantations and level 1 roads. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this part of the areas due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public. This part of the area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to the extensive road access and potential for future fuels management needs in the plantations. Reshaping the area to eliminate the southern 50 percent would make it more manageable and improve the overall wilderness character. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,702 acres.

Polygon 1378 (Adjacent to John Muir and Monarch Wildernesses)

This 71,974 acre polygon crosses the forest boundary between the Sequoia National Forest and the Sierra National Forest (Figure B-12, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map A or Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon was evaluated as one whole unit, 14,609 acres on the Sequoia National Forest and 57,364 acres administered by the Sierra National Forest. The polygon narrative is in the Sierra National Forest section.

Polygon 1380 (Adjacent to Jennie Lakes Wilderness and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1380 is a 1,316 acre area that is contiguous with a roadless area, the Jennie Lakes and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Areas, and is entirely within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-13, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3 percent of the area of the polygon (43 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 3 ecological groups with a total area of 239 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1380 is a mid-elevation mountainous area primarily of mixed conifer vegetation located long the Generals Highway, the main access to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The polygon is bordered on the southwest by a major access highway to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and a highly developed recreation area. The area contains past timber harvest activity and associated roads (closed) and plantations. Unharvested areas provide valuable wildlife habitat and good water quality.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is heavily used by visitors to the 4 adjacent developed campgrounds; noise from adjacent heavily used campgrounds and roads nearby would limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The area does not provide a sense of leaving civilization behind due to the neighboring high recreation use and major highway.

Other Features of Value

There are no unique or high value special resources that contribute to the wilderness characteristics of the area.

Manageability

Cherry stemmed roads, adjacent campgrounds, past timber harvest activity, high visitor use, and signs of civilization from the Generals Highway would make this a difficult area to manage for wilderness character.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to a paved highway along the west boundary, a road that cherry stems to nearly bisect the middle of the polygon, and a highly developed recreation area. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout this small polygon. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 239 acres.

Polygon 1381 (Beartrap Meadow – Adjacent to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1381 is a 1,317 acre area within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-13, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map B). It is contiguous with the National Park Service wilderness.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (13 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 237 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1381 is a mid-elevation mountainous area; primarily composed of oak conifer and mixed conifer forests. The overall character of the area appears natural due to the exposed granite outcrops, cliffs and streams. Stony Creek and Woodward Creek are prominent features. General's Highway 198 is along the north border, along with a highly developed recreation area. Approximately one-third of the area had past fuels and timber harvest activities, but the area appears natural for the most part with secondary growth conifer. Developments include the remains of an old pack station at the site of Stony Creek Resort. Developments within the area include high clearance forest system roads open to public use and several roads that are not open to public use. Access roads from previous timber harvest operations are not obtrusive. Immediately adjacent to this unit on the northern edge are several developed recreational facilities along Highway 198, a major highway corridor that provides entry into the adjacent Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Stony Creek runs through the area, a bedrock granite creek with swimming holes. There is minimal recreational use on the steeper slopes. There are no authorized system trails within the unit, but hiking and mountain biking use occurs during the summer months on old timber roads. This unit is contiguous with the National Park Service wilderness along one boundary.

Highway 198 is a major tourist travel route during the summer months into Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. There are several campgrounds along this road, adjacent to this unit. Traffic noise along the highway corridor limits opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

Stony Creek drainage has bedrock granite creeks and swimming holes. Many historic and prehistoric archaeological sites exist. There are the remains of an old pack station at the Stony Creek Resort site. Historic early 1900s African American Buffalo Soldier military units were known to camp here. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher as well as multiple species of slender salamander.

Manageability

Easy access from Highway 198 makes manageability challenging. The area currently has apiary special use permits.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This unit is contiguous with the National Park Service wilderness along one boundary. It has a unique character to it with Stoney Creek and Woodward Creek cascading down through the unit. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher as well as multiple species of slender salamander. Several Forest Service roads could be converted to trails or decommissioned and the area restored. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the area of busy paved roads and highly developed recreation areas along the east and west boundaries. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate through much of this small polygon. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 237 acres.

Polygon 1384 (Cannel Peak)

General Description

Polygon 1384 is a 39,629 acre area that extends from the Kern River Canyon up the slopes to the Kern Plateau (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E). It rises to a maximum elevation of approximately 9,500 feet at Cannell Peak.

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 39,629 acres, indicates 7 percent of the area of the polygon (2,968 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrub lands and inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 7,893 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This north-south trending transitional unit includes the Kern River Canyon and steep brush-shrouded slopes that rise to a plateau composed of open pine stands and large wet grassy meadows. Stands of endemic Piute cypress (only 13 stands known to exist in the Kern River Valley) exist within the unit. There is one hiking trail that accesses Salmon Creek Falls. The northwest area of the polygon includes the Rincon Motorcycle Trail and the high use Packsaddle Limestone Cave geological area. A motorized area in the southwest portion that includes Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail (open to OHV) and access to maintenance to a number and variety of long-standing permitted special uses. Timber removal evidence is faint in the moist and luxuriant forest of the Kern Plateau. Historic mining exploration in the northern quarter of the unit is at least 50 years old, consisting of small attempts to identify tungsten deposits to support

World War II steel strengthening efforts. Most exploratory holes are healing over and not noticeable.

The open grassy meadows have been associated with livestock grazing, and there are some troughs and fence lines. There are approximately 10 miles of roads on 5 short spurs that are accessed from Cherry Hill road; they were identified as “not-likely necessary”. Developments associated with special use permits include an aqueduct with access roads, and a hydroelectric impoundment along Salmon Creek.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are extremely limited in areas with authorized motorized system routes in the northwest and southwest portions of the polygon due to pervasive sounds of motorized use (i.e., the Rincon Motorcycle Trail and the Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail that is open to mountain bike and OHV use) and crowds of recreationists along the river. Military training overflights are also a common occurrence in the southwest portion of the polygon. There is a hiking trail to Salmon Creek Falls that offers views of a spectacular water fall during high water years.

Upslope and on the Kern Plateau, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, even during the peak recreational visitation months in the summer. The Kern Plateau is accessed by one main road and use is limited to the summer and fall months, with the exception of groomed snowmobile trail in winter. Recreational users consist of day hikers and backpackers along the trails as well as horse parties, particularly near the open grassy meadows located on the high-elevation plateau. The plateau is well-watered and quite lovely with an incredible diversity of plants and animals that is attractive to hikers and other close-to-the-ground recreational enthusiasts like photographers and painters. Increasingly, there is community interest in building new off highway vehicle routes across and through the Kern Plateau, so there is growing motorized recreational interest in this area.

Other Features of Value

Salmon Creek Falls is a spectacular waterfall during years of high rainfall. The variety of plants and animals in the area is extraordinary as the elevation changes so dramatically from 4,400 feet to 9,500 feet at the top of Cannell Peak. Habitat preservation for a few animals and plants is important in this unit, including the large open wet meadows of the Kern Plateau for several species of salamanders and the mountain yellow-legged frog, and habitat for the Piute cypress.

The unit has a rich archaeological history. It was and is extensively used by the Tubatulabal Tribe to access the plateau from Fay Ranch in the lowlands to the south. It has a rich prehistoric and historic history that belies the fact that it is in almost pristine condition today.

Manageability

Challenges to manageability would include limited opportunities to provide opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and potential for wilderness incursions, based on a high frequency of military overflights; extremely high recreation and vehicle use along the Kern River and Mountain Highway 99 along the western portion of the area; motorized and mountain bike trails, including a motorcycle trail and a National Recreation Trail within the boundary; and the presence of roads immediately adjacent to the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Wilderness characteristics of the majority of this area are largely intact. Upslope and on the Kern Plateau, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, even during the peak recreational visitation months in the summer. However, along the western boundary with the Kern River corridor there are high levels of recreational visitation. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are extremely limited in the northwest and southwest portions of the polygon due to authorized motorized system routes with pervasive sounds of motorized use (i.e., the Rincon Motorcycle Trail and the Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail that is open to mountain bike and OHV use) and crowds of recreationists along the river. Military training overflights are also a common occurrence in the southwest portion of the polygon. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise nearly 3,000 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 7,893 acres.

Polygon 1385
(Jennie Lakes Roadless – Adjacent to Jennie Lakes Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1385 is a moderately high elevation mountainous area is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument and is contiguous with Jennie Lakes Wilderness and national park service wilderness. The 8,216 acre area is formed by Jennie Lakes Wilderness to the south, Big Meadow Road (FS 14S11) to the north, national park service wilderness to the east, and Generals Highway to the west (Figure B-13, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (49 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 3 ecological groups with a total area of less than 50 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation is mixed conifer forests interspersed with meadows and streams. The unit rises up toward wilderness, and much of the area is within the Jennie Lakes Inventoried Roadless Area. These areas exhibit natural character with many meadows, granite features, and forests. The composition of plant and animal communities appears to reflect ecological conditions present absent the influence of humans. Vegetation is highly patchy despite infrequency of natural fire, and riparian areas and streams are in good condition despite dispersed camping near trails or roads.

There are cherry stem roads to wilderness trailheads. Generals Highway and Big Meadows Road High and highly developed recreation sites are prominent in the west and north borders. Motorized and mountain biking opportunities are available on multiple objective level 1 roads that are operational level 2 roads. These roads provide popular and valued OHV opportunities and are identified on the motor vehicle use map. There are areas with historic logging practices that are noticeable to visitors. Recreational developments along Big Meadows Road include

campgrounds, a recreation rental cabin and three trailheads (2 highly developed) and a developed pack station. Highway 198 borders a quarter mile section of the northern boundary and is a busy road in the summer months. Much of the unit is screened from roads and campgrounds by steep topography and trees.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area rises up toward Jennie Lakes Wilderness through the Jennie Lakes Roadless Area. Multiple popular, developed recreation sites line Generals Highway and Big Meadows Road along the border of the polygon. Big Meadows trail leads to Jennie Lakes Wilderness, a popular destination for hikers and horse riders. Steep rough topography and vegetation shields some of the area from the noise of Highway 198 and Big Meadow Road. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in areas closest to the Jennie Lakes Wilderness boundary, but opportunities are limited in areas with traffic noise along the paved roads and highly developed recreation areas. Motorized and mountain biking opportunities are available on multiple routes. Visitor use is high in these areas. These routes provide popular and valued OHV opportunities, including dispersed camping for OHV enthusiasts, but limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

The area is rich in prehistoric Native American archaeological sites associated with trade trails. Big Meadow and a few viewpoints provide scenic value. Purple mountain parsley, pygmy pussy paws, marten, and northern goshawk are found in the area.

Manageability

The area is easy to access by a transportation system which penetrates deep into the area. The roads and developed recreation facilities along the boundary receive heavy recreational use associated with the adjacent and popular national parks. Highway 198 is the primary travel route into the forest and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks from Visalia. Big Meadows Road with a large number of popular, developed recreation sites is adjacent to the unit. There are high use facilities and objective level 1 roads on the perimeter of this polygon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is contiguous to the Jennie Lakes and National Park Wildernesses and provides habitat to a number of rare plants and animals as well as mule deer and bear. The steep, forested slopes offer some screening to the recreation activity along paved roads and developed recreation facilities on the boundary and motorized routes within the polygon. However the long, narrow shape bounded by popular recreation routes and multiple developed recreation facilities and cherry stem roads divide the area and maximize exposure to sounds of motorized use and visitor activity, minimizing opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in areas closest to the Jennie Lakes Wilderness boundary, but opportunities are limited in areas with traffic noise along the paved roads, campgrounds, and in areas with authorized motorized routes. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 50 acres.

Polygon 1387
(North Fork Kern – Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1387 is an 89,627 acre, mid to high elevation mountainous area that is dissected by the precipitous canyon of North Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic River. The high point is the 10,000 feet Sherman Peak. The eastern side of the polygon is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument and it borders the Golden Trout Wilderness to the north (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C and Figure B-15, evaluation map D). This area intersects the Rincon Inventoried Roadless Area, Giant Sequoia National Monument and the Rincon Critical Aquatic Refuge.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2 percent of the area of the polygon (1,751 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrub land. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 21,673 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland, Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland, and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This is an extremely large unit straddling the North Fork of the Kern River in an area of the river corridor known as the Forks Run. Vegetation transitions from chaparral through oak-conifer to mixed conifers. The eastern side is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument and includes the Freeman Grove and Freeman Creek Botanical Area. The west side has large areas of steep terrain interrupted by rolling terrain with roads and recreation developments along cherry stem roads. Roads, private in holdings, and developed facilities in the west reduce the apparent naturalness. Access roads from previous timber clearing operations are noticeable. The North Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic River corridor with steep-sided canyon walls is managed as wild and scenic class “wild”. It is well insulated from the west side activities, has no developed facilities and extremely limited access even for foot travel and appears primarily affected by the forces of nature.

On the east side of the river and in the area east of the Rincon Trail (33E23) and north of the Schaeffer Trail (33E24 and 33E26) there are several cherry stem motorized routes. There are also a number of short spur roads on the perimeter, with some open to motorized use on the motor vehicle use map, but identified as not likely needed in Travel Management Subpart A. The interior is the most undisturbed section of this unit. This area is also adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness, an area that is part of the largest complex of unroaded lands in the Sierra Nevada. This large complex has great ecological diversity due to its wildness, size, and ranges in elevations.

The area south of the Schaeffer Trail and east of the Rincon Trail is a smaller elongated piece that is isolated from the northern portion by a popular motorized and bike trail which creates a highly valued loop recreation opportunity around the perimeter. This southern island is also not contiguous and is removed from the larger wilderness area mentioned above. This area also has

more effects associated with modern human occupation and the expansion of the population due to location to Mountain 99, Sherman Pass Road, and other multiple uses.

The whole area has a natural fire regime which has shaped the vegetation. The vegetative community across the unit that now exists would not appear inappropriate to a casual recreational visitor. Access roads from previous timber clearing operations are not obtrusive. There are 2 active allotments and there is 1vacant grazing allotment.

To the east, development is concentrated in the southeast close to Sherman Pass Road. A communications site at Sherman Peak has a level 1 road at lower elevation and an unobtrusive access. Tungsten mines are also located in the same area near Sherman Pass Road but are not obvious to casual visitors and represent less than 1 percent of the area. There is no currently known mining activity. While range improvements such as fences, corrals and water troughs occur near some water sources in the area, they are unobtrusive. Several historic guard or mining cabins are present. One storage building (under special use permit), trailheads, campgrounds, and a pack station are located along the edges. An inholding is present at West Meadow along the eastern side. On the east side of the river, all of these developments are along the edges and represent less than 1 percent of the overall area. There are no recreation improvements, ground return telephone lines, electric lines, power lines or other permanently installed linear right-of-way structures. Motorized and hiking trails are present in the area. There are several motorized trails in the polygon, including the Rincon Trail. East of Sherman Peak has a concentration of both authorized and unauthorized user created motorized trails. Much of the recreation in the area other than motorized use is similar to that in the adjacent Golden Trout Wilderness. Large blocks of the unit are unaffected by humans.

The undeveloped quality has been affected by motorized trails and other recreation developments. Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and shapes vegetation. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher, several species of slender salamander, mountain yellow-legged frogs and soon to be reintroduced Kern River rainbow trout. Meadows are stable and in fair to good condition. Trout stocking does occur in a few locations. Air quality is fair to good.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Given the steepness of the topography, there is minimal recreational use on the steeper slopes providing opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There is quite a bit of hiking, mountain biking and off highway vehicle use during the summer and holiday weekends on the motorized trails within the Rincon Inventoried Roadless Area and along trails, reducing opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in these areas. Developed recreation facilities, services on the boundaries, and cherry stems include trailheads, campgrounds, a pack station, roads, and organization camps that create an atmosphere minimizing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as well as solitude. Visitor use in the summer, organizational camps, and private inholdings reduce the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation as well as does the heliport along the boundary. In times of active fire suppression activity, the number of helicopters coming and going out of the heliport could be quite disruptive to visitors. Conversely, the inclusion of this unit into the wilderness system would protect the audible qualities of large areas away from these roads. Two small communities and some private property also exist at the edge of the polygon. Potential encounters with other visitors are low throughout most of the polygon. Use is primarily confined to trails within the area, with concentrations of use along roads at the boundaries or cherry stems. There is also outstanding white water opportunities on the Kern River.

Other Features of Value

Outstanding landscape features include waterfalls, pinnacles, granite domes, columnar basalt flows on the Kern River and the Rincon Fault. Native species have connectivity and habitat in the areas away from the impacts of man. These include rare plants, mountain yellow-legged frog, Kern River rainbows, spotted owl, fisher and goshawk. The Freeman Creek Giant Sequoia grove is a treasure. Bonita Cabin is an historic guard cabin from the early 1900s, located near Bonita Meadow. The Embree Mine possesses 2 cabins and remnants of a mill. The size of the area will allow for its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Manageability

The size of the unit, the number of cherry stemmed and short roads going into the unit, the amount of OHV use, and the high volume of visitors traveling Mountain 99 and Sherman Pass Road are challenges to manageability. Lloyd Meadow Road 22S82, which is cherry stemmed into the length of the western side, provides valued access to a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities during the spring, fall and summer recreation season. The extent of the development, road access, and the amount visitor use during the summer recreation season would make the west side very difficult to manage as a wilderness. The Forks of the Kern Trailhead is the access point to the Forks of the Kern, a world class whitewater boating experience. There is no authorized over snow vehicle use in a portion of the polygon. Motorized trails are important to the public. Sherman Pass road provides opportunities for access into the area trails.

In the area east of the Rincon Trail (33E23) and north of the Schaeffer Trail (33E24 and 33E26), the cherry stemmed motorized routes dead end and make this area most feasible for wilderness management. The motorized and mountain biking activities along the perimeter and the southerly, elongated configuration that is not adjacent to the wilderness make the southern area less manageable as wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The wilderness characteristics of this area are largely intact. It is contiguous to the Golden Trout Wilderness and Rincon Critical Aquatic Refuge and part is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument as well as Rincon Inventoried Roadless Area. Given the steepness and remoteness of the terrain, it has large areas with no effect from humans.

The one manageability concern is the management of the mines, private lands, trails and communication site.

The polygon provides habitat connectivity and habitat for a number of rare plants and animals. A grove of important Giant Sequoia trees also grows within the unit. The natural fire regime governs the ecosystem and the result is natural processes that provide enhanced habitat opportunities to the rare plants and animals within the unit. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,750 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 21,673 acres.

Polygon 1390
(Osa Meadows – Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1390 is a 1,100 acre area that is somewhat triangular in shape and contiguous on two sides with the Golden Trout Wilderness (Figure B-15, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map D). It is also bordered by the forest boundary and roads.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4 percent of the area of the polygon (49 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains five ecological groups with a total area of 93 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1390 is a high elevation steep mountainous area primarily composed of red fir and lodgepole pine stands on western facing slopes. There is an authorized motorized trail and an authorized forest system road that is open to the public within the southern portion of the polygon. The 2002 McNally Fire burned through the eastern edge of the unit, in the 55 acre Osa Meadow area, which was followed later that year by flooding and severe downcutting. Across the rest of the polygon, one hundred years of active fire suppression created dense stands of vegetation. Livestock grazing has been absent since 2005.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are good opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the rugged and remote portions adjacent to designated wilderness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the eastern portion of the area due to authorized motorized trails and an authorized forest system road that is open to the public (i.e., both are within the boundaries of the polygon), as well as the extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the eastern border area.

Other Features of Value

Osa Meadow is an important montane meadow. This area is important for Native American values and a number of Native American prehistoric archaeological sites are known to exist in the area.

Manageability

Since this polygon is almost entirely enclosed by the adjacent Golden Trout Wilderness, this unit would be easy to manage as an extension of the adjacent wilderness. The Forest Service is implementing the Osa Meadow Restoration Project (Osa Project) for watershed improvement on approximately 19 acres along a portion of Osa Creek in Osa Meadow. Implementation is planned to be completed by summer of 2017.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is contiguous to the Golden Trout Wilderness. There are motorized use areas. There are good opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the rugged and remote portions adjacent to designated wilderness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined

recreation are limited in the eastern portion of the area due to authorized motorized trails and an authorized forest system road that is open to the public (i.e., both are within the boundaries of the polygon), as well as the extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the eastern border area. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 93 acres.

Polygon 1391 (Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East)

This polygon crosses the forest boundary between the Sequoia National Forest and the Inyo National Forest. The polygon was evaluated as one whole unit containing portions on both forests. The polygon narrative is in the Inyo National Forest segment of this evaluation section. (Figure B-15, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map D and Figure B-10, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I).

Polygon 1394 (Domeland/Woodpecker Roadless Area – Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1394 is a 51,801 acre area with elevations ranging from approximately 2,500 to nearly 10,000 feet on Sirretta Peak. It is located northeast of Kernville and is contiguous with the Domeland Wilderness (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E and Figure B-18, Evaluation Map G) on the eastern border. Much of the unit is in the Woodpecker Inventoried Roadless Area in the north and Domeland Inventoried Roadless Area in the south.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 12 percent of the area of the polygon (6,202 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrub land and inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 4,780 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

General topography of the area is rolling plateau with ridges divided into two areas. The biotic communities in the lower to mid-elevations are composed of various shrubs, forbs, non-native grasses and chaparral. Higher elevations are composed primarily of conifer forests with abundant meadows and mountain streams. A series of meadows is above 8,000 feet, draining into Dark Canyon and Trout Creek. Most meadows appear to be in good condition. The general area has historic ecological sightings and collections of multiple species by Joseph Grinnell, especially at Taylor Meadow. This includes mountain yellow-legged frog. There are occasional sightings of fisher, spotted owl and goshawk. Mid-elevations have been heavily impacted by the historic clear cuts and plantations Upper elevations on the north burned partially during the Manter Fire in 2000 and the McNally Fire in 2002, followed by some salvage logging.

Historic motorized use is prevalent in the north and west of this polygon. This unit is bounded and dissected by an extensive system of cherry stemmed, forest system roads and motorized

routes. Existing mountain biking and motorized opportunities are present within this polygon. Although much of the polygon is in two inventory roadless areas, it is heavily influenced by the extensive system of forest service roads that exist in the interior. The south end of the polygon bordered by the Dome Land Wilderness to the east; forest system trail 34E12 (motorized), forest road 23S07, and forest road 22S12 on the west, Cannell Meadow NR Trail (motorized) on the east. Forest roads 22S12, 24S13, 24S33, and 24S14 are cherry stemmed, and dissect this area of the polygon. The predominant vegetation open conifer woodland with meadows, some shrub land and abundant rock outcrops.

The north end of the polygon contains the Sirretta Trail, a forest system trail open to motorcycles and bounded by the Dome Land Wilderness on the east. The Cannell Meadow Trail lies west of the Sirretta Trail and is also open to motorized use. This area of the polygon also contains forest road 22S19 on the west to Sherman Pass Road, and forest road 22S21 is cherry stemmed. The boundary then proceeds to forest system trail 33E28 (open to motorized use) to Forest Road 22S26 and then to the Dome Land Wilderness boundary. Vegetation treatments occurred in the northern boundary. There are many streams and springs, including Little Trout Creek and Machine Creek, Sirretta Meadow, Sirretta Peak at 9, 977 feet elevation. The area is mountainous, high elevation and is predominately conifer forest. Most of the area is in the Woodpecker Inventoried Roadless Area and the Twisselmann Botanical Area.

Developments associated with historic grazing include cabins, fencing and other features to manage livestock. Portions of a historic phone line connecting Lone Pine to Kernville and Lake Isabell still are visible in portions of the area. Remnants of the Cannell Lookout phone line survive to the south of Cannell Trail. Some creeks in the area appear to have California golden and rainbow trout hybrids.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Portions of this polygon are adjacent to highly popular recreation areas including dispersed sites, a highway and multiple forest system roads in boundary areas. Several cherry stem roads that dissect the area. There are two areas of authorized motorized trails within the boundaries of this polygon, one in the northern portion and one in the southern portion. The southerly portion of the polygon is in close proximity to Kernville. All roads and motorized trails within and adjacent to the polygon are heavily used by OHV, mountain bikers, hiker, and horseback riders; they access wilderness trailheads and other dispersed recreation opportunities, private property, and range allotments. A locally important mountain bike trail is located within the area. The area has several improvements mainly for recreation including undeveloped campsites, corrals, and trailheads along boundary and cherry stemmed roads. Low elevation military overflights are frequent in this area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas of the polygon with extensive networks of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public and authorized motorized trails.

Other Features of Value

The Twisselmann Botanical Area is within this area and the public comments indicate that the area has astonishing botanical diversity. A number of interesting vistas of dome lands are possible within the polygon. Numerous historic and prehistoric sites are located within the area. The area also includes the Trout Creek critical aquatic refuge.

Manageability

The area has many entry points to provide easy access during the summer months. However the fairly remote location limits visitors from outside of Kern County. The network of cherry stem roads in the southeast area of the polygon makes management of motorized use difficult. An existing motorized route, the Sirretta Trail, is identified in the mediated settlement agreement of 1990. Motorcycle use was identified as an accepted inconsistency in the area classified as semi-primitive non-motorized until an alternative route was built or a decision not to build an alternative route was made. In either case, the trail would be closed to motorized use. This has not been resolved even though extensive work has been done by planning teams. The northern end of the polygon is surrounded by motorized routes with one cherry stem road reducing the manageability as wilderness. The limited access, light visitor use, and the steep topography facilitate manageability in the central area of the polygon except where the motorized route (Sirretta Trail) dissects the polygon. The multiple meadows and streams in these areas would benefit from wilderness protections.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The polygon is contiguous to the Domelands Wilderness to the east. Despite the extensive inventoried roadless areas, Motorized use is prevalent on authorized forest system roads along the border, including several cherry stem roads, and on authorized motorized routes within the polygon. Several recreation developments are located within the area and private property at Horse Meadow. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas of the polygon with extensive networks of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public and authorized motorized trails. The polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 6,202 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,780 acres.

Polygon 1395
(Clicks Creek – Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness)

General Description

This triangular polygon is 2,285 acres and bisected by a cherry stemmed road providing access to the Summit Trailhead. Approximately 65 percent of the outer boundary is adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness and the Moses recommended wilderness. The entire polygon is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). The area is relatively flat, headwaters covered in high elevation conifer forest. Elevation is approximately 8,100 feet.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates only 1 acre consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 3 ecological groups with a total area of 92 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

A cherry stem system road provides access to the Summit Trailhead, splitting the polygon in two. Species composition has been altered significantly by human actions associated with fire suppression and historic timber harvesting. There is light hunting pressure, some invasive plants and past fish stocking of non-natives in streams. Amphibians are not doing well. Connectivity for species dependent on old growth is good.

Although the polygon is not located near developed areas, human manipulations are apparent. Approximately 50 percent of the area was harvested and improvements such as plantations, vegetation management projects, check dams, stream restoration structures and remnant roads for timber harvest affect the apparent naturalness of the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This polygon is next to open roads. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that surround and cherry stem the polygon, nearly bisecting it. The area is authorized for OSV, limiting opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the winter.

Other Features of Value

Perennial streams originate in this polygon and feed the Little Kern River and are habitat for Little Kern golden trout.

Manageability

The Giant Sequoia Management Plan governs management of the entire area and requires protection of objects of interest which may require mechanical treatments. The current condition of the resource would benefit from restoration activities. Many logged areas that may need future restoration making management as wilderness difficult. The area is also popular for over snow vehicle (OSV) use in the winter and wilderness management would displace this use.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that surround and cherry stem the polygon, nearly bisecting it. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout this small area. Appearance of naturalness is substantially altered by intensive past timber harvest that covers approximately fifty percent of the area. The area is authorized for OSV, limiting opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the winter. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 92 acres.

Polygon 1397 (South of Jordan Peak – Adjacent to Moses Recommended Wilderness)

General Description

This elongated, oval polygon is 3,104 acres with an irregular boundary made by several cherry stem roads. Adjacent to the proposed Moses Wilderness at the northern tip however, it shares a larger boundary with two residential communities, Sequoia Crest and Alpine Village (Figure B-14, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C). The entire polygon is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The area is relatively flat, headwaters covered in high elevation conifer forest. Elevation is approximately 8,100 feet.

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 3,104 acres, indicates 1 acre consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 447 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Two private communities and Highway 190 form the boundary on the west. Fire suppression and past harvest as well as grazing have significantly altered the ecosystem. Streams are somewhat degraded, air quality is often poor due to human uses in the Central Valley, and species composition is altered. Approximately 50 percent of area appears noticeably altered by timber harvest and road building. Species composition has been altered significantly by fire suppression and historic timber harvesting. Connectivity for species dependent on old growth is good. Roads are prevalent on the boundary and several cherry stem the boundary. There is a microwave tower and access road and a log cabin. Jordan Peak Lookout still in operation as a fire lookout, and is an outstanding vertical landmark.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due State Highway 190 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

Jordan Peak Lookout, expected cultural and historic sites, and headwaters of important perennial streams.

Manageability

Most of the elongated boundary is bounded by residential development or roads. Special use permits include grazing, power line easement, potential active tribal uses, 1 special use permit for roads, 4 special use permits for water transmission lines less than 12 inches, 1 special use permit for a passive reflector-broadcasting, and 1 special use permit for amateur radio. Jordan Peak Lookout is still active.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Although the polygon is adjacent to proposed wilderness, the manageability and character is heavily impacted by adjacent residential developments and special uses. Opportunities for

solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due State Highway 190 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this small polygon. Appearance of naturalness is substantially altered by intensive past timber harvest that covers approximately fifty percent of the area. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds likely penetrate throughout this small area. The small size and shape does not allow for any adjustment by reshaping boundaries.

Polygon 1404 (Hatchet Peak)

General Description

The area consists of 6,068 acres and is bordered by the Tule River Indian Reservation to the north, Bureau of Land Management lands and private lands to the west, and National Forest System land to the east (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E). The area is basically wedge-shaped and primarily a moderate to steep west-facing slope, with a high point at Hatchet Peak at an elevation of 6,385 feet. The entire area lies within the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates none of the area of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 2,279 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is primarily a moderate to steep west-facing slope. The vegetation is mixed oak woodland. Fire suppression has altered the density and composition of vegetation. Invasive plant species are present. The area has been a frequent site of illegal marijuana cultivation. Air quality is poor. Developments on the Tule River Indian Reservation, Bureau of Land Management lands and private ranch lands bordering this polygon are apparent. Grazing is generally low and currently limited to areas near open roads adjacent to the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Use is generally low and currently limited to areas near open roads adjacent to the area. The area is generally free from motorized noise. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are good in this area.

Other Features of Value

The area is entirely within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. One historic and five prehistoric sites have been formally recorded. Many more sites, both prehistoric and historic, are expected to be found.

Manageability

The western and northern boundaries of the area are the forest boundaries. The eastern edge is largely bounded by roads. Because of the close proximity to other landownerships (the Tule River Indian Reservation, Bureau of Land Management lands and private ranch lands), fire suppression activities and protection of special uses and private property protection will make management as

wilderness difficult. Fuel reduction to protect the objects of interest and tribal lands, as prescribed in the monument management plan, could affect wilderness management.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Altered vegetation density and composition, illegal marijuana cultivation and poor air quality diminish the apparent naturalness. The close proximity to adjacent developed lands, with visual evidence of civilization, diminishes opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise none of the acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,279 acres.

Polygon 1408 (Upper Kern Canyon Escarpment–Baker Peak)

General Description

Polygon 1408 consists of 48,730 acres and is primarily a steep, east-facing slope on the Upper Kern Canyon Escarpment, with the highest point at Baker Peak at an elevation of 7,926 feet (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E). The shape of the polygon is long and narrow and at least a few miles wide at its narrowest point. The polygon is not adjacent to any existing wilderness.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3 percent of the area of the polygon (1,505 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 15,662 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland, and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The vegetation is predominately shrub land with limited hardwood woodland and conifer hardwood woodland. Good vistas of the Upper Kern River and Kern Plateau exist. Invasive vegetation species are present. The area has adequate chaparral cover to provide contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife. It somewhat reflects natural conditions; in the western periphery there is a plantation and a few meadows with large gullies. Most of the polygon is in the Chico Inventoried Roadless Area, including a small portion that is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The eastern edge overlaps the North Fork Kern River wild and scenic river corridor, and across the boundary the area is classified as a recreation zone. The corridor is readily accessible by Mountain Road 99, a heavily traveled road, and has extensive recreation developments and use along the shoreline. There has been some impoundment or diversion in the past. Baker Point Botanical Area is located on the west side of the central portion of the polygon.

Within the western portion of the polygon there are system roads that are open to the public. The Bull Run Trail, (32E39) is motorized and mines are in this unit. Lands adjacent to this area to the west are moderately roaded from past timber harvesting activities. The communities of Kernville,

Riverkern, and Wofford Heights are on the southern and southeastern boundaries as is Bureau of Land Management land. Private land adjacent to the area includes residences and businesses. Mountain 99, is a high use road adjacent to and on the opposite side of the North Fork Kern River.

There are utility lines, communications sites, the Baker Point Lookout, and other linear right-of-way structures within the area. Numerous developments and activities occur adjacent to the polygon, particularly along the eastern edge, to the south and somewhat on the western boundary. The sights and sounds would be apparent detracting from the natural quality. Air quality is moderate, influenced by the San Joaquin air basin.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The steep character and vegetation type generally limits access to most of the polygon. A large portion of the area is managed as inventoried roadless area, includes a small portion the Giant Sequoia National Monument and the Baker Point Botanical Area. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low in the less accessible areas and high on trails such as the Whiskey Flat Trail, a popular non-motorized trail beginning at the north end of the town of Kernville and travelling north along the Upper Kern River. Numerous developed and undeveloped recreation facilities, which are very heavily used, are adjacent to the eastern boundary of the roadless area, along the Kern River. Private land adjacent to the area includes residences and businesses. Mountain 99 is heavily traveled and adjacent to the Kern River on the opposite side. The Upper Kern River also receives thousands of commercial and private whitewater boating visitors each year, as a world-wide whitewater recreation and fishing destination. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in those portions of the roadless area that are adjacent to, and within sound distance, of these high use areas. Within the eastern third of the area on east-facing slopes, sights and sounds from adjacent development and activities would be apparent. Military training overflights occur frequently in this area.

Authorized motorized and non-motorized access is provided in the southwest portion of the polygon by means of a motorcycle trail and multiple spur-like roads that are open to the public. Snowmobile use occurs on groomed snowmobile routes in the winter. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this southwestern portion due to the extensive network of authorized motorized trails; a network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public; and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads on the perimeter, including a couple that cherry stem to form the boundary. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds likely penetrate throughout these areas.

Other Features of Value

Rare plants occur, such as the Shirley Meadows star tulip and Piute cypress, and the Baker Point Botanical Area is located here. Deep Creek Cave is on the western edge. The area features good vistas of the Upper Kern River and Kern Plateau. Numerous historic and prehistoric sites exist. The North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River lies along the eastern boundary of the area, and the area overlaps the wild and scenic river corridor.

Manageability

Generally, this area is a large tract of relatively undeveloped land, with mostly low potential for further development due to lack of access, topography and brush. Eighty percent of the area has very limited access. The shape is long and narrow, but due to its size, it is still a few miles wide at its narrowest point. Utility lines and other linear right-of-way structures exist within the polygon.

A communication site is located at Baker Point, where the potential exists to add more improvements. Four active lode mining claims are in the area. Motorized and mechanized use on existing Forest Service system trails would have to be eliminated. These users would be displaced, and some incursion could occur. Off highway vehicle use is concentrated in the southwest part of the area, with the intent to retain those trails in that area. The eastern edge overlaps the North Fork of the Kern wild and scenic river corridor. This section of river is managed as a recreation zone and receives very high levels of use, both on the land adjacent to the river as well as on the river itself.

Numerous developments and activities occur adjacent to the area, some immediately adjacent, particularly along the eastern edge and to the south. Mountain 99, which is heavily traveled, is adjacent to the opposite side of the Kern River. Numerous developed and undeveloped day use and overnight recreation facilities, which are very heavily used, are adjacent to the eastern boundary of the area, along the Kern River. Private land adjacent to the area includes residences and businesses. The communities of Riverkern, Kernville and Wofford Heights are adjacent to the area. Additional development is likely in Kernville and Wofford Heights, which could result in new demands on this area for utility and recreation infrastructure and to conduct fuels reduction.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Although much of this polygon is in an inventoried roadless area, the existing multiple uses on the border and the location away from other wilderness make this area a poor candidate for inclusion. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in those portions of the roadless area adjacent to, and within sound distance, of the high use areas. Within the eastern third of the area on east-facing slopes, sights and sounds from adjacent development and activities are apparent. Military training overflights occur frequently in this area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this southwestern portion due to the extensive network of authorized motorized trails; a network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public; and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads on the perimeter, including a couple that cherry stem to form the boundary. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds likely penetrate throughout these areas. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,505 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 15,662 acres.

Polygon 1410 (Deerwood Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1410 comprises 8,494 acres of land shaped somewhat like an ear. Elevations range from approximately 6,000 to 9,600 feet. It is adjacent to the Rincon Inventoried Roadless Area on the north, Cannell Inventoried Roadless Area on the south and Woodpecker Inventoried Roadless Area on the east (Figure B-15, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map D and Figure B-16, Evaluation Map E).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2 percent of the area of the polygon (181 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 1,054 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected

in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

General topography of the area is steep and rocky with some areas of bedrock-defined channels. There are some fisher, goshawk and spotted owl detections. There are some slender salamanders and several sensitive plants within the area. The polygon is bordered by Cherry Hill Road on the west, Sherman Pass Road on the north and a single track motorcycle trail on the east. There are several roads within the polygon that are open to motorized use. Lower and mid elevations were severely burned during the McNally Fire in 2002, leaving montane shrub with scattered burned trees and isolated islands of forest. Higher elevations have some areas of intact forest. Alders and other riparian vegetation along Brush Creek and Alder Creek burned during the McNally Fire, but are recovering. The only development within the polygon is livestock infrastructure, a few system roads, trails and minor check dams at Poison Meadow and Mosquito Meadow. There are some undeveloped campsites at the end of the cherry stem roads within the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is very lightly visited, mainly by hunters in the fall and persons accessing dispersed and developed campgrounds, such as the Horse Meadow Campground. The area is visited by cattle permittees in the course of managing their livestock and livestock infrastructure. There are high signs of development and use on its boundaries. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due authorized motorized trails, paved roads, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this polygon, including a road that cherry stems to partially dissect the area. Extensive plantations alter the appearance of naturalness, treatments are planned that require motorized access and motorized tools.

Other Features of Value

There are some fisher, goshawk and spotted owl detections. There are some slender salamanders and several sensitive plants within the area. The area is within the watershed of existing and potential wild and scenic rivers. Brush Creek has been proposed for consideration by the public.

Manageability

There are several roads within the polygon that are open to motorized use. Limited access and due to steep terrain would make manageability difficult.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is bound by a major paved arterial road on the north (Sherman Pass Road) and another paved road (Cherry Hill Road) on the west that provides access to private property (Horse Meadow). Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due authorized motorized trails, paved roads, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this polygon, including a road that cherry stems to partially dissect the area. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,054 acres.

Polygon 1420 (Lumreau Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1420 comprises of 6,983 acres of land shaped like a tadpole. Elevations range from approximately 4,500 to 6,500 feet. It is not contiguous with wilderness areas. It is adjacent to the Greenhorn Creek Inventoried Roadless Area to the southwest (Figure B-16, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E and Figure B-17, evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the polygon (9 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 2,565 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland and Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

General topography of the area is steep with deep canyons. The mountainous area consists primarily of oak woodland, chaparral and non-native annual grasses, with conifer plantations in the highest elevations. Twenty five percent of the area burned in the north during the Red Mountain Fire in 1970, and another area burned in the south during the Ranch Fire in 2014. There are extensive noticeable dozer lines within the Ranch Fire area. The boundaries of the area include extensive cherry stem roads with undeveloped campsites. The unit has authorized forest system motorized OHV trails that are open to public use; and non-authorized motorized trails that are user created. Some roads open to high clearance vehicles are mixed use areas. Grazing occurs in the area with allotment fencing and some structures at the Old Likely Mill site. The area has feral pigs.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is highly visited by recreationists, especially in the development around the borders. The area within the polygon is popular for hunting in the fall. The area and border have roads open to OHV recreation on the north, east and south and several motorized trails on the southeast. The traffic noise from the use of roads and motorized trails within the area limits opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

There is the unique or high value Old Likely Mill site within the polygon. Historic condor roost sites present. There are numerous documented prehistoric sites.

Manageability

Limited access and due to steep and deep canyons would make manageability difficult. Two large cherry stem roads project into the southern portion of the unit, giving it an odd serpentine shape.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is used primarily for hunting and grazing, with very light recreational use. There is substantial departure from appearance of naturalness due to extensive plantations throughout this polygon. The appearance of naturalness is affected along eight miles of a double bulldozer line created during fire suppression activities in 2014. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and

unconfined recreation are limited in areas near the perimeter due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads, including two cherry stem roads. Sights and sounds associated with motorized likely penetrate a large portion of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,565 acres.

Polygon 1422 (Woodward Peak)

General Description

Polygon 1422 is an 8,008 acre area to the west of Lake Isabella and north of the Lower Kern River (Figure B-17, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 8 percent of the area of the polygon (411 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 2.139 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1422 is a low to mid-elevation mountainous area, primarily of shrub and oak woodland, with conifers at higher elevations. There are many vista points overlooking Lake Isabella and its surrounding recreation developments and communities. The area is bounded on the west by Rancheria Road (FS25S15); on the north by FS26S03, which connects to Sawmill Road (County Road 128); on the east by private and BLM lands; and on the south by FS 26S06. It is a popular OHV use area. Plant composition has been moderately altered. Large, intense and stand-replacing fires aided the introduction and establishment of annual grasses throughout the area. Invasive plant species are also found along roads. Hazardous waste and trash from illegal marijuana gardens have littered the area.

Portions of the area have substantially noticeable alterations to the landscape and permanent improvements, most no longer used or maintained, associated with historic mining. There are 4 active placer mining claims throughout T.26, R.31, in Section 36. There are 15 active placer mining claims throughout T.27, R.32, in Section 4. Developments are mainly vertical and horizontal mining shafts. The analysis area overlaps the Greenhorn Mining District and possibly the western edge of the Keys Mining District. Both districts are associated with the discovery of gold in the southern Sierra in 1854, and with the early settlements of Petersburg near the crest of the Greenhorn Mountains, and Keysville near the Kern River. Named mines located within the area include the Lone Star, Deep Gold and Mayflower. The southern edge of the area is located within the northern fringe of a historic mining landscape associated with Greenhorn Creek and numerous mining features, and associated infrastructure such as ditches, cabins and mill sites.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the presence of developed campgrounds, roads and motorized trails within the analysis area. These trails and

roads are easily accessed from the communities surrounding Lake Isabella. The unit is crisscrossed with system trails with connectors of user defined (unauthorized) trails.

Other Features of Value

Numerous prehistoric and historic sites are located in the area. As noted earlier, the area overlaps the Greenhorn Mining District. Landscape-level placer mining sites from the 19th century overlap the area along Greenhorn Creek. Brown's Mill is in the eastern portion and is the site of a 1870s sawmill associated with the Cove Mining District and the growth of early Kernville. Traces of historic logging roads and other infrastructure are present in many portions of area.

Manageability

The biggest manageability concern is the presence of numerous roads and motorized use. The sights and sounds from human activity adjacent to the analysis area affect the wilderness character in terms of solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The wilderness characteristics of this area have been significantly compromised by the prevalence of motorized use and significant historic and current mining activities. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon. Sights and sounds associated with motorized use likely penetrate the entire polygon. There are active mining claims within this polygon, with permitted motorized road access for maintenance and motorized maintenance activities. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,139 acres.

Polygon 1425 (Delonegha Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1425 is a 14,675 acre area along the western portion of the Lower Kern River (Figure B-17, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F). It is outside the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (213 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 4,413 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1425 is a mid-elevation mountainous area composed of oak woodland and brush. Plant composition has been moderately altered. Thirty-percent of the area was harvested, the rest has been altered by 100 years of fire suppression. Large, intense and stand-replacing fires have aided the introduction and establishment of annual grasses in all parts of the analysis area. Invasive

plant species also occur along roads and trails. Hazardous waste and trash from illegal marijuana gardens have littered the area. It is bordered by State Highway 178, which provides access into Lake Isabella, Kernville and other areas within the Sequoia National Forest. The entire unit is crisscrossed with authorized forest system motorized trails with connectors of user defined (unauthorized) trails. The north east corner has one system road open to the public that is within the boundary of the polygon. High use developed recreation facilities occur all along the Kern River Corridor, immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the polygon. A hydroelectric project also occurs in this area of the polygon.

There are 9 active lode mining claims and 22 active placer mining claims throughout T. 27, R. 32, Sections 3, 10, 11 and 19. There are 3 active lode mining claims and 55 active placer mining claims throughout T. 27, R. 31, Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 16, 24, 26, 33 and 34. Development is largely limited to mining shafts, both vertical and horizontal. The polygon overlaps the Greenhorn and Keys Mining Districts. Both districts are associated with the discovery of gold in the southern Sierra in 1854 and with the early settlements of Petersburg near the crest of the Greenhorn Mountains, and Keysville. There are numerous mining sites and infrastructure that includes ditches, mill sites, cabins, foundations and dumps.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are limited by the presence of motorized use on roads and trails within the analysis area. It is also influenced by the sights and sounds of noticeable activity both by recreational visitors and by activities taking place at the hydroelectric project and developed sites that are adjacent to the analysis area along the Kern River. The existence and use of these facilities would substantially impact opportunities for solitude within the portions of the area that are near these adjacent facilities.

Other Features of Value

Numerous prehistoric and historic sites are located in the area. As noted earlier, the area overlaps the Greenhorn Mining District. Landscape-level placer mining sites from the 19th century overlap the area along Greenhorn Creek. Brown's Mill, site of a 1870s sawmill associated with the Cove Mining District and the growth of early Kernville, is located on the eastern side of the area. Traces of historic logging roads and other infrastructure are present in many portions of area.

The area contains a number of rare and important plants and animals such as goshawk, Pacific fisher, spotted owl, Hall’s daisy, Giant Sequoia groves, several species of slender salamander and possibly Congdon’s lewisia. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher. Some non-native fish may exist.

Manageability

The biggest manageability concern is the extensive network of authorized motorized trails and mining operations. The sights and sounds from human activity adjacent to the analysis area affect the wilderness character in terms of solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The wilderness characteristics of this area have been significantly compromised by the prevalence of motorized roads and trails, and their associated uses, as well as by significant mining history. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and Highway 178 along the southern

boundary. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,413 acres.

Polygon 1426 (Adjacent to Bright Star Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1426 is a 49,918 acre area located in the Piute Mountains on the far southern edge of the Sequoia National Forest. The analysis area is contiguous to the Bright Star Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management) (Figure B-18, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map G). The unit is consists of four different bioregions: the Sierra Nevada, Transverse Range, Mojave Desert and Central Valley.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 7 percent of the area of the polygon (3,407acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrub land and inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe. This polygon also contains 7 ecological groups with a total area of 12,881 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, and Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1426 is a mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of conifer forest in higher elevations and oak woodland and brush at lower elevations. The entire unit is crisscrossed with authorized motorized trails and has some system roads open to public use. Thirty-percent of the area has been timber harvest. Some non-native fish may exist. This area has appeal for dirt bike enthusiasts, and off-highway vehicle recreation. The area was heavily occupied during the Gold Rush, and cabins and mines abound in the area. Superfund repositories are located at the north end of Alaska Flat, on Erskine Creek and at French Meadow.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited by the presence of motorized use. There are multiple authorized motorcycle routes and roads allowing use by all vehicles. There are also numerous unauthorized user-created routes. Motorized and mountain biking enthusiasts are very interested in keeping and expanding recreation opportunities in this area.

Other Features of Value

The area offers unique opportunities to study rapid evolution and ecosystem development. There are a number of rare and important plants and animals such as goshawk, spotted owl, Hall's daisy, and several species of slender salamander. Congdon's lewisia may be present. The area is important habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher. The area includes Long Canyon Research

Natural Area, Inspiration Point Inventoried Roadless Area and Bodfish Piute Cypress Botanical Area. Rare Piute and Bodfish cypress trees have extremely limited ranges.

Manageability

The ability of the agency to resolve resource issues related to mining impacts, in particular Superfund (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act or CERCLA) sites would make manageability difficult. Superfund repositories are located at the north end of Alaska Flat, on Erskine Creek and at French Meadow. To address environmental risks from hazardous mining waste, these sites could require vehicle access and operation of heavy equipment. The repository for the Bright Star mine requires regular maintenance to stabilize. These activities could include the operation of heavy equipment and require vehicle access. The French Meadow repository is new and may need additional work in the future to stabilize. CERCLA work is proposed at the Jeannette-Grant mine where arsenic-laden tailings are being eroded by Erskine Creek (which runs down into the community of Lake Isabella). Outside of the environmental hazard, repositories have the potential to impact visual and auditory qualities. Repositories are also sterile and do not regenerate vegetation.

The off highway vehicle community is concerned about losing access and motorized opportunities in the Piute Mountains and is actively engaged in promoting the additions of many user-created routes to the existing travel management system. These motorized use recreation advocates volunteer many thousands of hours to maintain trails, and have created a destination motorized trail system that attracts expert riders from many states and other countries.

Motorized use in the semi-primitive non-motorized area of the Piutes is discussed in the mediated settlement agreement 1990 and allows for one motorized trail in the interim and until an environmental analysis is completed.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Three designated special interest areas testify to the unique natural resources of the area. However, motorized trails and roads and significant and substantially noticeable mining impacts have a significant impact on wilderness characteristics in much of the unit. Motorized access to this area is needed to maintain CERCLA sites. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon; sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate through large portions of the polygon. This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,407 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 12,881 acres.

Polygon 1427 (Clear Creek, Paiute Mountains)

General Description

Polygon 1427 is a 6,747 acre area located in the Piute Mountains on the southern edge of the Sequoia National Forest outside the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Figure B-17, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F and Figure B-18, evaluation map G).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 5 percent of the area of the polygon (319 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected

in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 1,383 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Polygon 1427 is a mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of oak woodland and brush in lower elevations and conifer forest in higher elevations. Hydrologic conditions are steep bedrock-defined streams that are mostly intermittent. The area has one existing motorcycle trail (33E45) dissecting the area. There are signs of past timber harvesting, evidence of past mining activities and illegal marijuana gardens. Significant soil erosion due to flash flooding and debris flows following fire. Non-native grasses are present and their populations considered stable and not increasing.

The area was heavily occupied during the Gold Rush and cabin and mines abound in the area. There are 9 active lode mining claims and 22 active placer mining claims throughout T. 27, R. 32, in sections 3, 10, 11 and 19. There are 3 active lode mining claims and 55 active placer mining claims throughout T. 27, R. 31, sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 16, 24, 26, 33 and 34. The area is located within the Valley View Mining District. The Valley View Mining District was discovered in the 1870s and active into the 1940s. Mining machinery associated with the Valley View Mine is located on Clear Creek below the mine. The mine is located on private property. Near the head of Clear Creek is Burton Mill, site of a stamp mill.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited by the presence of human activity. The sights and sounds of recreation activity, mainly off highway vehicle use, and the sights and sounds of activities taking place on lands adjacent to the analysis area are noticeable. The volume of traffic on Saddle Springs Road and OHV areas is very high.

Other Features of Value

There are no other features of value documented.

Manageability

Roaded access is provided to private inholdings, utility corridors and OHV trails within the polygon. Existing system trails were designated in the travel management decision. Industrial mining material activity within the polygon has potential for some hazmat related issues that would require motorized access and motorized tool activity. There are active authorized restoration treatments in the southern and eastern portions of the polygon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The apparent naturalness within this area is affected by the existence of motorized use, evidence of past timber harvesting, evidence of past mining activities and illegal marijuana gardens. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trail that bisects the polygon; sights and sounds from motorized use would likely penetrate the polygon. There are authorized restoration treatments in the southern and eastern portions of the polygon. Industrial mining material activity within the polygon has potential for

some hazmat related issues that would require motorized access and motorized tool activity. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,383 acres.

Polygon 1429 (Pierce Valley – Adjacent to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1429 is a 2,729 acre area located in the Giant Sequoia National Monument, adjacent to National Park Service wilderness (Figure B-12, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map A and Figure B-13, evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon (3 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 922 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This is a mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of mixed conifer forests interspersed with granite outcrops, meadows and streams. Plant and animal communities are mostly intact and representative of the area. Giant sequoias, spotted owls, fisher and goshawks are present in unit. Streams, meadows, and riparian areas are beautiful and most are in good to excellent condition. There are adjacent recreational developments (e.g., Eshom Campground) along the northern edge of the unit but are screened by trees and topography. Bull frogs are present at Pierce Pond. Pierce Valley Road and Forest Service Road 15S01 border the edge of the unit and receive moderate traffic, except during holidays when traffic is heavy. County Road 469 is about one quarter of a mile from the border.

This is a very popular OHV area with a new staging area in the planning phase, which will be located near the boundary. Developments within the area include several authorized forest system roads that are open to the public, a fence and corral at Pierce Valley and Evans Meadow, and an earthen dam at Pierce Pond. Access roads from previous timber management are unobtrusive. Fuels and timber harvest treatments have occurred across approximately 50 percent of the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Rising topography and forested slopes provide screening. Visitor use is concentrated in OHV use areas and in lower elevations near Eshom Campground on the northern boundary. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within this small polygon, and along the southern border with State Road 469. Sights and sounds from motorized use likely penetrate much of the polygon. This area is popular for OHV activities and a new staging area is in the planning phase with a State funded OHV grant.

Other Features of Value

Access to the Redwood Mountains, giant sequoia, views and meadows add scenic value. The area is rich is prehistoric Native American archaeological sites associated with trade trails. Giant sequoias, spotted owls, fisher and goshawks are present in unit.

Manageability

This area is popular for OHV activities and a new staging area is in the planning phase with a State funded OHV grant. Established use patterns would make management as wilderness problematic. A spotted owl protected activity center is at Cherry Point.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area appears natural with mixed conifer forested areas. It is contiguous to the National Park wilderness and private property. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited by OHV activity within the unit, and State Road 469 and Eshom campground on the boundary. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 922 acres.

Polygon 1431 (Woodpecker Roadless – Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1431 is a 7,234 acre area located directly north of Domeland Wilderness (Figure B-15, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map D). It contains 1,403 acres of the Woodpecker Inventoried Roadless Area.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 7 percent of the area of the polygon (510 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 44 ecological groups with a total area of 468 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This is a mid-to-high elevation mountainous area composed of brush and annual grasses in lower elevations, graduating to Sierran mixed conifer in higher elevations. Several meadow and riparian areas (critical aquatic refuges) are located within the polygon in differing stages of health, ranging from poor to good condition. The area includes a majority of the Bald Mountain Botanical Area that provides habitat for numerous rare plant species. Some areas of this unit contain clear-cuts, roads, OHV trails, plantations and other developments. A portion of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are some past timber harvest areas. The unit was burned as part of a backfire for the McNally Fire in 2002, with varying intensity and effects. Intensive sheep and cattle grazing occurred from the 1860s to the mid-1900s. Grazing impacts are moderate in the area (Fish Creek allotment); most of the area has limited forage value. Grazing associated developments within the area include water troughs, fence lines and corrals.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Most of the area is remote, with limited access and little visitation; development and signage is scarce. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in this area. A special use permit is issued to Edwards Air Force Base for their pilot wilderness survival training occurs approximately five times per year and attests to the area's wilderness character.

A portion of the polygon has extensive motorized use. Beach Ridge and Mahogany motorcycle trails are in the polygon, and Sherman Pass Road and other motorcycle trails are adjacent to the polygon to the east. There are multiple authorized forest system roads in the unit that open to the public. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in motorized areas are limited, including in areas within the polygon with authorized motorized trails and where authorized forest system roads that is open to the public. Opportunities are also limited due to paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of these areas. Sights and sounds from pervasive motorized use likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.

Other Features of Value

The Bald Mountain Botanical Area and Fish Creek Canyon, with interesting geologic features (basalt caps), provide a very unique and high value special resource. Forest Service sensitive species include Pacific fisher, slender salamanders, and historic detections of willow flycatcher. The area is separated from the South Sierra Wilderness to the north east by only the Sherman Pass Road.

Manageability

Limited access, location to other wilderness, and the remote location facilitates manageability as wilderness. The special use permit issued to Edwards Air Force Base for their pilot wilderness survival training could be problematic. Multiple system roads and motor vehicle trails in the unit are open to public. The area is currently in the old forest emphasis area and Southern Sierra fisher conservation area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is adjacent to the Domeland Wilderness, contains 1,403 acres of the Woodpecker Inventoried Roadless Area, and encompasses the Bald Mountain Botanical Area. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in much of the area. A special use permit is issued to Edwards Air Force Base for their pilot wilderness survival training, which occurs approximately five times per year and attests to the area's wilderness character.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas with authorized motorized us, including areas with authorized motorized trails and where authorized forest system roads are open to the public. These areas are also bordered by paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads. Sights and sounds from pervasive motorized use likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.

This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 510 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 468 acres.

Polygon 1432 (Blackrock Mountain – Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1432 is a 1,133-acre area is located directly south of the Golden Trout Wilderness (Figure B-15, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map D). National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 acre consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 3 ecological groups with a total area of 30 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This is a high elevation mountainous area primarily composed of Sierran mixed conifer with a scattering of shrubs and herbaceous grasses. There are several riparian areas and are in good condition. The area provides suitable habitat for several forest service sensitive species including the marten and slender salamanders. The overall character of the area appears natural. Roads border the unit except where the parcel abuts designated wilderness. A cherry stem road nearly divides the polygon into two sections. Within this polygon, there are authorized motorized trails and authorized system roads that are open to the public. The area is actively grazed but has limited forage value. The only developments within the area are livestock structures.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is visited by recreationists who use one motorized trail (Blackrock Mountain) that is within the polygon and multiple roads on the perimeter, including the one the cherry stem road that nearly bisects the polygon. There is one trail designed for pack and saddle use (Beach Meadow). The presence and use of motorized vehicles on roads and one motorized trail would limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

The polygon contains a contiguous area of red fir forest that provides a high value special resource that contributes to the wilderness character of the area.

Manageability

Motorized activity adds challenges to the ability of the agency to manage the area as wilderness especially in this remote location, which is close to an extensive system of popular motorized routes. Enforcement would be difficult.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Although the area is adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness, the presence of roads detracts from the naturalness of the area and its potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Most recreation use occurs on the motorized trail and the existing system road that cherry stems the area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the authorized motorized trail within this small polygon, and an authorized forest system road that nearly bisects the small polygon. Sights and sounds motorized use likely penetrates throughout much of the area.

This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5

percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 30 acres.

Polygon 1434 (Agnew Roadless – Adjacent to Monarch Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 1434 is a 3,726 acre area that is contiguous with the Monarch Wilderness and the King River Special Management Area (Figure B-12, Sequoia National Forest evaluation map A). It is within the Agnew Inventoried Roadless Area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument and contains Giant Sequoia groves.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (26 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 1,101 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups, however, comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This is a mid-elevation mountainous area primarily composed of oak woodland and brush. Higher elevations within the unit are blanketed with stands of old and secondary growth pine. It is located along the southern edge of the Kings River Special Management Area, and bordered by Highway 180, which provides access into Kings Canyon National Park. Scenic overlook pullouts along Highway 180, such as Yucca Point, provide panoramic vistas of the polygon.

Vegetation appears to be altered in some areas from timber harvest activities, and in most areas from fire suppression that increased vegetation density and altered species composition. Immediately adjacent to this unit are several highly developed recreational facilities along Highway 180, a major highway corridor that provides entry into the adjacent Kings Canyon National Park, as well as a Forest Service heliport. The only developments within the area are several forest system roads in the south half of the unit and a water pipe with associated water rights that is permitted to an adjacent private property parcel at Kings Canyon Lodge. The appearance of the small diameter pipe is not obtrusive. There are no grazing, mining or administrative facilities within the polygon. Motorized use is limited to a level 2 road that has been identified as not needed. Non-native fish may exist.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Given the rugged topography there is minimal recreational use on the steeper slopes. There are no National Forest System trails within the unit, but hiking and mountain biking use is popular during the summer months on the old timber roads. At Ten Mile Creek there is a heavily used user-created trail in the vicinity of the permitted water pipe. Highway 180 is a major tourist travel route during the summer months into Kings Canyon National Park. Wilderness vistas are interpreted through signage at car pullouts on the adjacent Highway 180 and the Yucca Point vista point provides a panoramic view of the entire polygon and adjacent Monarch Wilderness.

There are several major recreational facilities adjacent to this unit, such as the Kings Canyon Lodge. Sounds from traffic congregations of people along the highway corridor create are pervasive. Additionally, there is a heliport along the boundary of the unit. In times of active fire

suppression, the number of helicopters coming and going out of the heliport is pervasive. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to roads bordering three sides of this small polygon, including Highway 180, Ten Mile Road, and authorized forest system roads. There is a permitted water ditch in the polygon with associated water rights to an adjacent private property owner; the easement was awarded through court order. The inclusion of this unit into the wilderness system might protect the audible qualities of wilderness in the adjacent Monarch Wilderness and halt further development along the existing boundaries, but would not provide the opportunity within the unit itself.

Other Features of Value

The area contains rare plants and animals such as goshawk, Pacific fisher, spotted owl, Hall's daisy, Giant Sequoia groves, several species of slender salamander and possibly Congdon's lewisia. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher as well as multiple species of slender salamander.

Historic redwood logging sites and features such as the Ten Mile Creek Flume provide insight into forest management practices in a past pioneering era. The sheer size of the trees and the work to render them into usable forest products with primitive logging tools is a story of adventure, risk and the evolution of land management practices through time.

Manageability

The one manageability concern is the presence of the permitted water ditch and associated water rights to an adjacent private property owner. This easement was awarded through court order and removal is not possible. This water line could be removed from the unit. The reintroduction of a more natural fire regime would restore the ecosystem to one whose appearance is the result of natural processes and provide enhanced habitat opportunities to the rare plants and animals within the unit. Interpretive and educational opportunities exist for the old redwood logging features that remain 100 years after their use and abandonment.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This area is contiguous with Monarch Wilderness, Kings River Special Management Area, and is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument and the Agnew Inventoried Roadless Area. It has steep terrain and no mining, authorized trails or grazing but does have a forest system road that is open to public use. It provides habitat to a number of rare plants and animals including goshawk, Pacific fisher, spotted owl, Hall's daisy and possibly Congdon's lewisia. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this polygon due to an open forest system road in the polygon and heavy traffic roads bordering three sides of this small area, including Highway 180, Ten Mile Road, and authorized forest system roads. There is a permitted water ditch in the polygon with associated water rights to an adjacent private property owner; the easement was awarded through court order. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,101 acres.

Sequoia Maps

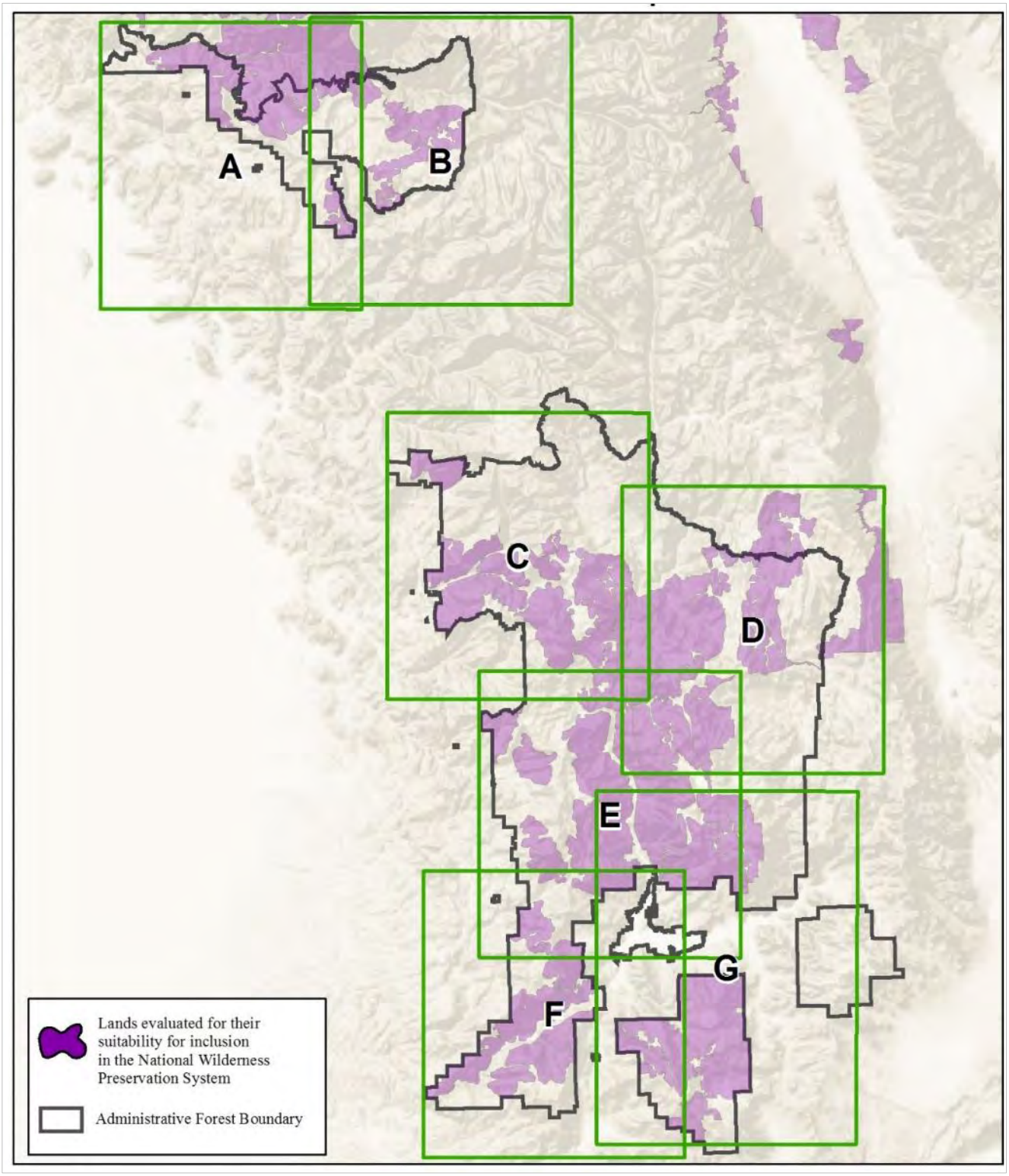


Figure B-11. Map index for Sequoia National Forest lands evaluated for their suitability to be recommended for wilderness designation

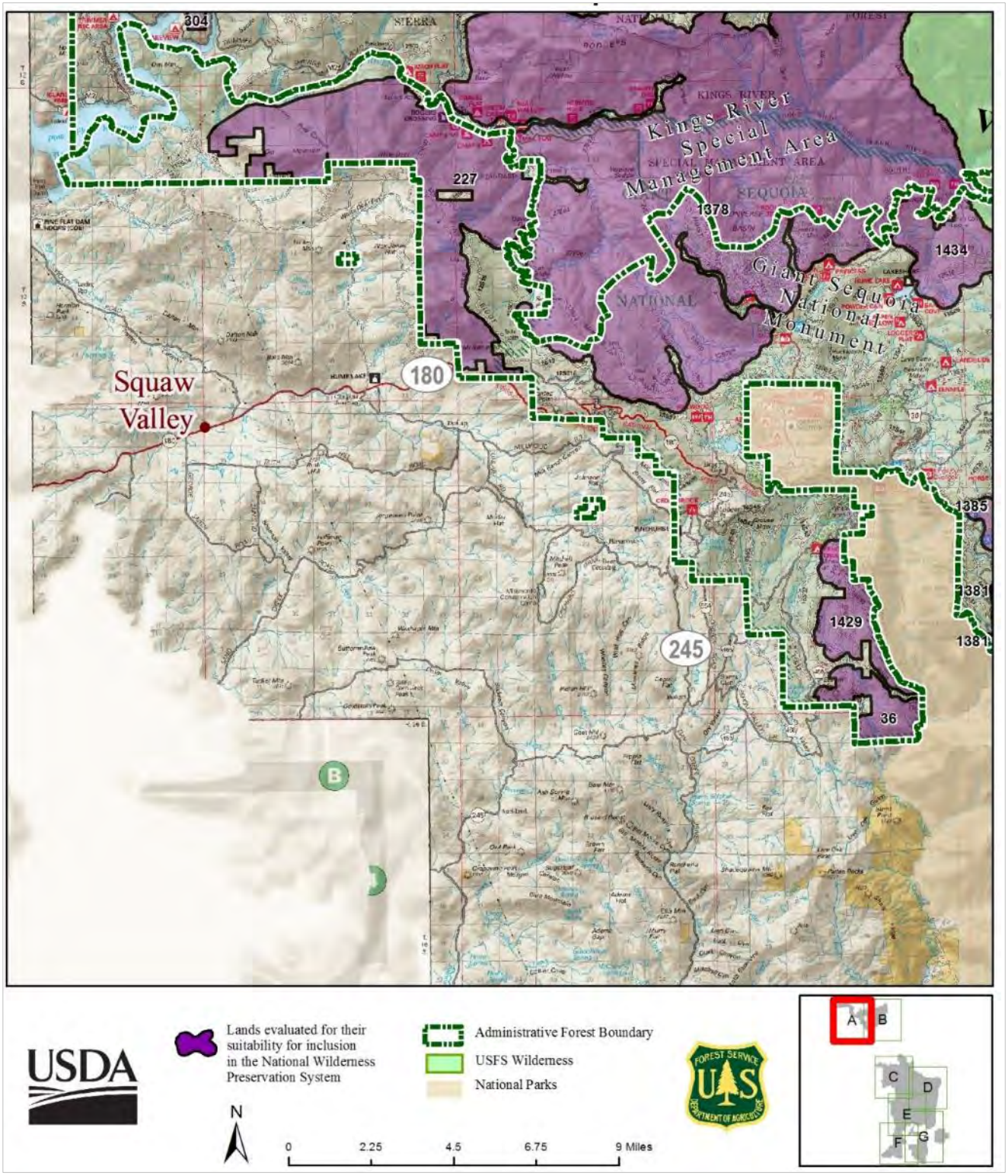


Figure B-12. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map A

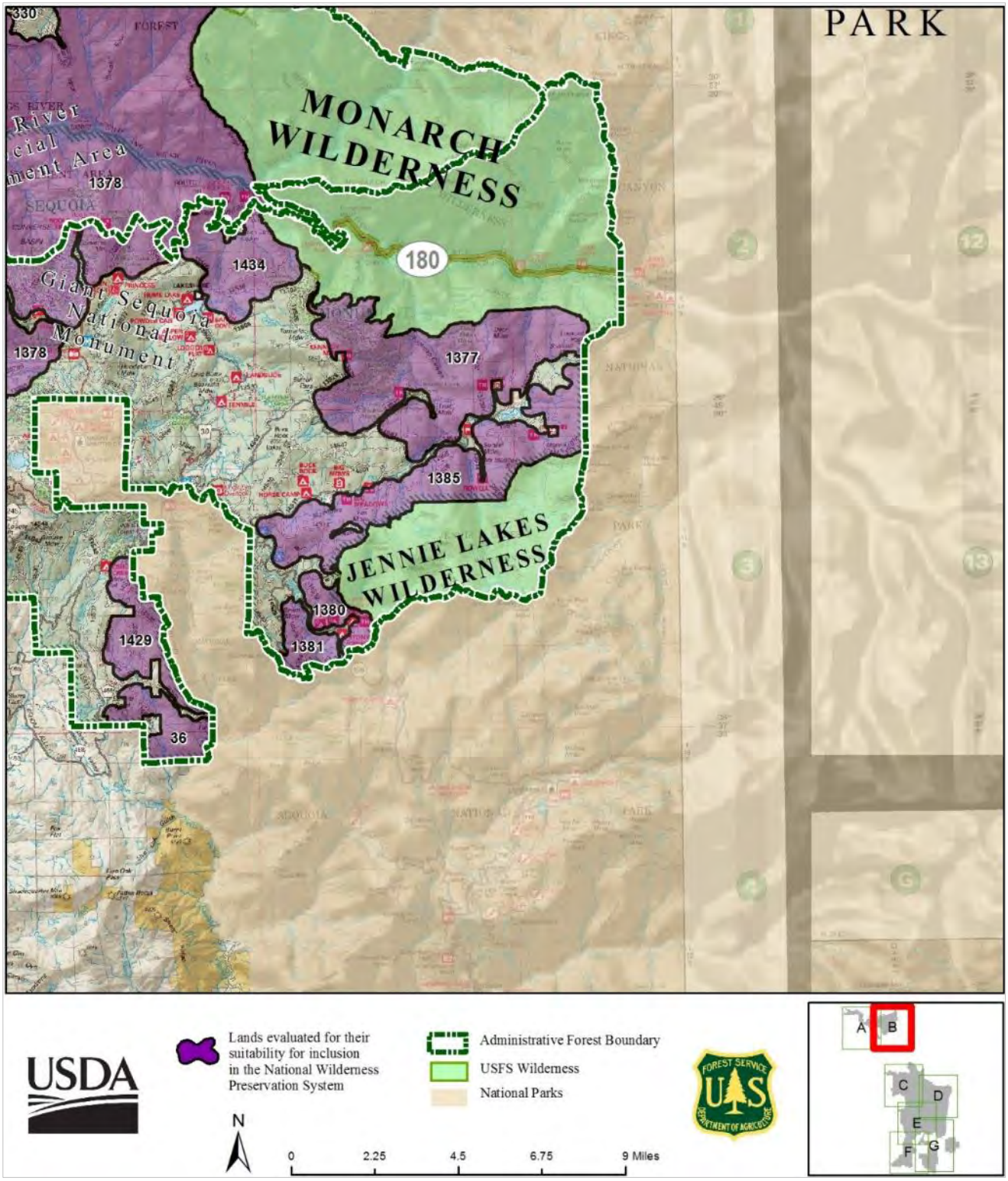


Figure B-13. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map B

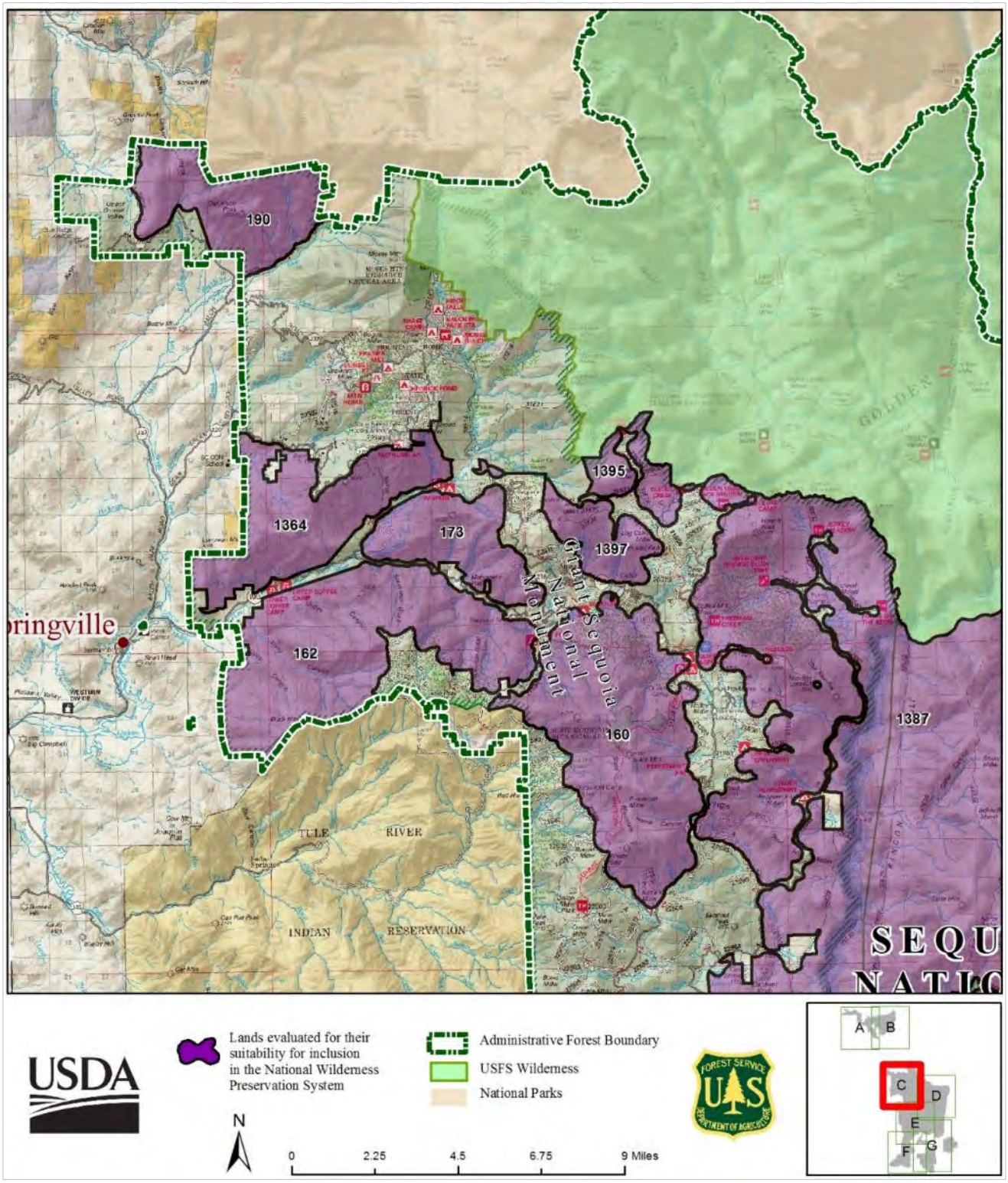


Figure B-14. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map C

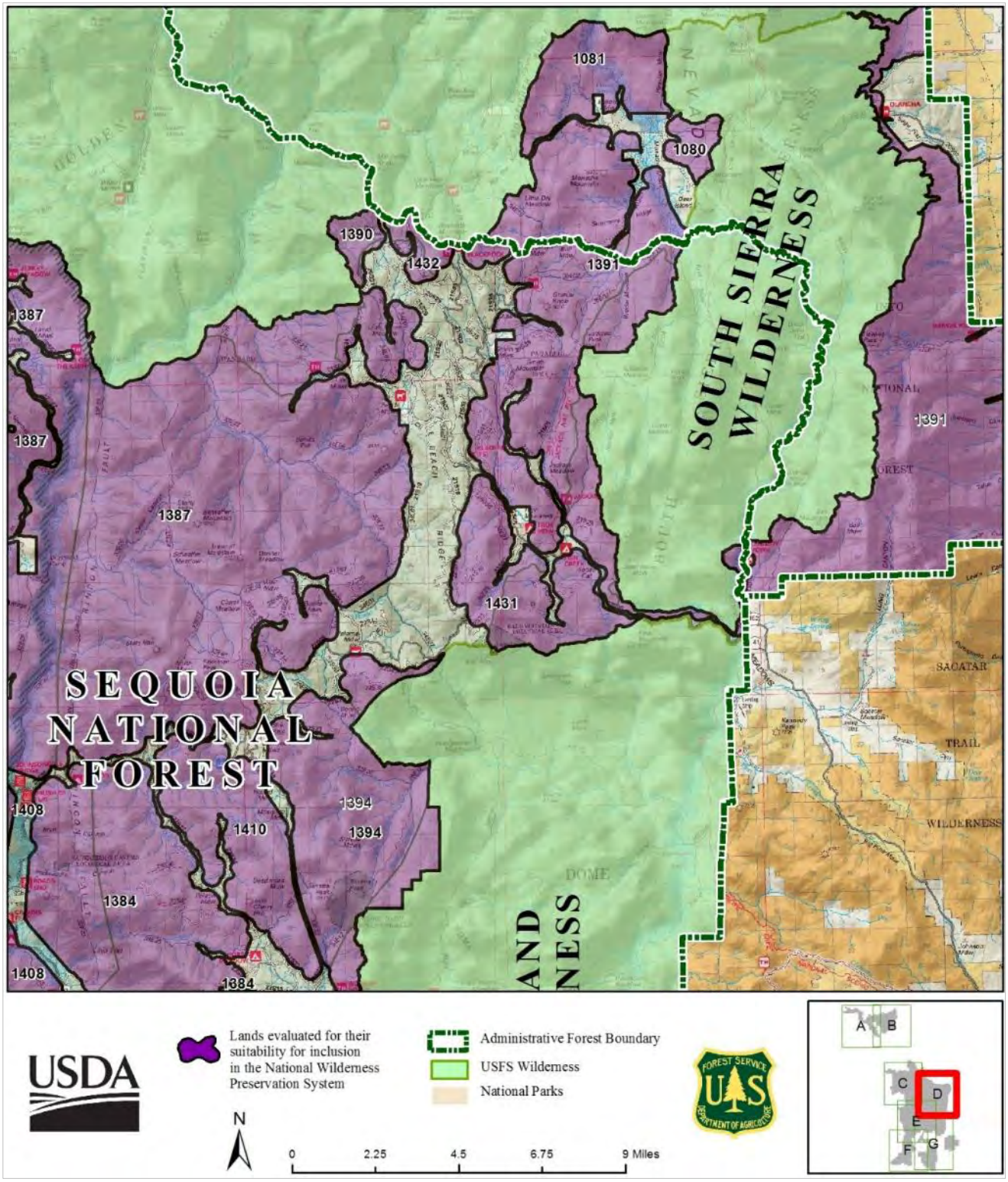


Figure B-15. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map D

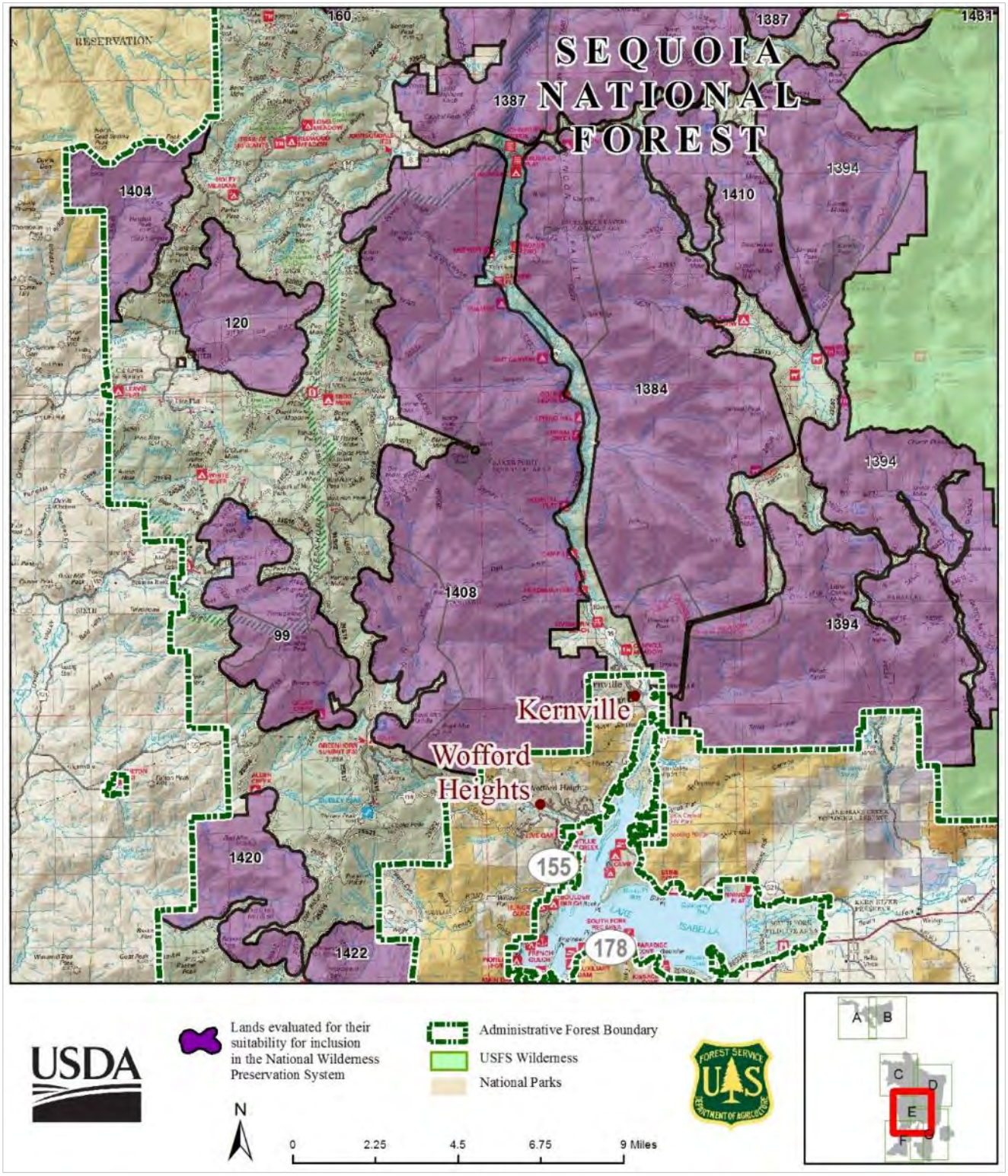


Figure B-16. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map E

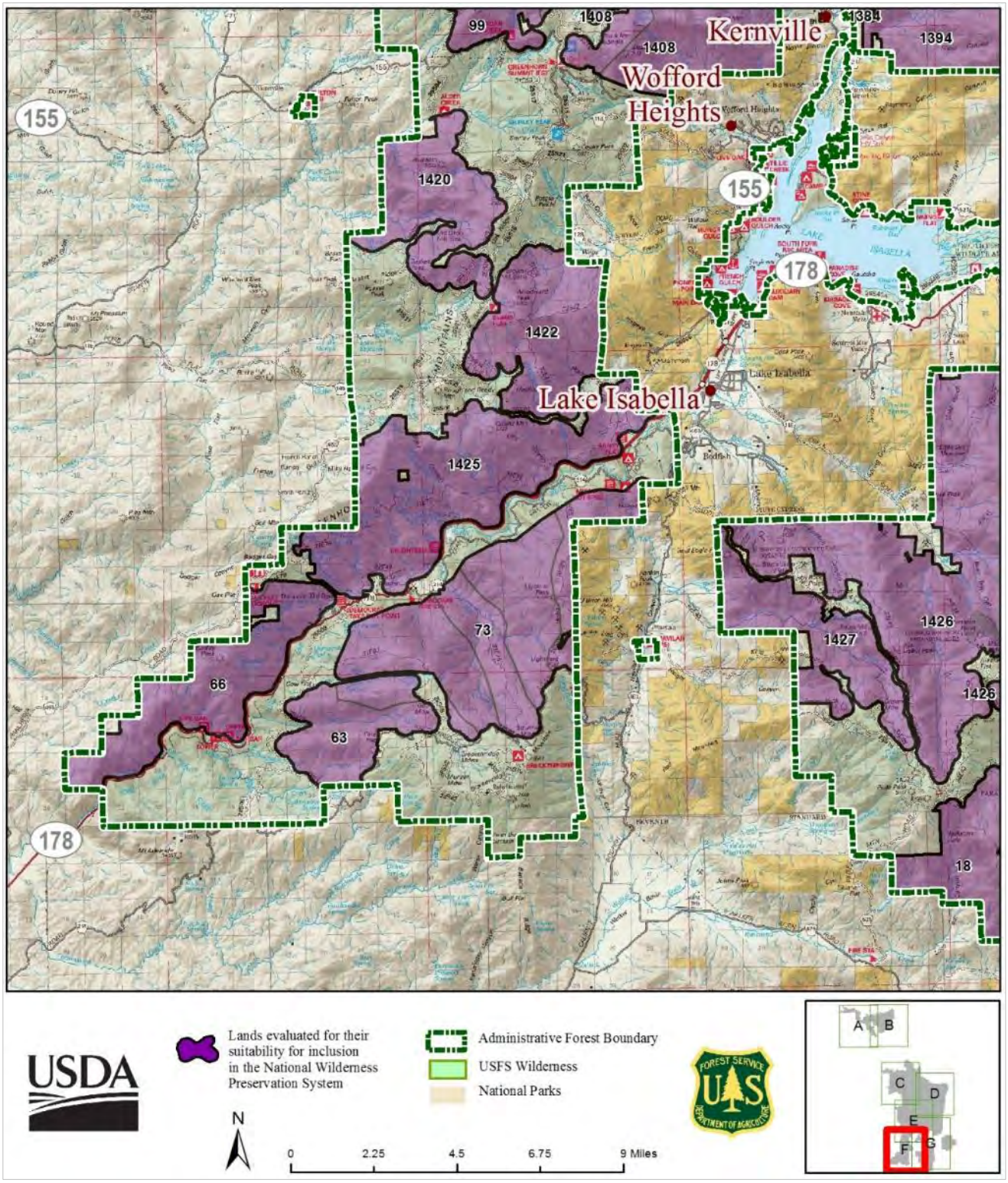


Figure B-17. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map F

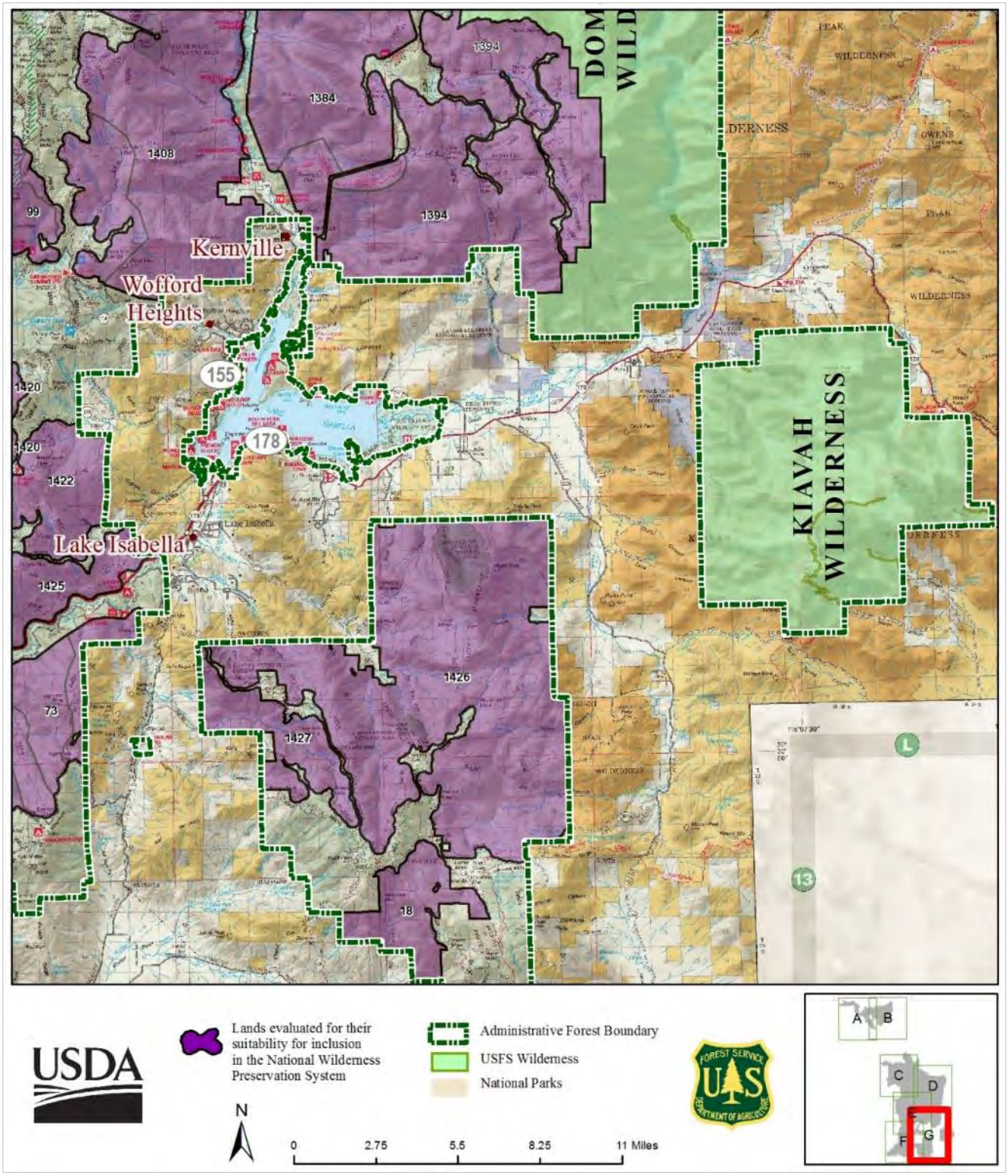


Figure B-18. Sequoia National Forest evaluation map G

Sierra National Forest Evaluations

Evaluation narratives are provided first, followed by the series of maps for each forest. The map section includes an index map (Figure B-19). The appropriate sectional maps are referenced in each polygon narrative.

Evaluation Narratives

Polygon 304 (Cat's Head Mountain)

General Description

This area includes 5,916 acres of mixed brush, conifers and granite knobs north of Pine Flat Reservoir (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates none of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 5,181 acres, which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland and savanna, and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is bordered along the north and east by the high-use Trimmer Springs Road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads. It is also partially bordered by private property and the Pine Flat Reservoir, which allow motorized water craft and non-motorized fishing boats. There is a cattle allotment, Sycamore Allotment, with permitted grazing March through June. Grazing structures are cattle-guards, drift fences, boundary fences and visible cattle trails. There are areas with fuel breaks to prevent fire traveling to specific areas, such as in Pine Flat Reservoir.

Numerous introduced plants are present, especially herbaceous species in more open areas. Non-native annual grasses and forbs from Europe are abundant, including Italian thistle, tocalote and milk thistle. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. There are no overall significant impacts to species populations.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is small in size and adjacent to private property. Recreational activities include hiking, riding, fishing and hunting. Recreation at Pine Flat Reservoir includes motorized and non-motorized boat use. Due to the size of the lake and adjacent topography, the sounds from water craft and motorized use on roads can be heard from a considerable distance.

Other Features of Value

There is potential habitat for California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential and occupied habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

This area is culturally sensitive and tribes in the area consider it a special interest area, including Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork

Mono Tribe and the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee (Holkoma Mono). There are cultural and historical sites that provide opportunities for important research and traditional ceremonial use.

Manageability

Motorized use is authorized in the reservoir.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this polygon due to the high-use Trimmer Springs Road, motor boats in Pine Flat Reservoir, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the north and east perimeters. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise none of the area. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System, however, comprise 5,181 acres.

Polygon 315 (Sycamore Springs)

General Description

Polygon 315 is a 17,908 acre area southwest of Wishon Reservoir (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C). The area ranges in elevation from 1,500 to 8,100 feet. National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2 percent of the area of the polygon (430 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 10,600 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California Central Valley mixed oak savanna, California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland and savanna, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland, and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Vegetation is primarily oak woodlands and mixed conifer forests. The area includes old-growth ponderosa pine forest. The vegetation in the area is not within the natural range of variation. Fire exclusion has contributed to altering the herbaceous understory in openings at lower elevations. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. There are no overall significant impacts to species populations. The eastern portion includes the Teakettle Experimental Forest, which has been extensively managed for forest research with thinning and burning activities. Two grazing allotments, Patterson Mountain and Thompson, are currently grazed March through September. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. About half of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area is surrounded by an extensive network of roads, power lines and other facilities. There are cattle fences. Fence Meadow Lookout (built in 1934) is visible on the northwest corner of the area. Invasive plant species include Spanish broom, Italian thistle and tocalote.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational activities include whitewater kayaking, canyoneering, hiking, fishing and hunting. Dinkey Creek provides an outstanding opportunity for challenge and self-reliance for kayakers and canyoneers. Numerous waterfalls exist on Dinkey and its tributaries in the area, followed by eroded, deep plunge pools. Black Rock, Patterson Bluffs and Indian Rock are highly scenic granite features. The historic Fence Meadow Lookout would be visible to over 50 percent of the interior of the unit. Due to the size of the polygon and lack of motorized roads or trails within the polygon, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

Rare plants include *Tauschia howellii* at Patterson Mountain. Rare ecosystems include fens in many of the meadows at higher elevations of the unit. There is potential and suitable habitat, occupied habitat, and proposed critical habitat for the Yosemite toad; potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential and suitable habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

Teakettle Experimental Forest is home to Forest Service watershed and vegetation studies since the 1930s, and there are historic structures built by the Civil Conservation Corp and Works Progress Administration. There are remains of historic mining, livestock management, and Forest Service administration in the unit.

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes, including Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe and the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee (Holkoma Mono). There are cultural and historical sites providing important scientific and cultural values. This unit is part of the homeland of the Holkoma Mono people. Ethnographic reports identify areas of significant cultural value including Indian Rock. There are numerous prehistoric archaeological sites and reported Indian trail systems in the Dinkey Creek drainage.

Numerous waterfalls exist on Dinkey and its tributaries in the area, followed by eroded, deep plunge pools. Black Rock, Patterson Bluffs and Indian Rock are highly scenic granite features. The area includes old-growth ponderosa pine forest.

Manageability

About half of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The northern portion of this area is included in the Dinkey Collaborative boundary[1]. A portion of the extensively managed Teakettle Experimental Forest is located in the northeast area of the polygon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are numerous waterfalls on Dinkey Creek, highly scenic granite features, rare plants and aquatic wildlife. Due to the size of the polygon and lack of motorized roads or trails within the polygon, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. This polygon

[1] The Dinkey Collaborative is a group of stakeholders representing diverse public interests and California Native American Tribes, working with the U.S. Forest Service and other public agencies to implement the federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program on the Dinkey Landscape, Sierra National Forest, California. As part of the restoration effort, the group designs projects to create a diversity of tree ages and to increase the proportion of pines in the stands.

presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System, however, comprise 10,600 acres.

Polygon 330 (North Fork Kings River)

General Description

This area includes 7,804 acres of primarily granite domes and slabs south of Wishon Reservoir (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C). The North Fork of the Kings River bisects the polygon. The Granite Gorge is part of the Kings River and is very deep and very narrow. The Rancheria Creek and other streams create dramatic waterfalls into the Kings River.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 9 percent of the area of the polygon (736 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 5,877 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is bordered by roads and Wishon Reservoir. There are also authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to form the boundary near Sugarpine Hill and the Kings River Geological area. Portions of the unit are within the Pacific Gas and Electric Helms hydropower project. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area. Vegetation in the area is not within the natural range of variation. Fire exclusion has contributed to altering the herbaceous understory in openings at lower elevations. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component. There are active grazing allotments (Patterson Mountain and Collins) but no active grazing occurring in the polygon due to steep terrain. Stream flows have been altered by the Wishon Dam. Invasive plants species include bull thistle. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. Plant species composition in the river and processes are altered due to changing water flows.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational activities include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting and sightseeing. There is one trail in the unit. The area is bisected by the North Fork of the Kings River. Granite Gorge, part of the Kings River, is a very narrow and deeper than the Grand Canyon in Arizona. This narrow area has opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; however most of the unit is dominated by the Wishon Dam, roads and high use recreation and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe and the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee (Holkoma Mono). There are cultural and historical sites providing important scientific and cultural values.

There is potential and suitable habitat for Yosemite toad; potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential and suitable habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

The area is bisected by the North Fork of the Kings River. Directly south of the Wishon Reservoir is the Granite Gorge. The Granite Gorge is a narrow river canyon deeper than the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The unit includes the Kings Canyon Geological Area, a network of caverns and related features within a marble unit covering 388 acres of the Lower Kings River Roof Pendent, a geological feature.

Manageability

Portions of the unit are within the Pacific Gas and Electric Helms hydropower project.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The Granite Gorge area offers some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; however, a portion of the area is within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission boundary. Throughout most of the polygon, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited, due to several developments along the northern boundary, including a paved road, Helms power project, a highly developed recreation area, and motorized boating in Wishon Reservoir. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. There are also authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to form the boundary near Sugarpine Hill and the Kings River Geological area. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System, however, comprise 5,877 acres.

Polygon 357 (Soaproot)

General Description

Polygon 357 is a 5,374 acre area located north of Pine Flat Reservoir and south of Shaver Lake (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the polygon (37acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 2,390 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area features oak woodlands, mixed brush, conifers and granite knobs. The area is bordered by roads, a transmission line and private property; the transmission line is visible from within the unit. A small section in the northeast corner has a motorized trail under a special use permit. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. The California

Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. There are no overall significant impacts to species populations.

Forests in the Soaproot area have been altered by fire exclusion, railroad logging and other activities, resulting in changes in ecosystem structure, composition and connectivity. Forests are overstocked, creating forest health issues and a high need for active vegetation management and restoration. Fire has been used in this polygon for under-burning to reduce the fuel loading.

There are invasive plant species in openings, especially non-native annual grasses. Tocalote, foxglove and bull thistle are likely present within the unit. Some invasive plants result in significant alterations in ecosystem structure and composition. The area is currently grazed from March through June as part of the Sycamore Allotment. Development associated with cattle grazing includes a corral and fencing. There is a loss of vegetation associated with salt blocks.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreation activities include off-trail hiking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. There are no authorized trails in the area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the close proximity of roads and motorized trails surrounding most of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

Rare Forest Service sensitive species plants are present in the area: golden lupine (*Lupinus citrinus* var. *citrinus*), and tree anemone (*Carpenteria californica*).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe and the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee (Holkoma Mono).

The following species and habitats are present: Potential habitat for California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed) and potential and occupied habitat for western pond turtle and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

Manageability

There is a small section in the northeast corner where a motorized trail under special use permit crosses into the unit.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to audible motorized traffic from a paved road to the north that it is visible in many places in the polygon. There is a motorized trail authorized under special use permit within the polygon. Sights and sounds from motorized use would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,390 acres.

Polygon 441 (Bald Mountain)

General Description

Polygon 441 is a 6,892 acre area located east of Shaver Lake (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C). National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 10 percent of the area of the polygon (111 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 1,216 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area features mixed conifer and woodland vegetation. The area has an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads in the perimeter. Invasive plant species like annual grasses, tocalote, foxglove and bull thistle are present. There is contiguous habitat for some fisheries and wildlife species. The Lahontan cutthroat trout is in Rock Creek on the east boundary of the unit.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around most of the perimeter. Sights and sounds from motorized use would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.

Other Features of Value

The rare and Forest Service sensitive species of plants in the area include the golden lupine (*Lupinus citrinus* var. *citrinus*) and the tree anemone (*Carpenteria californica*).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe and the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee (Holkoma Mono). There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

The following species and habitats are present: potential habitat for California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential and occupied habitat for western pond turtle and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

Manageability

Mechanized fuels management treatments are currently authorized in the southern portion of the polygon.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around most of the perimeter. Sights and sounds from

motorized use would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. Mechanized fuels management treatments are currently authorized in the southern portion of the polygon.

Polygon 539 (Adjacent to Dinkey Lakes Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 539 is a 48,312 acre area located along the western edge of the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B and Figure B-22, evaluation map C). Elevation in the area ranges from 6000 feet to about 10,000 feet.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3 percent of the area of the polygon (1,272 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each of these ecological groups comprises less than 1,000 acres in this polygon. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 1,850 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area features forested slopes of mixed conifer and woodland vegetation, minor creek drainages, scattered meadows, fens and lakes. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area, with no overall significant impacts to species populations. There are many developments within the polygon and along the area boundary. It is bisected and occupied by several authorized OHV trails, including Mirror Lake, Strawberry Lake, Coyote Lake and Swamp Lake Trails. Developments along the border include China Peak ski area; Courtright road; Dusy-Ershim and Brewer Lake authorized motorized trails; Forest Service system roads 10S66, 9S10, 9S69, 8S31 and 7S36A; Highway 168; and Kaiser Pass road. There are private land parcels in the area. The lower southern quarter of this area is within the Dinkey Collaborative area. Bear Butte, Midge Creek and Deer Lake over snow vehicle (OSV) trails and routes also border this area. The Whitebark Vista and Deer Lake OSV routes are partially within the north and middle portions of the polygon. This unit includes 1,895 acres of surface water for Courtright Reservoir that is managed for low speed motorized boats.

Historic and current grazing occurs in the Dinkey, Blasingame, Patterson and Helms (vacant) Allotments, where cow-calf pairs are permitted from June through September. The Blasingame Allotment currently has 265 cow-calf pairs permitted. There is a network of cattle trails. Vegetation in the area is not within the natural range of variation. Fire exclusion has contributed to altering the herbaceous understory in openings at lower elevations. There is a heavy dead and down fuel component in portions of the polygon. Invasive plant species include bull thistle and woolly mullein. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock non-native trout in streams, lakes, and adjacent waterways.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational activities include hiking, horseback riding, OHV riding, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, rock climbing and general sightseeing. It is popular with OSV riders in the winter, who commonly go off trail and ride cross country. This large polygon has nonmotorized areas with ample opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, especially near the designated wilderness boundary. In the motorized areas that bisect and fill this polygon, the

opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited, including the areas authorized for low speed motorized boats.

Other Features of Value

There is a rare plant present, the short-leafed hulsea (Forest Service sensitive species). There are rare ecosystems present, including fens and peatlands in some of the meadows and possibly lakeshores (e.g., Arkansas Meadow confirmed 2014 field season).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, and Native American Organizations like the Mono Nation. There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

The following species and habitats are present: potential/suitable habitat, occupied habitat, proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad and potential/suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

The area contains dozens of lakes and meadows situated in glacier-carved bowls. Dinkey Dome and Marble Point are both large, impressive edifices that rise above Dinkey Creek and one of its tributaries and may be seen from locations within this polygon.

Manageability

It is bisected and occupied by several authorized OHV trails, including Mirror Lake, Strawberry Lake, Coyote Lake and Swamp Lake Trails. There are 1,895 acres of surface water for Courtright Reservoir is managed for low speed motorized boats.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has impressive granitic domes and endangered species including rare plants. This large polygon has nonmotorized areas with ample opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, especially near the designated wilderness boundary. In the motorized areas that bisect and encompass portions of this polygon, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited, including in the surface water for Courtright Reservoir area that is authorized for low speed motorized boats. The sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate the motorized areas. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,272 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,850 acres. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 715 acres. Ecological groups with less than 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,216 acres.

Polygon 557 (Peckinpah Creek)

General Description

Polygon 557 is a 5,073 acre area located southeast of Bass Lake (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B). It includes South Fork Bluffs

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (45 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 6 ecological groups with a total area of 1,670 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Several wildfires burned through this area over the last decade or so; the Willow Fire of 2015 burned through 90% of the polygon. Vegetation changed from oak, conifer and brush to mostly brush component with snags. Meadows and riparian areas occur in the area. The polygon has three areas of authorized motorized trails within its boundaries, and it is bordered by a network of forest system roads and several private land parcels. The area was historically and is currently grazed. It is partially within the Central Camp Allotment where 101 cow-calf pairs are permitted to graze from June 1 through September 30. Developments include a corral, holding fields, cattle trails and a cow camp in the unit. This area is low elevation and close to Bass Lake and private land. Invasive plant species include cheat grass, velvet grass, bull thistle, woolly mullein and Klamath weed. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreation use includes hiking, OHV riding, fishing and hunting. Due to the relatively small size, elongated shape and presence of motorized use within and outside the polygon opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited.

Other Features of Value

The rare Rawson's flaming trumpet (*Collomia rawsoniana*), a Forest Service sensitive species, occurs along a few streams.

The following species and habitats are present: potential and suitable for Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service Sensitive).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Tribe and North Fork Mono Tribe.

The South Fork Bluffs is a predominate feature of the area.

Manageability

Post-fire activities are being considered in the 2015 Willow Fire area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This area has rare plants, aquatic endangered species, the predominate South Fork Bluffs, active grazing and is managed for timber harvest. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. The 2015 Willow Fire burned approximately 90 percent of this polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,670 acres.

Polygon 577 (Adjacent to Kaiser Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 577 is a 7,127 acre C-shaped polygon that surrounds the boundary of the Kaiser Wilderness (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (83 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains ecological groups with a total area of 1,700 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This area is located between the Kaiser Wilderness and a network of roads to the north, west, and south of the Kaiser Wilderness. Old-growth mixed conifer forests are present. The west side of the polygon borders extensive development along Huntington Lake, which consists of 491 recreation residences, six campgrounds, two picnic sites, two organized camps and two resorts. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area, with no overall significant impacts to species populations. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in reservoirs and waterways. Southern and western portions of this area were affected by the 2013 Aspen Fire, with some high severity effects changing the vegetation composition.

The area is within two active cattle grazing allotments, Kaiser and Mount Tom. The area around Huntington Lake is closed to grazing. Otherwise, the area is permitted for grazing June through September. Grazing facilities include a corral off Stump Springs Road, noticeable cattle trails and stock drives. Scattered patches of bull thistle and woolly mullein are present, especially along Huntington Lake.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited on the south side of this polygon as the area is adjacent to paved and authorized forest system roads, highly developed recreation sites, recreation residences, organization camps and resorts. This extremely high use area affects sight and sounds within the polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and

unconfined recreation are limited along the west and north perimeter by extensive use of authorized forest system roads.

Other Features of Value

The area includes old-growth Sierra mixed-conifer forest and several meadows (e.g., Huckleberry Meadow) contain fens, or peatland ecosystems. Rare plants include short-leafed hulsea (*Hulsea brevifolia*), a Forest Service sensitive species, and *Utricularia intermedia* in Huckleberry Meadow. Aquatic species and habitats include potential and suitable habitat, occupied habitat, proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including Mono Nation, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians and Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians. There are cultural and historic sites providing important scientific and cultural values.

Manageability

This area is located between the Kaiser Wilderness and a network of roads and borders extensive development along Huntington Lake. Authorized post-fire treatments for the 2013 Aspen Fire area are within this polygon and will include use of motorized tools.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has rare plants, endangered species, old growth mixed conifer forests and is adjacent to the Kaiser Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited on the south side of this polygon as the area is adjacent to paved and authorized forest system roads, highly developed recreation sites, recreation residences, organization camps and resorts. This extremely high use area affects sight and sounds within the polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited along the west and north perimeter by extensive use of authorized forest system roads. Authorized post-fire treatments (2013 Aspen Fire) are within this polygon and will include use of motorized tools. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,700 acres.

Polygon 586 (Graham Mountain)

General Description

Polygon 586 is a 5,412 acre area located east of Bass Lake (Figure B-20, Sierra National Forest evaluation map A). This area offers spectacular scenery for those recreating at Bass Lake.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (50 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 3,330 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This area features oak woodlands and a few meadows. It offers contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species. Vegetation in the area is not within the natural range of variation due in part to fire suppression activities. There are substantial areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component. There is an extensive network of paved and authorized forest system roads around the entire perimeter of the polygon, including many roads that cherry stem the polygon, and motorized boating occurs in Bass Lake. Central Camp Grazing Allotment is permitted to graze from June 1 through September 30. Invasive plant species include cheat grass, velvet grass, bull thistle, woolly mullein and Klamath weed. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is adjacent to a busy recreational lake (almost 600,000 visitors per year) and roads. Recreational opportunities include off-trail hiking, hunting, fishing and sightseeing. There are no trails in the unit. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the entire perimeter, and the close proximity to the Bass Lake with motorized boating.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Tribe and the North Fork Mono Tribe. There are cultural and historic sites providing important scientific and cultural values.

Aquatic species and habitats include potential and suitable for Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

Manageability

Due to drought and subsequent bark beetle outbreak, the forest is considering treatments to reduce fuels including treatments with motorized tools.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is the foothills in background to residents and visitors of Bass Lake and is home to some endangered species. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the entire perimeter, and the close proximity to the Bass Lake with motorized boating. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. Due to drought and subsequent bark beetle outbreak, the forest is considering treatments to reduce fuels including treatments with motorized tools. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,300 acres.

Polygon 646 (Shuteye)

General Description

Polygon 646 is a 18,013 acre area located along Chiquito and Whiskey Ridges, north of Forest Road 6S42 (Central Camp Road) and east of FR6S59 (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 18,013 acres, indicates 4 percent of the area of the polygon (653acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains five ecological groups with a total area of 7,765 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The unit is a combination of forested slopes and granite domes. The main vegetation type in the area is Sierra mixed conifer and red fir forest (including old growth) and montane chaparral with areas of barren ground. It includes Little Shuteye Peak and Chilkoot Lake. There are few meadows in the area. There is unique aquatic and emergent flora around Chilkoot Lake. The area includes contiguous habitat for fisheries species and wildlife within the area. There are no overall significant current impacts to species populations. California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways and stock in lakes present in this unit. Invasive plant species include bull thistle and woolly mullein.

The active Shuteye Lookout is accessed by a primitive road/motorized trail that cherry stems the south-central portion of the polygon. There are also authorized motorized trails within this south-central portion. The whole polygon is bordered by – or in close proximity to – highway 7, Minarets Road, Central Camp Road, and other authorized forest system roads. The southern portion was affected by the French Fire of 2014 with potential remnants from suppression actions including direct and indirect fire line construction, both hand and mechanical. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component due to fire suppression. The prominent ridge line of Whisky Ridge is desirable for use in fire suppression actions for fire travelling into the conifer portions of the forest from the San Joaquin River and Mammoth Pool area. Chilkoot Lake is within the unit and is part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Crane Valley project. A ditch diverts water into Chilkoot Lake and controls lake water levels. On the northwest shore of Chilkoot Lake there is vehicle access to a popular dispersed camping area that is immediately adjacent to the unit. The area includes 3 historic and active cattle allotments (Central Camp, Beasore and Chiquito).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities include hiking, rock climbing, hunting and sightseeing. Visitors may experience risk and challenge if engaging in rock climbing, off-trail hiking and scrambling. Various recreational uses like visiting the fire lookout, heavy dispersed camping, use of the cherry stem primitive road to Shuteye Peak and motorized trail area limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

Rare plants present in the area include Shuteye Peak fawn lily (*Erythronium pluriflorum*), Kellogg's lewisia (*Lewisia kellogii* ssp. *Kelloggii*) and short-leafed hulsea (*Hulsea breviflora*) (Forest Service sensitive species).

Aquatic species and habitats include potential and suitable habitat for Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog (Endangered Species listed); potential and occupied habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and North Fork Mono Tribe. There are cultural and historic sites providing important scientific and cultural values.

Manageability

An authorized forest system road cherry stems into the polygon area to Shuteye Peak. There is another cherry stem road on the east side of the unit. There are authorized motorized trails in the south-central area. Continuing fuels treatments in the western portion of this polygon near Central Camp is desirable.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has rare plants, endangered species and old growth red fir forests. The area could be reshaped to exclude the authorized motorized trail area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas with authorized motorized trails or along the boundary with the extensive network of authorized forest system roads. An authorized forest system road cherry stems into the polygon area to Shuteye Peak, and on the east side of the unit. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. Continuing fuels treatments in the western portion of this polygon near Central Camp is desirable. The reshaping would reduce the adjacent motorized recreation; the remaining unit would be reduced to approximately 10,000 acres. This polygon presents a moderate opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 653 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 7,765 acres.

Polygon 688 (Chiquito Creek)

General Description

This area consists of 6,515 acres of conifer forest between the Minarets and Beasore Roads (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B). It is a northeast facing slope bounded on the south by the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway just east of Minarets Work Center.

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 6,515 acres, indicates 8 percent of the area of the polygon (513 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 4,126 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Road density is high surrounding the area. Naturalness has been degraded by timber harvest, grazing and fire suppression. Invasive species include scattered bull thistle and woolly mullein. The area is not within natural range of variation for vegetation communities, with a very small portion affected by fire within the last 20-30 years. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component due to fire suppression. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. It is grazed as part of the Chiquito Allotment stocked with 158 cow-calf pair from June 1 through September 15.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is next to a network of roads and fuel breaks. Road density is high surrounding this area and the sounds of traffic are common. No system trails exist in the area, but there is off-trail hiking and hunting. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a scenic byway to the south and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the east, north and southwestern perimeters.

Other Features of Value

There are no rare plants known in the area. There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

Manageability

Road density is high surrounding this area and the sounds of vehicles are regularly present. The area is small in size, has an irregular shape and adjacent land uses that make managing the area to preserve wilderness characteristics challenging.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a scenic byway to the south and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the east, north and southwestern perimeters. Road density is high surrounding this area, with the sight and sounds of motorized use regularly present. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 513 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,126 acres.

Polygon 772 (Devil Gulch)

General Description

Located south of the Merced Wild and Scenic River (Figure B-20, Sierra National Forest evaluation map A), Polygon 772 is 47,747 acres in size, located within the Devil Gulch area and characterized by steep rugged canyon terrain.

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 47,747 acres, indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (264 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 33,336 acres which

have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland, and Northern and Central California dry-mesic chaparral.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The species composition is mostly chaparral and is out of balance due to the fire suppression. The area provides contiguous wildlife habitat for populations in the area. The area is bounded by the Merced Wild and Scenic River and Yosemite National Park, and connectivity is provided through these corridors. The hydrological condition is good and there are high quality water resources with the South Fork of the Merced River, Devils Gulch and Granite Creek. The soils are in good condition. There are very few meadows. The air quality is impaired as it is impacted by the air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. There are two inactive grazing allotments.

The polygon is bordered to the east by Yosemite West subdivision and Yosemite National Park; to the west by private property, Bureau of Land Management land, forest system roads and developed recreation sites; to the south with forest system roads, forest lands suitable for timber production and private land parcels; and to the north with the Merced River. The area is completely bisected by an authorized motorized trail area near the central portion of the polygon and dissected in multiple areas by cherry stem forest system roads (i.e., old mining roads) and private land roads throughout the polygon. Many cherry stem roads and previously constructed dozer fire lines are considered the first defense to protecting the communities in the area; they are visible and are considered fuel break areas. As the main strategic locations for suppression, actions to take place prior to a fire entering the Midpines community (Ponderosa Way/Carstens and Jerseydale area) and the point where vegetation changes from mainly brush to conifer stands, these ridgelines will continue to be important for fire management.

Because of the fire history in the area between Hites Cove access and Bureau of Land Management lands, there are conifer plantations scattered throughout the area. Treatments occur within plantations, as well as outside of the plantations in the form of mastication, for fire and silviculture needs. Prescribed burning has been conducted in the Gimasol and Nutmeg Gulch area. Fuel breaks on the ridgelines at Felciana, Sweetwater and Ferguson have been constructed to reduce manzanita and chamise growth and continue to be highly visible, as well as the treatments within and outside of the conifer plantations. Fires in this area have been known to travel rapidly with high intensity with little to no vegetation remaining.

The six watersheds are in good hydrological condition. There are no water impoundments. The greatest indication of human impact is mining. There are at least 100 active claims in the area. The claims are visited at least annually to complete claim work. The Williams Brothers Mine has buildings in the Cold Creek area. The Williams Brothers Mine Road travels from the Merced River south and the original Hites Cove Road accesses the Hites Cove Mine. Both of these old mining roads are outside the original inventoried roadless area. The historic mining sites are substantially noticeable.

Adjacent lands also include Yosemite National Park, State Highway 140 and recreational activities associated with the Merced and South Fork of the Merced Wild and Scenic Rivers. Other adjacent lands are private land areas and as well as the power lines and other infrastructure associated with people living nearby. Grazing is not currently permitted. There are two inholdings that do not appear to have any type of access or facilities. California Department of Fish and

Wildlife stock trout in adjacent water ways, and the trout may be present in this unit. Invasive plant species include annual grasses, yellow star thistle, Italian thistle, tocalote, Himalayan blackberry, bull thistle and woolly mullein. Infestations in the main Merced River Canyon along Highway 140 have been decreasing as a result of Forest Service projects.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, wildflower viewing, hunting and camping, especially along the South Fork Merced River Trail. Activities in the interior of the area are in winter, early spring and late fall due to intense temperatures in the canyon in summer. Off-trail travel is challenging due to dense brush and steep terrain. One of the highest uses in the area is the South Fork of the Merced River. Rafters access the river from Yosemite and raft to State Highway 140. There is a popular foot trail from State Highway 140 to the South Fork of the Merced River. This trail is popular in the spring to view the excellent wildflower displays. Immediately adjacent to the area are 6 recreation facilities (i.e., small campgrounds, picnic areas, a trailhead), and east, south and north are subdivisions along the edge.

Topography is steep in most areas, with rugged ridges and canyons, limiting access. Screening is present due to the topography, conifers in the high elevation and chaparral in the lower elevation. There is minimal evidence of civilization within the majority of the polygon. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in nonmotorized areas, the potential for encounters with other visitors is low. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the areas with authorized motorized trails.

Other Features of Value

Geologic features include caves and metamorphic roof pendants. Devil's Peak provides a great viewing point. The rare limestone salamander may be present as well as the rare plants Congdon's woolly sunflower, Congdon's lewisia, Yosemite onion, Merced clarkia (state listed endangered) and Mariposa clarkia (Forest Service sensitive species) and Tompkins sedge. There is potential habitat for western pond turtle and California red legged frog.

Other designations include the Bishop Creek Ponderosa Pine Natural Research Area and the Devils Peak Botanical Area. These two areas would not impact wilderness designation.

There are known traditional areas used by the South Fork of the Merced MiWuk People to conduct gathering for basket weaving and tribal burial areas in the area between Yosemite and Hites Cove access. The area just west between Hites Cove access and Bureau of Land Management lands is culturally sensitive and considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, which include the American Indian Council of Mariposa (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation) and Tuolumne Band of Miwok. There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

The Williams Brothers Mine dates back to 1865 and covers 80 acres adjacent to the polygon. The Hite Cove Mine along the South Fork of the Merced River was discovered in 1862. Each of these mines is outside the inventoried roadless area, but the Hite Cove Mine is partially shown within the polygon area.

Manageability

The unit is not contiguous with wilderness but it is large enough at 47,748 acres to be moderately managed for preservation of wilderness characteristics. However, the area is completely bisected by an authorized motorized trail area near the central portion of the polygon and is dissected by

multiple by cherry stem forest system roads (such as old mining roads) and private land roads throughout the polygon. The cherry stem roads and main ridgeline are considered essential to stop a fire going in to Yosemite. The terrain is such that if a fire did start, high value resources like the Yosemite West community could quickly become threatened. Aggressive full suppression response would be needed within the unit to project adjacent property. It is likely that dozers and other motorized equipment would be extensively used within the area even if it became designated wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Topography is steep in most areas, with rugged ridges and canyons, limiting access. Screening is present due to the topography, conifers in the high elevation and chaparral in the lower elevation. There is minimal evidence of civilization within the majority of the polygon. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in nonmotorized areas, the potential for encounters with other visitors is low. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the areas with authorized motorized trails.

The cherry stem roads and main ridgeline are considered essential to stop a fire going in to Yosemite. The terrain is such that if a fire did start, high value resources like the Yosemite West community could quickly become threatened. Aggressive full suppression response would be needed within the unit to project adjacent property. It is likely that dozers and other motorized equipment would be extensively used within the area even if it became designated wilderness.

This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the national wilderness preservation system comprise 264 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 33,336 acres.

Polygon 781 (Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness)

General Description

This area includes 2,477 acres of timber, granite slabs and meadows. It is located adjacent to the southern John Muir Wilderness, between Courtright and Wishon Reservoirs (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 2,477 acres, indicates 21 percent of the area of the polygon (523 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 276 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. No grazing is currently permitted. Fire suppression has altered vegetation density and composition. Adjacent waterways are stocked with non-native trout. The hydrologic regime in the adjacent area is extensively

manipulated by the Pacific Gas and Electric hydropower system. Invasive species include bull thistle and woolly mullein.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, camping, OHV, fishing, hunting, rock climbing and general sightseeing. Climbing the granite domes in the area may present an opportunity for personal challenge. The area includes the Maxson Trailhead accessing the Blackcap Trail (non-motorized), the Chamberlain cabin and cow camp, and the adjacent Dusy-Ershim OHV route. Jeeps and other off-road vehicles are frequently seen and heard in the area.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to high recreation use, which includes the authorized motorized area Dusy-Ershim OHV route, with jeeps and other off-road vehicles frequently seen and heard in the area. There is also the popular Chamberlain Camp recreation site and motorized boat use in the Wishon Reservoir.

Other Features of Value

A fen ecosystem likely exists in Chamberlain Meadow. Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, occupied habitat, and proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad; and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

Manageability

The area includes the Maxson Trailhead accessing the Blackcap Trail (non-motorized), the Chamberlain cabin and cow camp, and the adjacent Dusy-Ershim OHV route.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are endangered species present and the land is adjacent to existing wilderness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to high recreation use, which includes the authorized motorized area Dusy-Ershim OHV route, with jeeps and other off-road vehicles frequently seen and heard in the area. There is also the popular Chamberlain Camp recreation site and motorized boat use in the Wishon Reservoir. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 523 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 276 acres.

Polygon 785 (Florence Lake)

General Description

This area includes 1,254 acres of timbered and open granite slopes surrounding Florence Lake (including 914 acres of surface water associated with Florence Lake) adjacent to the John Muir Wilderness (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 1,254 acres, indicates 46 percent of the area of the polygon (571 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 3 ecological groups with a total area of 58 acres which have

less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is bordered by substantially noticeable development including Florence Lake Reservoir, the dam, boat ramps, the Florence Lake store, Jackass Meadows Campground, Florence Lake Road, High Sierra pack station, Jackass administrative site, Hooper Diversion primitive road, trailhead parking lots and day use areas. The lake allows motorized boating and a ferry under special use permit to travel the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. Meadow and riparian condition is moderate. The south lobe of Jackass Meadow is in this unit. It has been affected by changes in hydrology from Florence Dam and historical diversions of Tombstone Creek. The area has had near constant disturbance from human activity. There is a restored sedge bed along Tombstone Creek in Jackass Meadow which was a 2007-2008 restoration project with Southern California Edison.

The area is within the natural range of variation for vegetation communities, with a very small portion affected by fire within the last 20-30 years. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. Invasive plant species include woolly mullein and bull thistle. The area is closed to commercial cattle grazing. Only pack stock use occurs at Jackass Meadow under a special use permit.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are minimal opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation during the summer due to substantial adjacent development including motorized activities. Fishing is the primary non-motorized recreational opportunity in the area. No significant opportunities for challenge and self-reliance exist in the unit.

Other Features of Value

In terms of rare plants in the area, it encompasses parts of two populations of Mono Hot Springs evening primrose (*Camissonia sierrae* ssp. *alticola*) (Forest Service sensitive species).

The following species and habitats are present: potential/suitable habitat for Yosemite toad and potential/suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

Manageability

The lake allows motorized boating and a ferry under special use permit to travel the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. The area is operated as part of the FERC license to Southern Cal Edison.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

There are rare and endangered species and habitat. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to high recreation use activities and developments; the

Florence Lake Reservoir includes the dam, boat ramps, boats, the Florence Lake store, Jackass Meadows Campground, Florence Lake Road, High Sierra pack station, Jackass administrative site, Hooper Diversion primitive road, trailhead parking areas and day use areas. The lake allows authorized motorized boating and a ferry operates under special use permit, traveling the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. The area is reduced to 340 acres when the lake acreage is removed. A penstock bisects the area which would reduce the acreage further. The area is operated as part of the FERC license to Southern Cal Edison. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 571 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 58 acres.

Polygon 795 (Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness)

General Description

This area includes 1,206 acres of forested slopes and granite slabs south of the Florence Lake Road and the Ward Tunnel, a hydroelectric penstock (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B). It borders John Muir Wilderness to the south, Ward Tunnel to the west, and Florence Lake Road to the north and east.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 9 percent of the area of the polygon (111 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 4 ecological groups with a total area of 89 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

Most of this small area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area is within the natural range of variation for vegetation communities, with a very small portion affected by fire within last 20-30 years. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down wood component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. There is little to no riparian and meadow habitat. Invasive plant species include bull thistle and mullein. The Hot Springs grazing Allotment is not currently active.

The area is surrounded on three sides by Kaiser Pass Road, Florence Lake Road and the Ward Tunnel. There is development associated with Southern California Edison projects adjacent to the area. The Kaiser Pass Road is the only access from the end of State Highway 168 to Florence and Edison Reservoirs. This road is heavily used causing noise to travel across the narrow unit.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Motorized traffic is audible and, in some places, visible from this area. The John Muir Wilderness is also bounded by Kaiser Pass Road and Florence Lake Road here and east of this area. There are no official trails in the unit. There are no significant opportunities for visitors to seek challenge or self-reliance in the area. The unit is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness. Opportunities for

solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in this small unit are limited due to the pervasive sounds from heavily used roads and surrounding recreation sites.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe and Native American Organizations like the Mono Nation.

Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, and occupied habitat for Yosemite toad; and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

Manageability

The area is surrounded on three sides by Kaiser Pass Road, Florence Lake Road and the Ward Tunnel. There is development associated with Southern California Edison projects adjacent to the area.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The unit is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in this small unit are limited due to the pervasive sounds from heavily used roads and recreation areas surrounding this polygon. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 111 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 89 acres.

Polygon 797 (Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness)

General Description

This area includes 1,299 acres of steep forested slopes to the south of the Kaiser Pass road east of the pass. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates none of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 3 ecological groups with a total area of 20 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is within natural range of variation for vegetation communities, with a very small portion affected by fire within last 20-30 years. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. The area is within a vacant cattle allotment. A part of the area near Portal Forebay is used to hold cattle overnight as they are

being driven to the Mono and Cassidy Allotments near Edison. Bull thistle and mullein may occur here. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in waterways. Stream conditions are probably good in Bolsillo, East Fork Camp and Camp 62 Creeks.

The area is bordered on three sides by roads, power lines, Ward Tunnel and developed recreation sites. The Corbett Lake trail crosses this unit. Visitors easily view roads, power lines and developed recreation sites.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Corbett Lake trail (non-motorized) crosses this unit. Motorized traffic is audible and, in some places, visible from this area. There is one hiking and equestrian trail leading to Corbett Lake. There are minimal opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in this polygon due to pervasive sounds from motorized use along roads.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe and Native American organizations like the Mono Nation.

Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, occupied habitat, and proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad; and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species listed).

Manageability

The area is bordered on three sides by roads, power lines, Ward Tunnel and developed recreation sites.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has endangered species and habitat and is adjacent to existing wilderness. There are minimal opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in this polygon due to pervasive sounds from motorized use along roads. However, the boundary area of the neighboring designated wilderness shares these same limitations. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise none of the area. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 20 acres.

Polygon 815 (Edison Lake)

General Description

This area includes 3,887 acres in the vicinity of Lake Edison (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B). The acreage includes 1,818 acres of surface water for Lake Edison.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 12 percent of the area of the polygon (484 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent

protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There is less than 100 acres comprised of ecological groups that have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is within natural range of variation for vegetation communities, with a very small portion affected by fire within last 20-30 years. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. There are a few meadows toward the north of the unit, one looks very dry and the other may be a fen. Mostly the area is dry. Fire suppression, grazing and fish stocking are present at Lake Edison. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in reservoirs and waterways.

The area is adjacent to substantially noticeable development including Lake Edison, developed recreation sites and roads. The lake allows motorized boating and a ferry under special use permit that travels the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. The area is within an active grazing allotment (Mono Allotment). Invasive plants include cheat grass, bull thistle, and woolly mullein.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Hiking and riding trails pass through this area to access the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The lake allows motorized boating and a ferry under special use permit that travels the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. There are no significant opportunities for visitors to seek challenge and risk in this unit. There are limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to extensive adjacent development including Vermillion Valley Resort, Lake Edison, High Sierra Pack Station and Onion Springs primitive road that bisects a section of the area.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe and Native American organizations like the Mono Nation. There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, occupied habitat, and proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad; and potential habitat, suitable habitat, and proposed critical habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

Manageability

There is authorized motorized boating and a ferry operates under a special use permit, traveling the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter. The area also has high recreation use, including developed recreation sites, Vermillion Valley Resort, Lake Edison, High Sierra Pack Station and the authorized Onion Springs Primitive Road that bisects a section of the area. Currently, there is authorized motorized boating and a ferry operates under a special use permit, traveling the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. This polygon does not present an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise less than 100 acres.

Polygon 819
(San Joaquin River – Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness)

General Description

This area includes 37,528 acres located around the San Joaquin River Canyon and the forested area between the eastern Kaiser Wilderness and the southern Ansel Adams Wilderness (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B). The acreage includes 1,017 acres of surface water for Mammoth Pool Reservoir. Elevations range from 2,400 to 8,700 feet.

National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 37,528 acres, indicates 6 percent of the area of the polygon (2,065 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 22,370 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland, Great Basin juniper woodland, and Northern and Central California dry-mesic chaparral.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

This area consists of steep timber and brush slopes. The dominant cover type is Sierra mixed conifer interspersed with montane hardwood and ponderosa pine. The area covers several active cattle allotments where grazing occurs June through September. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in reservoirs and waterways. There are only a few meadows. The northern portion of area is not within the natural range of variation for vegetation community. The southern portion of area was affected by the 2014 French Fire and the 2013 Aspen Fire. Extensive fire suppression impacts are visible from this area, notably from the Aspen Fire north of Stump Springs Road. Subsequent logging and reforestation has occurred since the fire.

There are water impoundment and hydropower infrastructure. The unit is bounded by Forest Service Road 4S81 and a penstock on the west and Stump Springs road on the east. On the south boundary are power lines and the town of Big Creek and the California Riding and Hiking Trail

cuts across the southern tip of the eastern portion. On the north is National Forest System land, including the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The area is bisected by the San Joaquin River including Mammoth Pool Reservoir.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the area around Mammoth Pool. Much of the northern section surrounds Mammoth Pool and is what people see when recreating at the reservoir. The area around Mammoth Pool is within sight and sound of motorized boats on the lake and China Bar Campground. Major hydropower infrastructure is visible from a portion of the area in the San Joaquin River Canyon.

Primitive recreation includes hiking and horseback riding on a few infrequently maintained trails. The area does not present significant opportunities for challenge and self-reliance, other than hiking on steep terrain. Downstream from the hydropower infrastructure is a popular noncommercial river rafting area. Boating occurs during downstream water releases, and upwards of 100 people raft the river on those days.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the area with authorized motorized trails; sights and sounds penetrate this small area.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area including: North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians and Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians. There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values.

The following species and habitats are present: potential/suitable for Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential habitat for western pond turtle, potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species). Peregrine falcon are found in the Fuller Buttes area.

Manageability

Part of the area has potential to be managed for preservation of wilderness character in the portion providing connectivity between Ansel Adams and Kaiser Wildernesses, defined on the north by Crater Lake Meadow and on the south by Kaiser Pass Road with limited accessibility.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

This is a large narrow unit with one small authorized motorized trail area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in the small area with authorized motorized trails; sights and sounds penetrate this small area.

The portion of the area between the Kaiser and Ansel Adams Wildernesses has desirable wilderness characteristics due to the connection it provides between the two wildernesses. However, the appearance of naturalness was somewhat impacted recently by the extensive fire suppression activities.

Opportunities for solitude are limited in the area around Mammoth Pool. Much of the northern section surrounds Mammoth Pool and is what people see when recreating at the reservoir. The

area around Mammoth Pool is within sight and sound of motorized boats on the lake and the area includes the China Bar Campground, a popular boating destination. Major hydropower infrastructure is visible from a portion of the area in the San Joaquin River Canyon.

This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,065 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 22,370 acres.

Polygon 820 (Piyau Dome – Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness)

General Description

This area consists of 1,741 acres of conifer forest in the vicinity of Piyau Dome adjacent to the Ansel Adams Wilderness and is long and narrow (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 15 percent of the area of the polygon (260 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 709 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

There are very few meadows and riparian areas in this polygon conditions. Timber harvest has occurred in the area. The area is bordered by a scenic byway to the east and a network of forest system roads. One road provides accesses to a trailhead and the trail provides wilderness access. The area is currently grazed as part of South Jackass Allotment with 116 cow-calf pair permitted from June 16 through September 3. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. Invasive plant species include scattered bull thistle and woolly mullein. The area is within the natural range of variation for vegetation community, with a very small portion affected by fire within last 20-30 years. There are no known overall significant impacts to species populations. It does not appear that California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways. Feral pigs may be a concern for elevations below 2,500 feet elevation.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is adjacent to the Ansel Adams Wilderness with a trailhead accessing Forest Service Road 26E38 which is the Miller Creek Trail that starts at the Minarets Pack Station and then ties to Cassidy Trailhead at Forest Service Road 5S84. Cassidy Meadow Trail (26E23) connects Miller's Crossing trail (26E63) to the California Riding and Hiking Trail.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the paved scenic byway and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter of this small polygon. Sights and sounds penetrate this small area.

Other Features of Value

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and North Fork Mono Tribe. There are cultural

and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values. Aquatic species and habitats include potential and suitable habitat for Yosemite toad and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed). There is one known population of Yosemite lewisia on Piyah (Squaw) Dome. There are no research natural areas or other special interest areas.

Manageability

The area is bounded by a scenic byway on the east and a road on the north that accesses a trailhead providing wilderness access. The boundary toward the scenic byway may not be well-defined topographically.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area has a rare plant and the plant communities are predominantly native and not impacted by current activities. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter of this small polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized are likely pervasive throughout the area. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 709 acres.

Polygon 821 (Mount Raymond)

General Description

Located south of Yosemite National Park, this 13,370 acre area is partially divided by private property, the Red Top motorized trail and other forest roads (Figure B-20, Sierra National Forest evaluation map A and Figure B-21, evaluation map B). Elevation in this area is from 5100 feet to 9,000 feet.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates less than 1 percent of the area of the polygon consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 2,082 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area is characterized by timbered slopes dropping to the South Fork of the Merced River on the west and the lower slopes of Red Top and Madera Peaks to the east. There are several large lakes and meadows and rich old-growth forests of mixed conifer and fir with areas of barren rock and montane chaparral. Most of the unit is within an inventoried roadless area. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area. Meadow and riparian conditions are mostly good, although some areas have grazing and trampling impacts. There are dense conifer forests in steep, rocky terrain with a heavy dead and down fuel component. This fuel loading is continuous enough to allow a “path” for a fire to travel from the Sierra National Forest to Yosemite National Park, with a moderate potential to affect the community of Wawona. Fires here mainly travel by

rolling material, with subsequent upslope runs. Heavy fuels allow for greater distance spotting potential.

The polygon is currently part of two active allotments (Iron Creek and Mugler allotments). The allotments are currently grazed with 160 and 209 cow-calf pair, respectively, from June 15 through September 30. Invasive plant species include bull thistle and woolly mullein. Past timber harvest is evident in the eastern portion that is bordered by Beasore Vista Road. Feral pigs may be a concern for elevations below 2,500 feet in elevation. California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways and in lakes present in this unit. The Star Lakes motorized trail was originally constructed to access the Star Mine. The Star Mine, also called the Yellow Jacket Mine, is a tungsten mine that began in 1946. There is private property with road access on the edges of the area. Six trails cross through the area and access Yosemite National Park.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, OHV, hunting, camping, and sightseeing. Six hiking trails cross through the area and access Yosemite National Park. There are commercial uses by the Yosemite Trails pack station in Biledo Meadow with structures at this site. Opportunities for solitude are generally high elsewhere due to inaccessibility. The area presents opportunities for personal challenge and self-reliance typically associated with these recreational activities. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Although most of the area is within an inventoried roadless area, a forest system road provides access to private property in the eastern portion and there are two authorized motorized trails within the unit, Star Lakes and the Red Top motorized trails. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas of authorized motorized trails and authorized motorized access to private property and mines.

Other Features of Value

There are several meadows with fens (peat lands) present. No rare plants are known. There are no research natural areas or botanical special interest areas present. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including the American Indian Council of Mariposa (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation), North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and North Fork Mono Tribe. Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, occupied habitat, proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad; and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (federally listed).

Manageability

Most of this area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area would be very manageable as wilderness with the boundary of the South Fork of the Merced Wild and Scenic River to serve as an anchor for this wilderness.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The area is bordered by the South Fork of the Merced Wild and Scenic River and presents opportunities for personal challenge and self-reliance typically associated with recreational activities. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Although most of the area is within an inventoried roadless area, a forest system road provides access to private property in the eastern portion and there are two areas of authorized motorized trails within the unit, which include Star Lakes and the Red Top motorized trails. Opportunities for

solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas of authorized motorized trails and authorized motorized access to private property and mines. Sights and sounds penetrate these motorized areas. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,082 acres.

Polygon 822 (Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness)

General Description

Polygon 822 is a 10,581-acre area along the southern border of the Ansel Adams Wilderness (Figure B-21, Sierra National Forest evaluation map B).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3 percent of the area of the polygon (367 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 5 ecological groups with a total area of 1,324 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent is Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

There are several large lakes and meadows and rich old-growth forests of pine and fir. Six trails cross through the area and access Yosemite National Park. The vistas from Cattle Mountain and Green Mountain are excellent. Clover Meadow is located in the center of this horseshoe shaped polygon. There are two motorized trails at the edge of the established wilderness boundary near Mammoth Trailhead; Green Mountain and Cattle Mountain motorized trails bisect the polygon into two nonmotorized areas. There are many recreation developments along the border: 3 campgrounds, 4 trailheads, 2 vista points along the scenic byway and 1 corral. A majority of these developments support access to the wilderness. A paved access road and several cherry stem forest system roads shape the polygon into varying widths.

Conifer stands are located in steep, rocky terrain with a heavy dead and down fuel component. This fuel loading is continuous enough to allow a “path” for a fire to travel from Forest Service to National Park Service with a moderate potential to affect the community of Wawona. Fires here mainly travel by rolling material, with subsequent upslope runs. Heavy fuels allow for greater distance spotting potential. This area is currently part of two active grazing allotments (Iron Creek and Mugler). Invasive plant species include scattered patches of bull thistle and woolly mullein. The area is primarily granitic rock and open gravelly and sandy areas associated with rocky areas. California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in adjacent waterways and in lakes present in this unit. Contiguous habitat for fisheries and wildlife species exist within the area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, camping and sightseeing. The area presents opportunities for personal challenge and self-reliance typically associated with these recreational activities. Overall there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to inaccessibility. There is private property near the

northern section with a cherry stem road heading further north to access the Hole Trail that ties to a trail to access Yosemite. The private property has had past discussions regarding new development. There are two motorized trails at the edge of the established wilderness boundary near Mammoth Trailhead; Green Mountain and Cattle Mountain motorized trails bisect the polygon into two nonmotorized areas. These motorized areas near Mammoth Trailhead have limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

There are several meadows with fens (peat lands) present. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including the American Indian Council of Mariposa (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation), North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and North Fork Mono Tribe. There are cultural and historic sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values. Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, occupied habitat, and proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad and potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed).

Manageability

The area would be manageable for preservation of wilderness characteristics due to its adjacency to the Ansel Adams Wilderness, except in the area of two authorized motorized trails that bisect the polygon into two nonmotorized areas.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Naturalness, undeveloped quality and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are generally intact. The area has great vistas, access to lakes, existing trails and endangered species and habitat. The motorized area near Mammoth Trailhead has limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Sights and sounds penetrate this small area. Once the area is reshaped to remove existing motorized trails, it is suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon presents a limited opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise a low number of acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,324 acres.

Polygon 1378 (Adjacent to John Muir and Monarch Wildernesses)

General Description

This polygon crosses the forest boundary between the Sequoia National Forest and the Sierra National Forest (Figure B-22, Sierra National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon was evaluated as one whole unit, with 14,609 acres on the Sequoia National Forest and 57,364 acres administered by the Sierra National Forest. This 71,974 acre area is bounded on the north by Rogers Ridge, on the east by Deer Ridge and the Monarch Wilderness, on the south by a network of cherry stemmed roads in the Sequoia National Monument, and on the west by the boundary of the Kings River Special Management Area and the western boundary of the Sequoia National Monument. There are roads and motorized trails providing corridors within the unit. The area includes the 49,000-acre Kings River Special Management Area and an area of the northern portion of the Sequoia National Monument (Converse Basin to McKenzie Ridge).

Overall vegetation includes steep slopes of brush and wooded slopes, rising steeply out of the river canyons with vegetation transitions from chaparral through oak-conifer to mixed conifers at higher elevations. National Vegetation Classification System data, based on the polygon size of 71,974 acres, indicates 1 percent of the area of the polygon (670 acres) consists of ecological groups that have less than 5 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This polygon also contains 8 ecological groups with a total area of 22,425 acres which have less than 20 percent of their national extent protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent are California Central Valley mixed oak savanna, California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland, Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland, Mediterranean California mesic mixed conifer forest and woodland and Northern and Central California dry-mesic chaparral.

Wilderness Characteristics

Degree the Area Generally Appears to be Affected Primarily by the Forces of Nature

The area was noted for its significant old-growth forest in the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project Report. The overall character of the area appears natural despite the impacts from recreation use, developments and historic logging. Large blocks of the unit are unaffected by human activity and the steep terrain limits access. Much of the area is rarely visited and existing trails are overgrown with brush.

The area north of the Spanish Lakes motorized trail is within the Collins Allotment which is currently grazed by 130 cow-calf pair from June through September. The area between the Spanish motorized trail and the Kings River is not currently within any active allotments. The area south of the Kings River has three grazing allotments: Sampson with up to 200 cow-calf pair, Hoist with 100 cow-calf pair, and Converse with up to 125 cow-calf pair. Invasive plant species include annual grasses.

A very small portion affected by fire within the last 20-30 years. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Steep and rocky canyons contribute to rapid fire spread and high intensity fire effects. Fires in this area have the potential to become large and aggressive suppression may be needed. Portions of this watershed are typically soil-based rather than rock-based, and often experience intense winter rain storms. Following a fire, it is anticipated that extreme sediment loads will be experienced in the downstream water ways.

The area within the Converse Basin to McKenzie Ridge and outside of the Kings River Special Management Area was considerably modified by historic timber harvest from the mid-1800s to early 1900s. Most Giant sequoias were removed during this time and the area has many plantations. Many of the old logging roads have been incorporated into a system for motorized routes for off highway vehicles. There are several popular interpretive sites.

There are major developments in the unit. There are communications sites and range improvements such as fences, corrals and water troughs occur near some water sources in the area. Several historic guard cabins are present. There is one storage building under special use permit, and trailheads and campgrounds are concentrated along the Kings River. There are several interpretive sites and trailheads in the area outside of the Kings River Special Management Area. Motorized and hiking trails are present in the area. There are several motorized trails including the Spanish and several motorized trails in the Kings River Special Management Area south of the Kings River, and a system of motorized routes in the area outside of the Kings River Special Management Area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Developed and dispersed recreation activities include hiking, horseback riding, OHV use, rafting, kayaking, hunting, camping and sightseeing. Given the steepness of the topography there is minimal recreational use on steeper slopes. Potential encounters with other visitors are low throughout most of the area. Use is primarily confined to trails within the area, with concentrations of use along roads at the boundaries or cherry stems. There are opportunities for challenge and self-reliance in this area along the Kings River and travelling off-trail through steep rugged terrain. The area has high opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to its large size, although any public use is focused on the few existing trails and the Kings River.

The area south of the Kings River and outside of the Kings River Special Management Area has little opportunity for solitude because of high visitor volume created from the close proximity to popular national parks, objects of interest in the Monument, and off highway vehicle use in this area. Primitive opportunities are intermixed with more developed recreation opportunities with motorized access. There are two small communities and some private property at the edge of the unit. In times of active fire suppression, the number of helicopters coming and going out of the nearby heliport could be disruptive to visitors. The areas of authorized motorized trails and forest system roads that are open to the public located within the polygon have limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

The area includes the congressionally designated Kings River Special Management Area and the Kings Wild and Scenic River. Native species have connectivity and habitat in the areas away from human impacts. All of the area south of the Kings River is also in the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

There is a rare plant, the Kings River buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* var. *regirivum*) on limestone and marble outcrops (Forest Service sensitive species). Some meadows north of the Spanish off highway vehicle route may have fen ecosystems.

Aquatic species and habitats include potential habitat, suitable habitat, occupied habitat and proposed critical habitat for Yosemite toad; potential and suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and California red-legged frog (Endangered Species Act listed); potential and suitable habitat and occupied habitat for western pond turtle; and potential habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (Forest Service sensitive species).

This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area from tribes in the area, including Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians and Tule River Indian Reservation and the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee (Holkoma Mono).

Manageability

Much of the area is manageable for preservation of wilderness characteristics due to its larger size and rugged terrain. Reshaping the area to avoid motorized trails within the unit and cherry stemmed roads would be necessary. The inclusion of this unit into the wilderness system would protect the audible sounds from flights.

Summary of Potential Suitability for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Large portions of the area might be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System due to relatively intact wilderness qualities and rugged terrain limiting access. Large blocks of the unit are unaffected by human activity. There are old-growth forests, rare plants and endangered aquatic species and habitat in the area. The areas of authorized motorized trails and forest system roads that are open to the public have limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There is a need to reshape the unit to avoid these existing motorized activities.

This polygon presents an opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ecological groups with less than 5 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 670 acres. Ecological groups with between 10 and 20 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 22,425 acres.

Sierra Maps

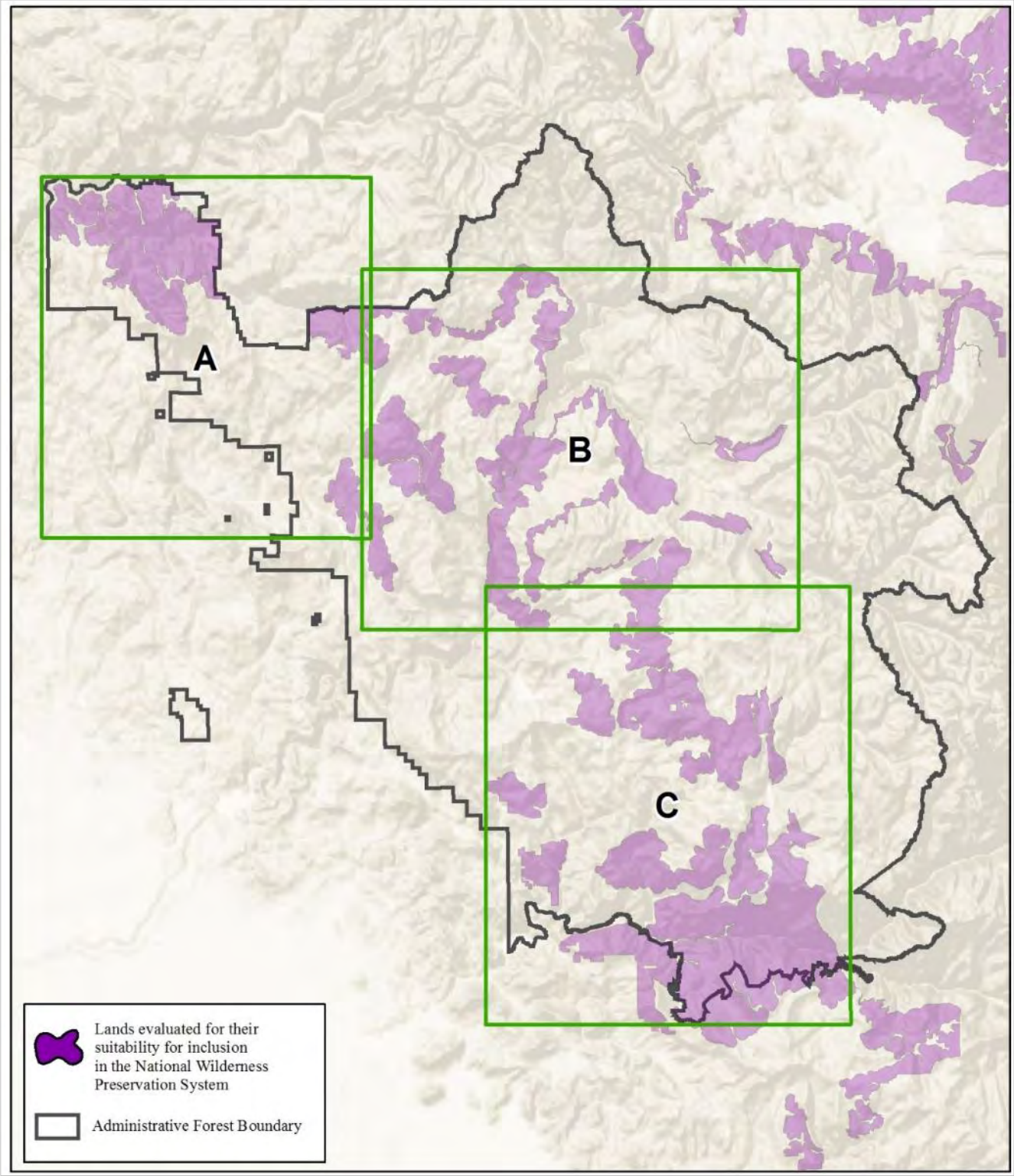


Figure B-19. Map index for Sierra National Forest lands evaluated for their suitability to be recommended for wilderness designation

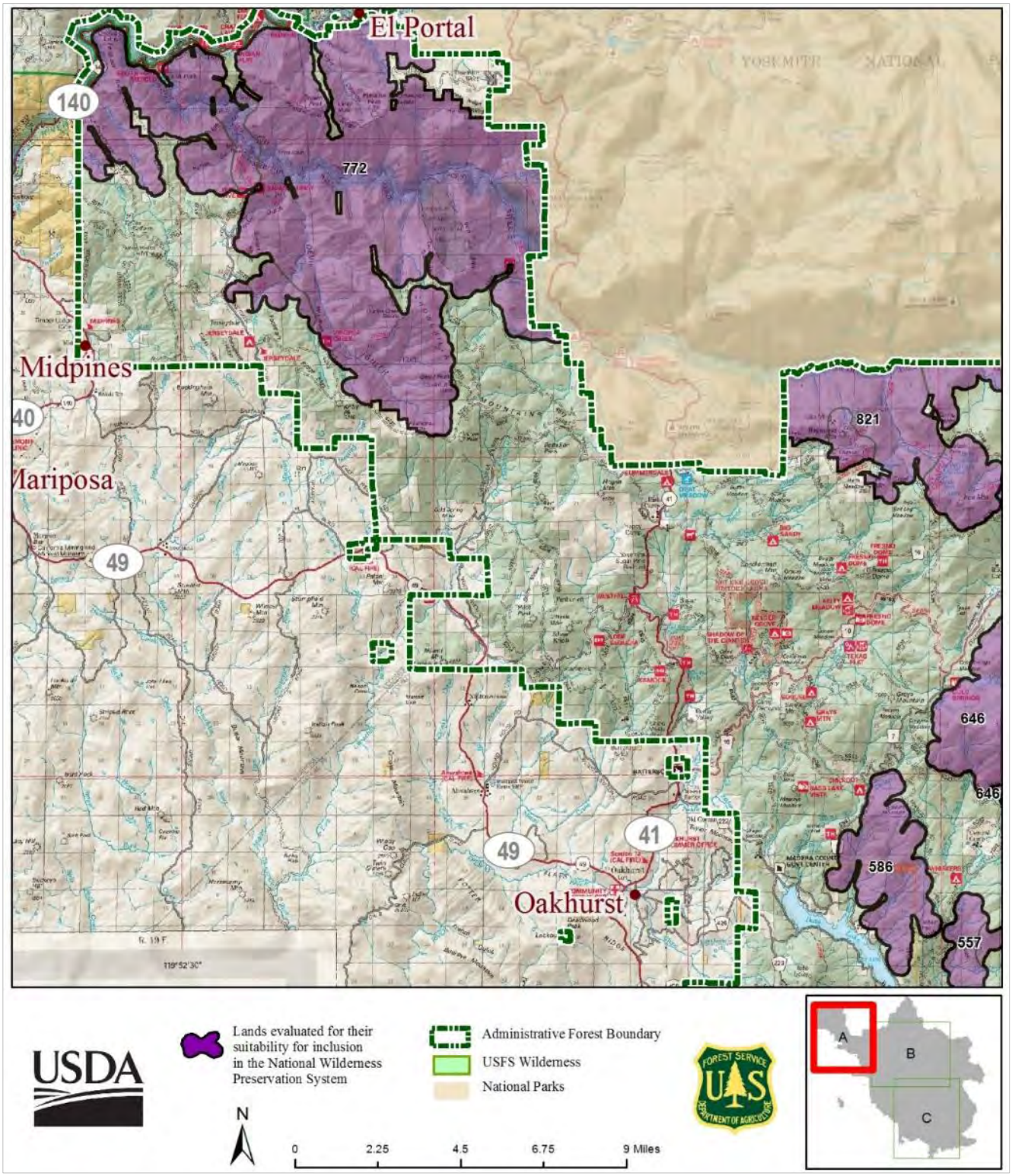


Figure B-20. Sierra National Forest evaluation map A

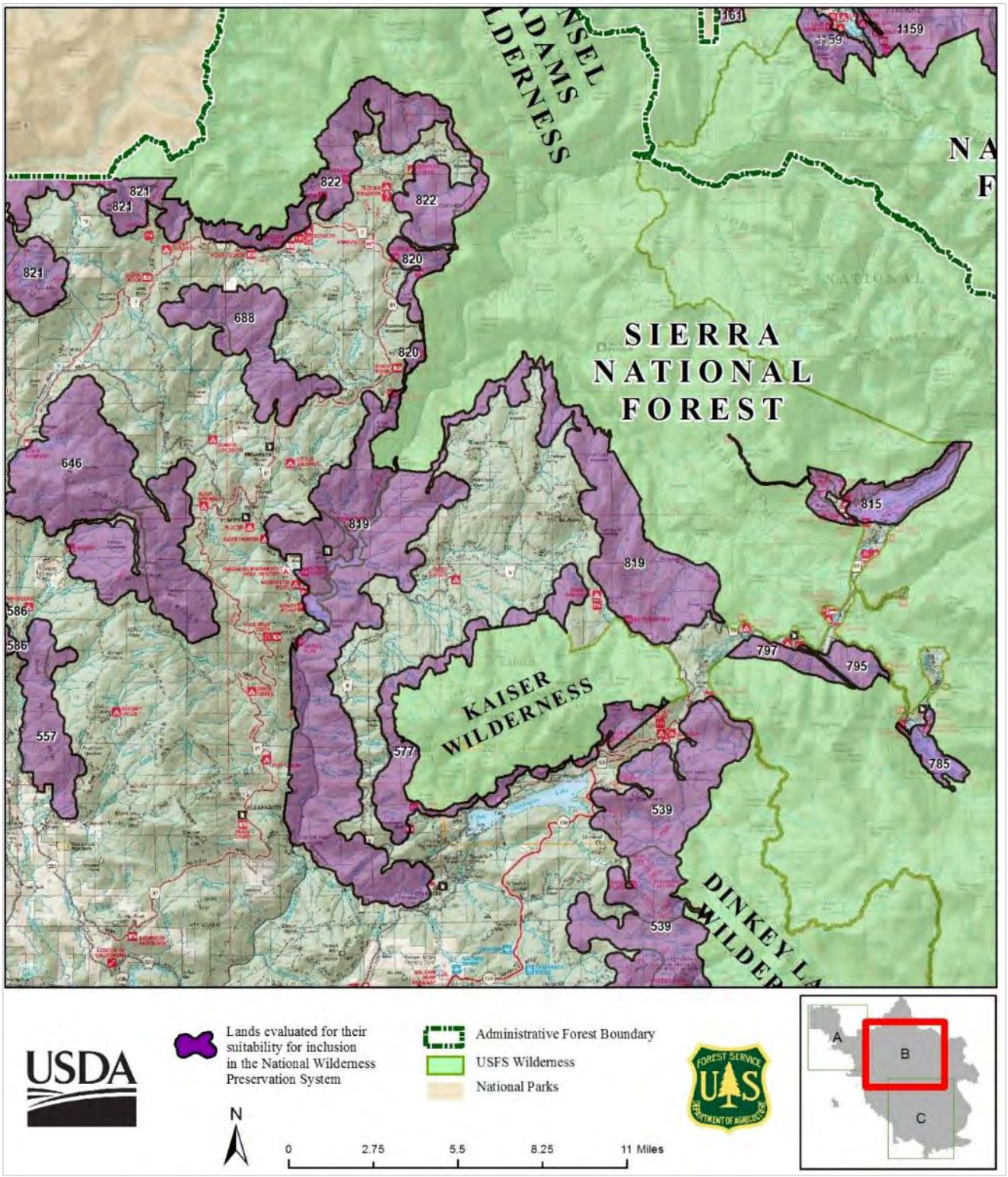


Figure B-21. Sierra National Forest evaluation map B

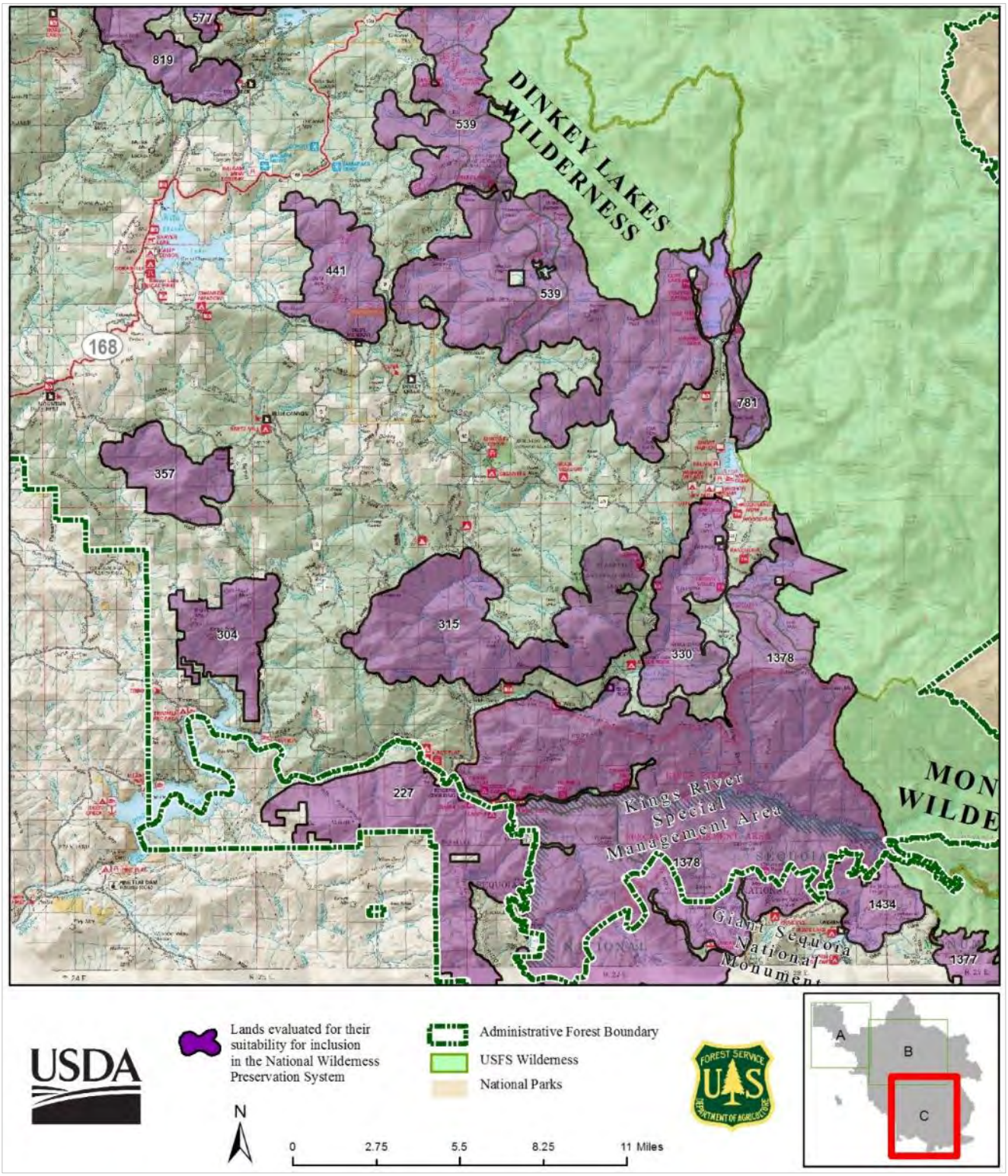


Figure B-22. Sierra National Forest evaluation map C

Analysis

Process for Identifying Areas to Analyze as Recommended Wilderness in the Environmental Impact Statement

Initial Selection of Areas

The draft wilderness evaluation narratives provided the foundation for the initial selection of areas to analyze as recommended wilderness. Forest Supervisors met with staff to review the draft wilderness evaluation narratives and, as a starting point, identified areas with the highest quality of wilderness characteristics. Next, considerations were made for the extent of development within and adjacent to the polygon, as well as the feasibility of management as wilderness. For example, determining whether there was a need for mechanical vegetation treatments to protect infrastructure and communities from wildfire.

As the quality of wilderness characteristics diminished, polygons were assessed for the presence of infrastructure (e.g., motorized trails) or established activities that are incompatible with wilderness (e.g., existing land uses requiring motorized access). These polygons were included if existing uses were of a limited extent. Additional reviews among the three forests were done to ensure a level consistency in selecting areas.

During the initial selection of areas, Forest Supervisors also considered scoping comments received from the public on the final inventory. These comments provided information on wilderness characteristics of inventory areas, as well as provided suggestions and concerns regarding recommended wilderness during this plan revision process.

We mapped the selected areas using criteria from the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook to refine their boundaries. In addition, we developed narrative descriptions for each area that described the following:

- Name of potential recommended wilderness area.
- Number of acres.
- Location and recommended boundary.
- General geography, topography, and vegetation.
- Current uses.
- Wilderness characteristics of the area and the ability to protect and manage the area to preserve those wilderness characteristics.

In May 2015, the Forest Service posted the maps and narratives of these initially selected areas on the Pacific Southwest Regional planning website:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3803608

Identification of Additional Areas

Based on public input received from June to November 2015 on the initially selected areas and evaluation process, the Forest Supervisors continued to meet with staff to consider additional areas to bring forward as recommended wilderness under one or more alternatives in the draft environmental impact statement. Forest Supervisors considered the following factors in selecting areas:

1. **Appearance of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.**
   Forest Supervisors considered whether human modifications (e.g. mining operations, plantations) to the area were substantially noticeable. Polygons where human modifications were substantially noticeable and adversely affected the appearance of naturalness were not brought forward.

   Polygons were also evaluated to determine the degree to which they offered opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. Where external factors adversely affected these opportunities, Forest Supervisors considered how extensive these effects were within a polygon. Polygons with limited opportunities due to various factors such as the presence or adjacency of motorized roads or trails, groomed snowmobile trails, recreation sites, and infrastructure were typically removed from further consideration.

   Where possible, boundaries were redrawn to exclude activities that adversely affected the appearance of naturalness or opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation experience.

2. **Manageability.**
   Forest Supervisors considered whether existing management activities and potential future management needs conflicted with preserving the area's wilderness characteristics. This included, but was not limited to, fuels and vegetation management activities needed to protect adjacent high value areas and communities, management of existing special use permits and facilities, and the ability to define polygon boundaries and keep incompatible uses out.

3. **Ecosystem representation.**
   Forest Supervisors considered whether the area presented an opportunity to protect an ecosystem type that is underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In very few cases was an area selected or not based on one factor alone. Instead, each area was evaluated holistically, while also taking into account the level of public interest in recommending wilderness areas on each forest.

Public Input on Areas Considered for Analysis and Draft Evaluation Narratives

In December 2015, the Forest Service shared the draft wilderness evaluation narratives, as well as maps and tables for each forest displaying areas under consideration for analysis in the draft environmental impact statement as potential recommended wilderness. The narratives summarize the wilderness characteristics of each polygon listed in our final wilderness inventory, as described above in the Evaluation section. The maps and tables displayed areas considered for analysis by alternative, as well as other additional information.

The public was invited to review these materials and provide feedback over a 45-day period on the areas being considered for analysis. The Forest Service also asked for input regarding suitable uses and management of recommended wilderness. The Forest Service received and reviewed over 300 submissions from individuals and organizations.

Summary of Public Input

The majority of comments received came from the mountain biking community, who expressed opposition for including any of the additional polygons under consideration for analysis as recommended wilderness.

Public input can generally be categorized into the following topic areas:

1. Concerns regarding the areas being considered for inclusion, including:
    - Concerns that areas were improperly excluded based on what was described in the evaluation narratives (e.g. manageability) or other reasons.
    - Concerns that the Forest Service had not provided rationale or a repeatable process for identifying areas to bring forward.
    - Concerns with the reduction in size of areas being brought forward without adequate explanation.
    - Concerns as to why several areas in the Giant Sequoia National Monument were not being considered for inclusion.
    - Concerns that not enough inventoried roadless areas were being considered for inclusion.
    - Concerns with roads and road setbacks.
2. Concerns with the alternatives, including:
    - Concerns that the areas being carried forward do not constitute a broad range of alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.
    - Concerns that there should be additional alternatives that better balance protection of lands with wilderness values and other management needs inconsistent with wilderness values.
    - Concerns that specific areas were not proposed for inclusion in specific alternatives.
3. Concerns with the wilderness evaluation process, including:
    - Concerns with the sequence of the process.
    - Concerns regarding coordination with local governments.
    - Concerns with the inventory process.
4. Concerns with the draft wilderness evaluation narratives, including:
    - Concerns that management trade-offs and manageability of an area as wilderness were improperly considered.
    - Concerns with the level of emphasis placed on the presence of past or current human activities or improvements when evaluating naturalness.
    - Concerns that the criterion requiring an area to have “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation” was improperly combined.
    - Concerns that when referencing outside sights and sounds as an impediment to the area’s naturalness, we did not adequately describe how pervasive these sights or sounds were.
    - Concerns that when referencing the presence of motorized uses as an impairment to opportunities for solitude, we did not adequately describe how pervasive these uses were and how opportunities for solitude were influenced.
    - Concerns with inconsistencies in the findings and the narratives.
    - Concerns with the assumption that plant species and wildlife will do better if in wilderness than on multiple-use lands.
    - Concerns that wilderness characteristics of inventoried roadless areas within larger polygons were not adequately addressed. Issues with inconsistencies between

evaluation narratives and descriptions of inventoried roadless areas included in existing plans.

- Concerns that important motorized backcountry or alpine OHV trails may have been missed because they are outside of identified destination OHV areas.
- Concerns with bias in the evaluation narratives.

5. Comments providing area-specific information, including:
   - Suggestions for additional areas to include or exclude in the analysis and specific information about why.
   - Details about activities, unique features of value, and existing uses in specific areas.
6. Comments regarding specific activities, including:
   - Concerns that management of recommended wilderness is managed as defacto wilderness areas, where recreation using motorized equipment and mechanized transportation is banned or severely restricted.
   - Types of activities highlighted included motorized recreation, over snow vehicle use, mountain biking, climbing, rockhounding, orienteering, adventure racing, research activities and installations, fire management, wildlife management, historic structures management, and livestock grazing.
7. Issues with maps, including:
   - Requests to include more detailed maps of the areas to better located analysis polygon boundaries and their relationship to roads and trails.
   - Suggestions to update certain analysis polygon names to better match the names of places within them.
   - Suggestions to provide electronic copies of detailed maps that allow the public to zoom in and out.
   - Discrepancies among the data, descriptions, and maps, though no further details were provided.
8. Feedback on suitable uses in recommended wilderness, including:
   - Requests to allow human-powered transport, including bicycles.
   - Requests to prohibit mountain biking and off-road vehicles.
   - Requests to manage landscapes to maintain wilderness characteristics while also allowing for diverse recreation activities and uses through creative and tailored agency management prescriptions and alternative land protection designations.
   - Requests to follow Forest Service directives and provide documentation and rational for continuing to allow uses in recommended wilderness that would not be allowed in designated wilderness, as well as standards to ensure wilderness potential is not reduced.
   - Requests to manage recommended wilderness areas to maintain existing wilderness character and potential.
   - Suggestions for desired conditions for recommended wilderness.
   - Allowing up to 10% tree harvesting.
   - Making sure hunting regulations are the same as surrounding forests.
   - Allowing access to wildlife guzzlers for maintenance needs.

Final Identification of Areas to Analyze

The forests carefully considered public feedback and used the following process to identify the final set of polygons to analyze as recommended wilderness in the draft environmental impact statement:

1. Identify polygons that the public has shown the greatest interest in analyzing as recommended wilderness.
2. Review and refine the wilderness evaluation narratives based on public input.
3. Use a consistent approach to determine which polygons to include in the analysis.

Identify Areas of Greatest Public Interest

The first step was to identify areas of greatest public interest that were not already being considered for inclusion in the analysis. Areas considered to be of greatest public interest included polygons that multiple stakeholders expressed interest in and that also came up several times throughout the process.

Further Refine Evaluation Narratives

The second step was to review the evaluation narratives to address the most critical concerns identified in public comments. Specifically, a review of the evaluation narratives was conducted to ensure they included appropriate management considerations and accurate descriptions of existing conditions and activities, including the relative influence of these conditions and activities on wilderness characteristics. These concerns were considered to be the most critical because they had the potential to influence consideration of an area for inclusion in the analysis.

In terms of management considerations, we reviewed descriptions in the evaluation narratives that the public expressed concerns about, particularly fire management, livestock grazing, management of threatened and endangered species, invasive species management, and ecological restoration. In terms of the influence of existing conditions and activities on wilderness characteristics, we reviewed the description of naturalness for each polygon to ensure that the assessment of wilderness quality was not solely based on the natural range of variation. We also edited the evaluation narratives where applicable to include a more detailed description of the impacts of motorized uses on opportunities for solitude. Finally, we corrected any factual errors identified by the public.

During this review of evaluation narratives, we also reassessed the exclusion of polygons from the analysis based on the refinements made in response to public input. In particular, we focused on those polygons that the public showed a level of interest in at some point in the process. We found some of these polygons no longer had strong rationale for why they were not moving forward into the analysis.

Determine Which Areas to Include in the Analysis

The Forest Supervisors decided to include additional recommended wilderness areas as part of alternative C in response to public input. Areas of greatest public interest were included as part of alternative C, as well as additional areas discovered while refining the evaluation narratives that did not appear to have strong rationale and were also of some public interest. However, the portions of these polygons that include authorized motorized trails based on recent travel management decisions were excluded. One exception to this is the Sirretta Trail on the Sequoia National Forest, which was identified in the Mediated Settlement of 1990 for removal and/or replacement. These motorized portions of the polygons are part of an alternative considered but eliminated from detailed study (see Chapter 2). The rationale for all polygons or portions of

polygons that were not included in the analysis can be found in the tables below. Some of the areas that were previously considered and shared with the public as recommended wilderness in alternative C were adjusted to include more of the original parent polygon minus the motorized portions. This was done to bring consistency to alternative C polygons and to include as much of the non-motorized areas the public was interested in analyzing as possible. The Forest Supervisors did not make adjustments to Alternatives B or D.

An examination of the analysis polygons in alternative C resulted in the identification of some polygons on the Sequoia National Forest that contained system roads that are currently open to the public as indicated on the forest's motor vehicle use map (MVUM), which was the result of a recent travel management decision involving public participation. These areas were removed from the analysis polygons. These roads were originally included in the wilderness inventory and evaluation because they are currently in our roads database as objective maintenance level 1 roads or they were identified during the Sequoia's Travel Analysis Process (TAP) as "likely not needed." These open roads provide access for a variety of uses, including street legal and off highway vehicle riding, access to dispersed camping sites, and other recreation opportunities. The travel management decision reflects the Sequoia's intent to manage the roads on the motor vehicle use map for public use; however, the Forest has not yet made administrative updates to objective maintenance levels in the roads database. In addition, the TAP process was a broad-scale analysis that was not intended to collect data to allow site specific analysis, collect public input on the recommendation, or make any decisions. It evaluated access benefit based on five criteria. Because of the way the rating system was set up, roads that only provided access for one function (i.e., a single use) were likely to end up with a finding of "likely not needed." TAP was intended to be an initial screening process to identify opportunities to consider during future projects. However, these roads are currently authorized, and it is premature to analyze in detail these roaded areas as potential recommended wilderness. Some of these roads provide access that is important enough to keep just for the single use, like access to an administrative site or developed recreation site.

Finally, McBride Flat is an area on the Inyo National Forest that was not previously included in the wilderness inventory and evaluation because it was outside the Forest's administrative boundary. Now that the administrative boundary has been formally changed, we have completed the inventory and evaluation for this area. Because the public has not had a chance to weigh in on this area, it was included as recommended wilderness in alternative C.

The following section provides further details on the areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in Alternatives B and C of the draft environmental impact statement. Alternatives may be adjusted in response to public comments received on the draft environmental impact statement.

Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in the Environmental Impact Statement

Inyo National Forest – Maps and Descriptions of Areas Analyzed

The following map and table provide an overview of all the areas analyzed on the Inyo National Forest that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Individual maps are included with each description.

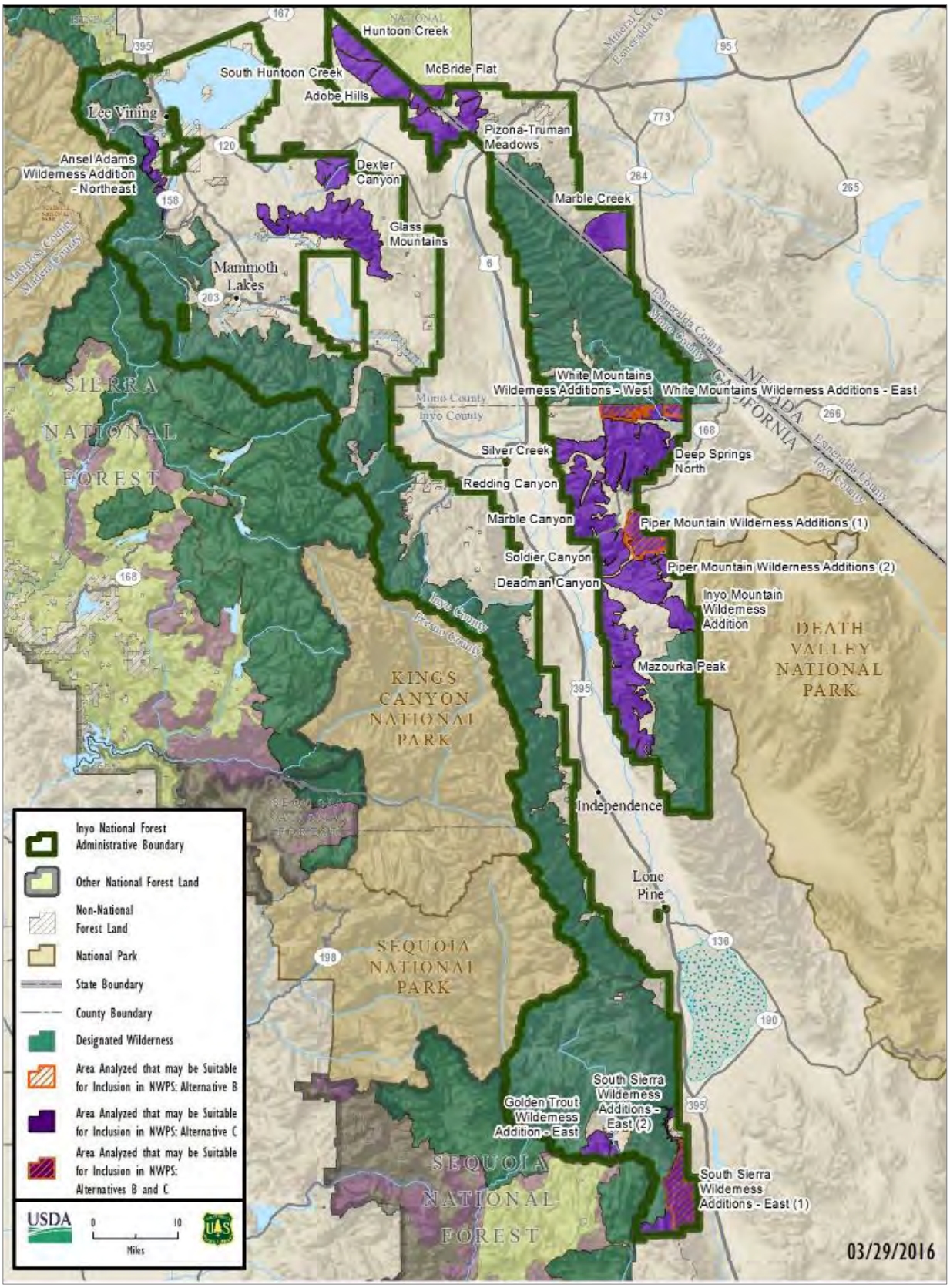


Figure B-23. Overview of Inyo National Forest areas analyzed that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Table B-3. Inyo National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives B and C

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
1012	40,368	Glass Mountains	None	Glass Mountains (34,591)
1068	12,311	Dexter Canyon	None	Dexter Canyon (8,674)
1179	7,212	Lower Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake Loop	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast (7,212)
1236	73,128	West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness	None	Inyo Mountain Wilderness Addition (6,775) Mazourka Peak (41,524)
1242	2,678	North of Little Cowhorn Valley	None	Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (2) (2,678)
1246	43,231	North of Eureka Valley Road	Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1)[A] (11,840)	Deadman Canyon[2] (15,445) Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1) (10,657) Soldier Canyon (10,037)
1248	38,756	Redding Canyon, Black Canyon	None	Marble Canyon (15,392) Redding Canyon (8,284) Silver Creek (8,076)
1258	35,248	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South	None	Deep Springs North (34,164)
1281	11,210	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow	White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East) (2,505) White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West) (5,062)	White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East) (3,187) White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West) (7,142)
1308	13,886	Indian Creek to Leidy Creek	None	Marble Creek (13,886)
1339	19,826	Pizona-Truman Meadows	None	Pizona-Truman Meadows (19,762)
1355	10,297	Excelsior Mountains-Adobe Hills	None	Adobe Hills (10,297)
1357	5,805	Excelsior Mountains	None	South Huntoon Creek (5,805)
1361	8,855	Excelsior Mountains - Huntoon Creek	None	Huntoon Creek (8,855)
1391[B]	33,247	Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East	South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) (17,622)	Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East (5,954) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) (25,249) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (2) (1,424)
1550[C]	12,198	McBride Flat[1]	None	McBride Flat (10,461)

A. In previously publicly shared information of areas being considered for inclusion in one or more alternatives as potential recommended wilderness, this area was call “Deep Springs South.” It is been renamed “Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1).”

B. Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the acres occurring on the Inyo National Forest.

C. In previously publicly shared information of areas being considered for inclusion in one or more alternatives as potential recommended wilderness, this area was call “Soldier Canyon” It is been renamed “Deadman Canyon.”

1. McBride Flat is a polygon that was not included in the final inventory; the polygon was subsequently added due to an administrative boundary change that brought the area under the management of the Inyo National Forest.

Adobe Hills, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1355.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 10,297 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Adobe Hills map (Figure B-24).

The boundary follows the California-Nevada state line, National Forest System roads, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Most of the adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Lake, within the Adobe Hills with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 7,600 feet. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography consists of low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands.

Current Uses

Currently, the area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. The southeastern portion of the area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area; potential management activities include fencing, corrals, and helicopter use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has few alterations to natural conditions. Lightly traveled roads and transmission lines are visible from the polygon, and managing the polygon to preserve its wilderness characteristics would be affected by overlap with the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management activities for wild horses that may be inconsistent with wilderness. The area is remote and has good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Recreation opportunities may be limited by the lack of available water.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

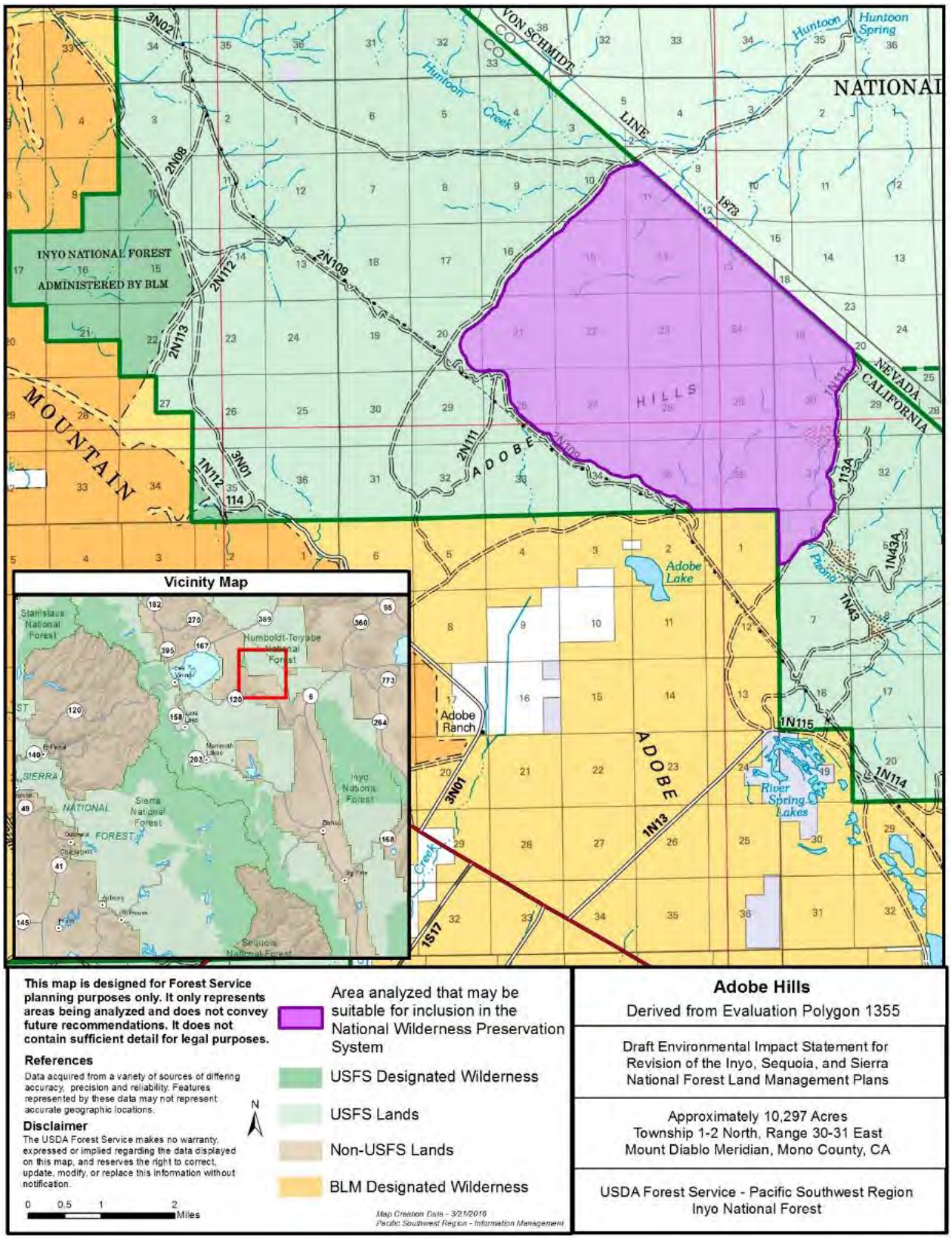


Figure B-24. Map of Adobe Hills area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1179.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 7,212 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast map (Figure B-25). The boundary is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness along the western boundary. However, the polygon is elongated vertically from north to south and roads and private land parcels protrude into the polygon along the eastern edge, making for an irregularly shaped boundary. Some of the eastern boundary follows roads and is more easily identifiable. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power manages lands adjacent to the boundary.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The area is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment from Lower Lee Vining Canyon to Silver Lake and ranges in elevation from 7,600 to 9,000 feet. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. It includes highly diverse conifer forests and aspen. The topography is steep, with many streams or drainages. There are numerous perennial stream channels, such as Walker Creek, Gibbs Creek and Parker Creek.

Current Uses

The area has current and historic fish stocking, as well as fish barriers to keep trout out of frog habitat. Understory thinning projects to reduce fuels are being implemented. The area includes habitat improvement for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep and sage grouse. The area is designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. There are aspen enhancement projects within the area. Walker Lake Dam is in the area. There are some Los Angeles Department of Water and Power structures. There are trailheads in the area. There is existing outfitting and guiding in the area, including a pack station. Motorized winter recreation is an existing use within portions of the polygon. The north half of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are five water rights in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There has been minimal human impact to the plant community. The area is very diverse, with low invasive plant species. Historic and current fish stocking have altered aquatic assemblages. Fish barriers that need to be mechanically maintained are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading habitat for a federally listed frog species in upper reaches. This area contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management activities.

The area is in proximity to concentrated recreation use and facilities, and highways in the south and north portions of the area. As a result, there is a need for wildfire defensible space around developments and access roads. The proximity to concentrated recreation use and highways limits the opportunity for solitude. Screening is minimal in some areas, but the topography along the western side of the polygon offers good screening. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

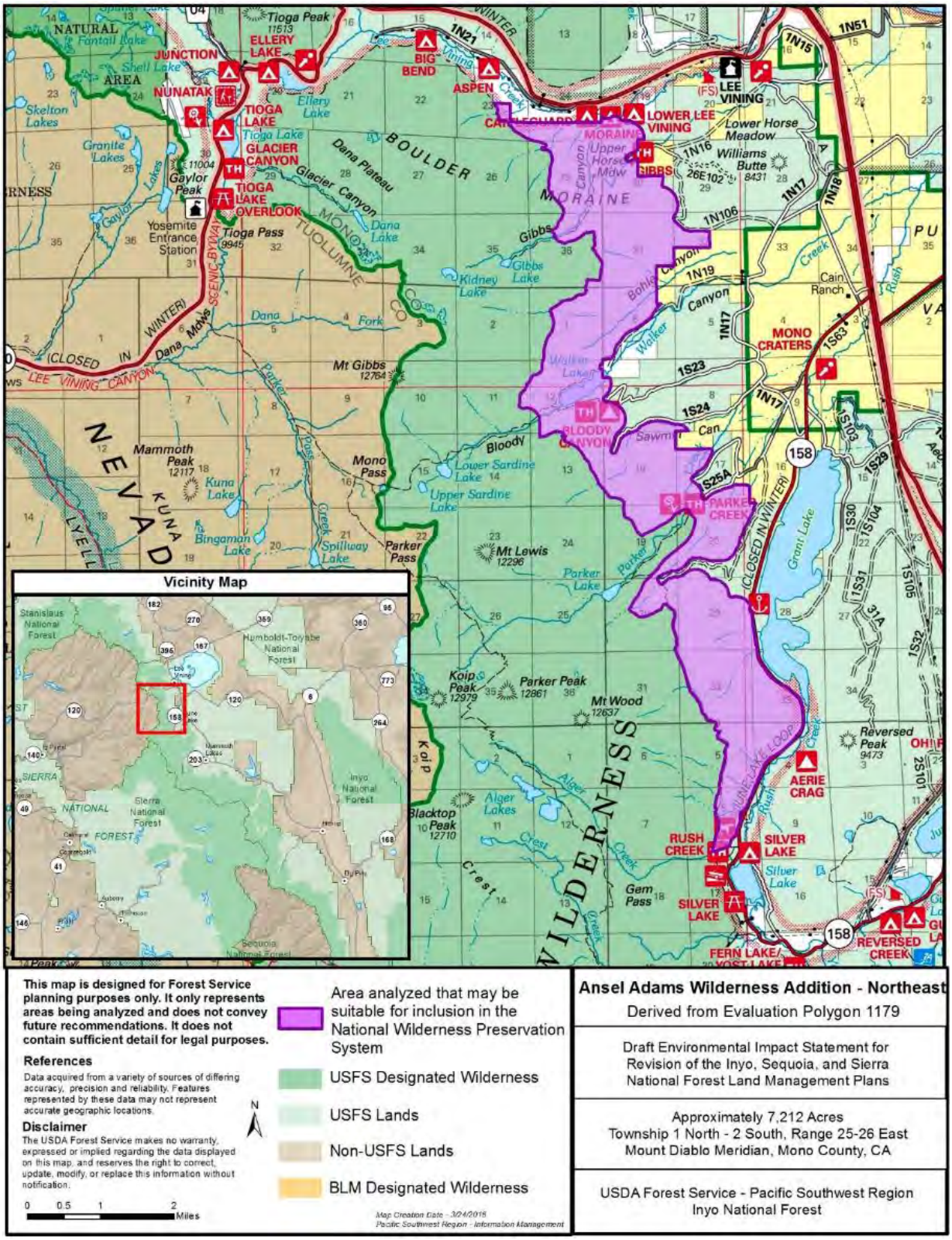


Figure B-25. Map of Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Deadman Canyon, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1246.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 15,445 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Deadman Canyon map (Figure B-26). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The areas surrounding the polygon are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located between the White Mountains and Inyo Mountains, north of Eureka Valley Road and south of the boundary between the White Mountain and Mt. Whitney Ranger Districts. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 8,600 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are a large number of cultural resource sites. The area includes one water right. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the proximity to motorized recreation. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas offer primitive recreation opportunities typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding and deer hunting.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

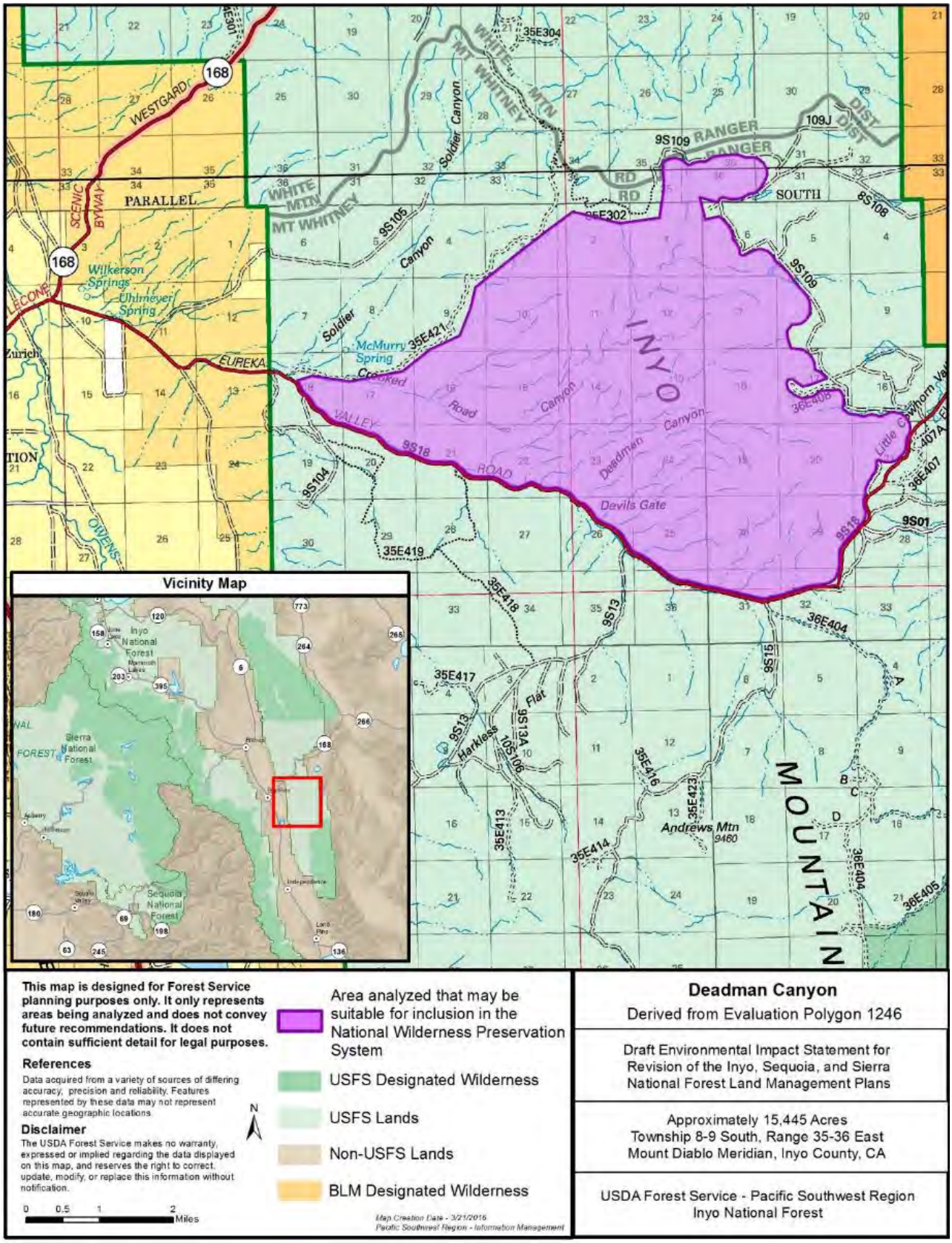


Figure B-26. Map of Deadman Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Deep Springs North, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1258.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 34,164 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Deep Springs North map (Figure B-27). The boundary follows National Forest System roads, a county road, natural features and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Most of the adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The boundary excludes all motorized trails in the southern portion of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located at the southern end of the White Mountains and is an area that exhibits complex geological processes. Elevations range from over 9,000 feet along Robert's Ridge along the northern boundary to 5,000 feet along alluvial fans along the eastern boundary. A central feature in the area is the Birch Creek granite batholith, which is emplaced amidst the parent sedimentary rocks of the White Mountains. The Birch Creek drainage comprises the majority of the area. Portions of the creek have perennial flows, and the creek is noted for its travertine formations and the canyon it has formed through the granite batholith. Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and subalpine forest.

Current Uses

The area receives low amounts of recreation use, which includes backpacking, hiking and hunting. There is a use trail (not a forest system trail) in the Birch Creek drainage. The northwest portion of the area is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and includes the Discovery National Recreation Trail, Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center, and associated trails in the Shulman Grove area. Visitor use to this specific area is high. Livestock grazing occurs with no range improvements associated with the allotments. Some of the area is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are several documented cultural properties.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area includes the Birch Creek granite batholith geologic feature, which has scenic and scientific values, and several rare plants. The area provides good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, outside of the Schulman Grove and Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center. The area is distant from occupied and modified areas. The steep ridges and deep drainages support a remote experience away from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness. The sense of remoteness may be diminished along the area's periphery by motorized vehicle use on forest system roads. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area represents a good opportunity to add underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

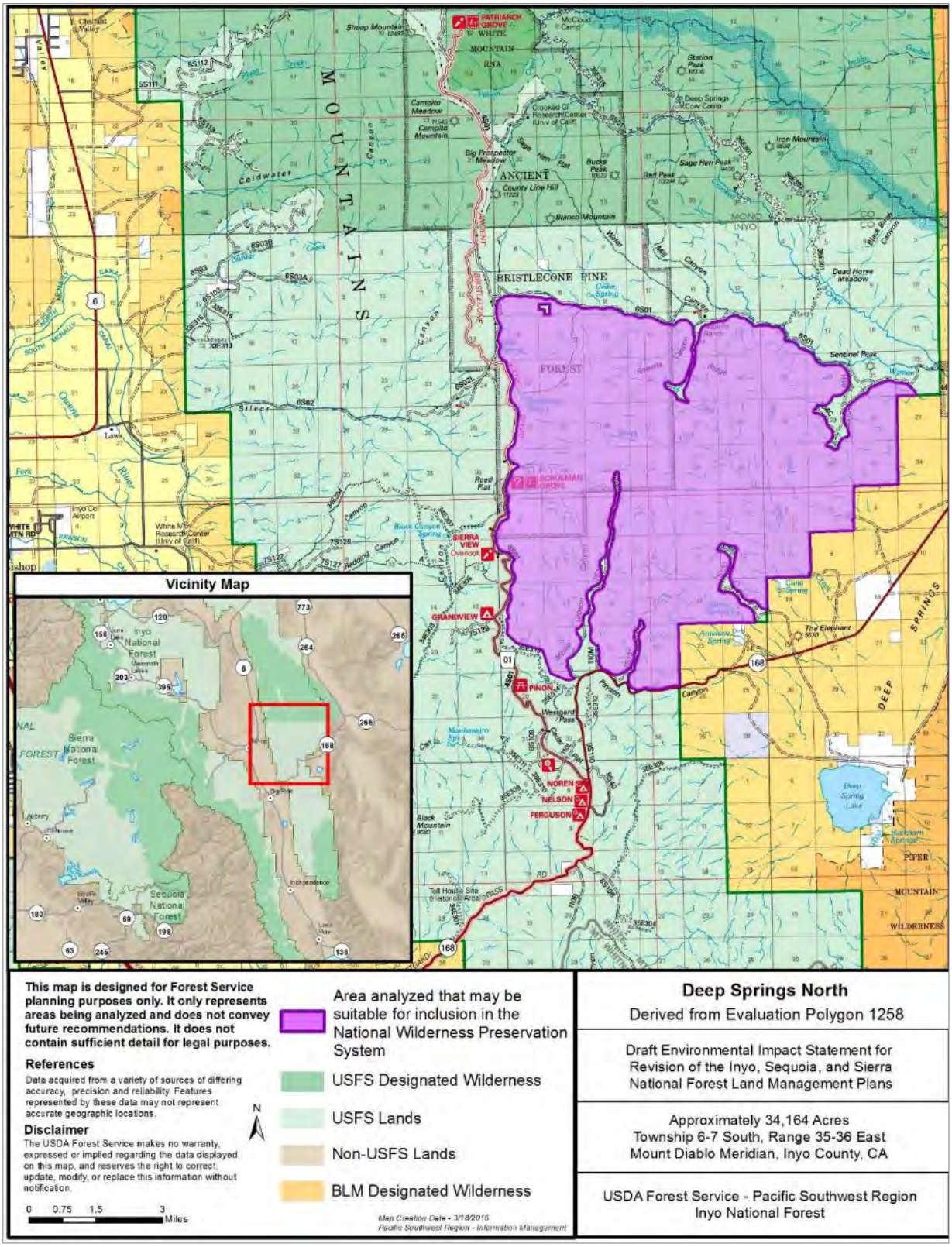


Figure B-27. Map of Deep Springs North area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Dexter Canyon, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1068.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 8,674 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Dexter Canyon map (Figure B-28). The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, roads, and private land boundaries, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Most of the adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, with some private land inholdings northwest of Dexter Canyon. Private land parcels and roads protrude into the area making the polygon oddly shaped. The boundary excludes motorized trails in the western portion of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located south of Highway 120 and east of Sagehen Peak and includes Dexter Canyon. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush. It is a priority habitat for sage-grouse. There are numerous perennial channels such as Dexter, Wet, and North Canyons. Intermittent channels also are present. Elevation ranges from 7,200 to 8,800 feet.

Current Uses

Some of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. A portion of the polygon is within an active sheep grazing allotment, which includes water troughs and a large water tank. There are several documented cultural resources. The area receives low to medium amount of use. This area is a priority habitat for sage-grouse.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There has been some pinyon pine expansion in some areas that indicates a departure from natural fire regime. Native fish and fishless areas were stocked with non-native trout species, which has affected aquatic ecologic integrity. The area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management activities that are inconsistent with wilderness. Proximity to motorized recreation, private land parcels and Highway 120, limit opportunities for solitude. Grazing activities could also limit the opportunity for solitude. Shepherds drive sheep from place to place and set up camps where they stay overnight. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

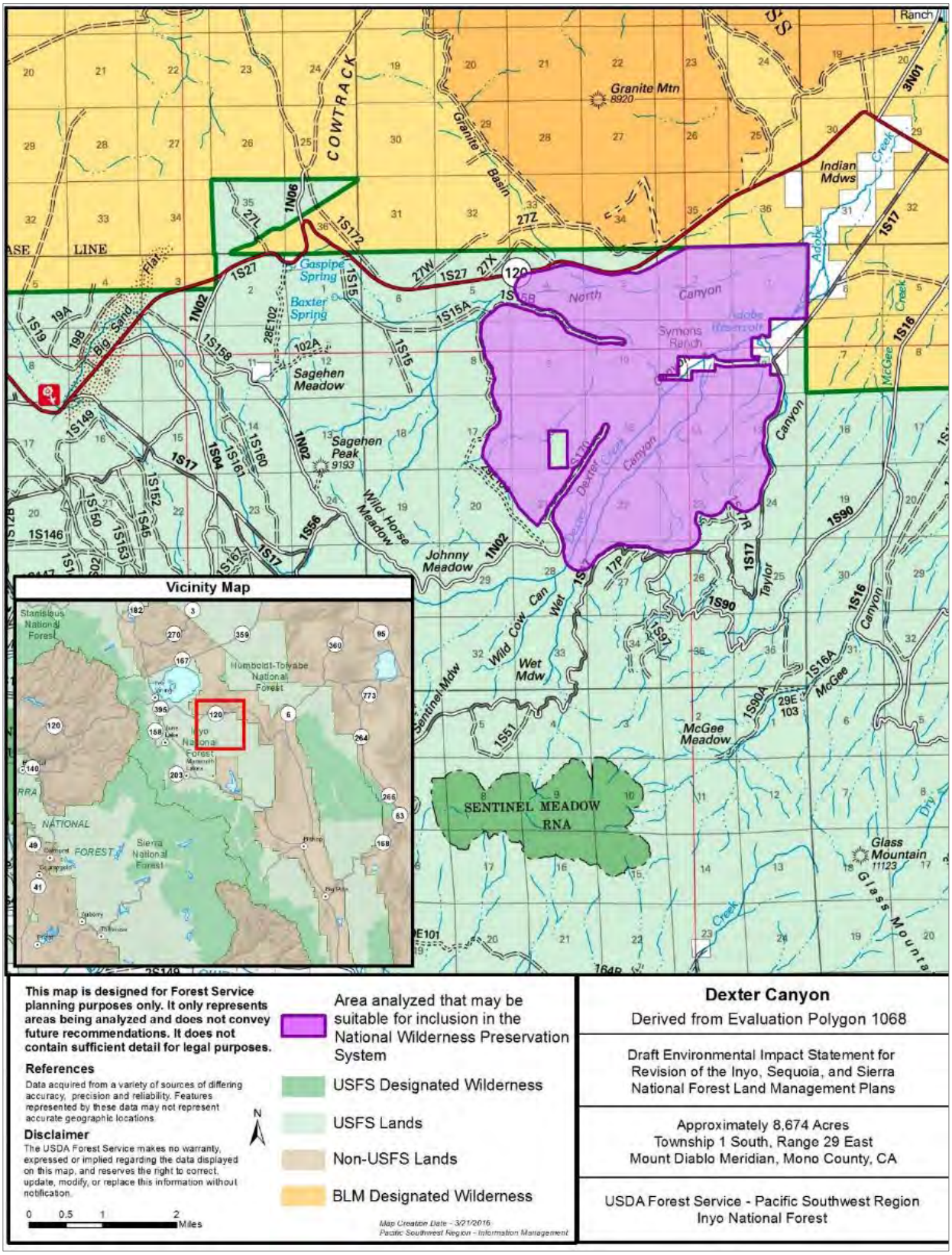


Figure B-28. Map of Dexter Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Glass Mountains, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1012.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 34,591 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Glass Mountains map (Figure B-29). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails and private land boundaries, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground, though it is oddly shaped due to these features. Most of the adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service with some private land inholdings. The boundary excludes motorized trails along the eastern and southwestern portions of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The Glass Mountains and the Long Valley Caldera are part of the spectacular landscape formed by volcanic activity in the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains over the past 4 million years. Volcanic eruptions between 2.1 and 0.8 million years ago formed the lava domes and rhyolite or obsidian flows of the Glass Mountains on the northeastern rim of the caldera. Elevations range from 7,000 to over 11,000 feet. The majority of the area is mid-elevation forests (Jeffrey pine and mixed-conifer forests) with some high forests (subalpine, such as whitebark pine) along the southern end and pinyon woodlands in the foothills. Numerous perennial channels are present, as well as numerous intermittent channels.

Current Uses

The majority of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area, research natural areas, and priority sage-grouse habitat. Active sage-grouse habitat restoration, watershed restoration, and aspen restoration is occurring in this area. Livestock grazing occurs in the area, and allotments include fences and spring boxes. There are several cultural resource sites in the area. Outfitting and guiding under special use authorization occurs in the area. The Inyo National Forest typically issues several authorizations for summer backpacking and hiking trips by credited educational groups each year. The area receives low to moderate amounts of dispersed recreation use including camping, hiking, hunting and cross-country skiing. There is an existing use trail (not a forest system trail) to the summit of Glass Mountain from Sawmill Meadow. A Forest Service communication site on Glass Mountain is the only other improvement in the area. The Forest Service periodically uses helicopters to access the site and maintain the communication system. There is one inholding in the area, a 40-acre parcel west of Wilfred Canyon. There is no known existing road access to the inholding.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity, and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. Native fish and fishless areas were stocked with non-native trout species, which has affected aquatic ecologic integrity. The area provides good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. There are no forest system trails or other recreation facilities within the area. The steep topography and lack of surface water supports a remote experience from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness. The sense of remoteness from occupied and modified areas outside the wilderness may be diminished along the area's periphery by motorized vehicle use on forest system roads. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes.

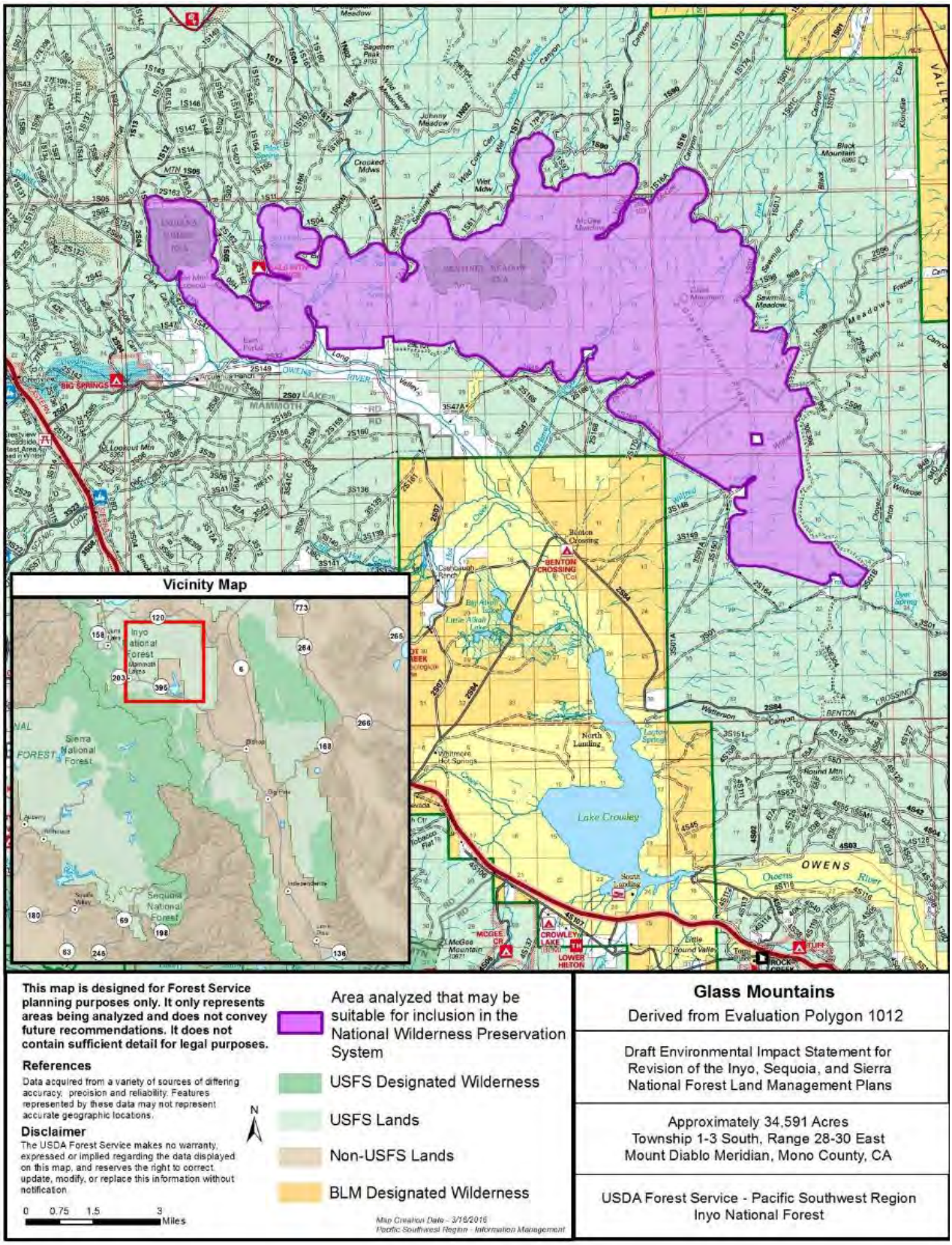


Figure B-29. Map of Glass Mountains area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The diversity and intact condition of the ecological types in the area.
- Geologic features that are both outstanding landscape features and features of scenic value.

Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 5,954 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East map (Figure B-30). The area is contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness along a portion of its southwest boundary. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service, both the Inyo National Forest and Sequoia National Forest.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area includes Monache Mountain and is located west of Monache Meadows. Ecosystem types include red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. The topography includes gentle to moderate slopes. The elevation ranges from 4,500 to 9,400 feet.

Current Uses

Grazing and range improvements occur in the Monache area and there has been some headcut and stream improvement work. Several cultural resources are in the area. Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking and horseback riding on one forest system trail that accesses the Golden Trout Wilderness, and deer hunting in the fall. There are some opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature on the volcanic Monache Mountain. Several cultural resources occur in this area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity. The area moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium. Motorized recreation just outside the area may impact opportunities for solitude. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

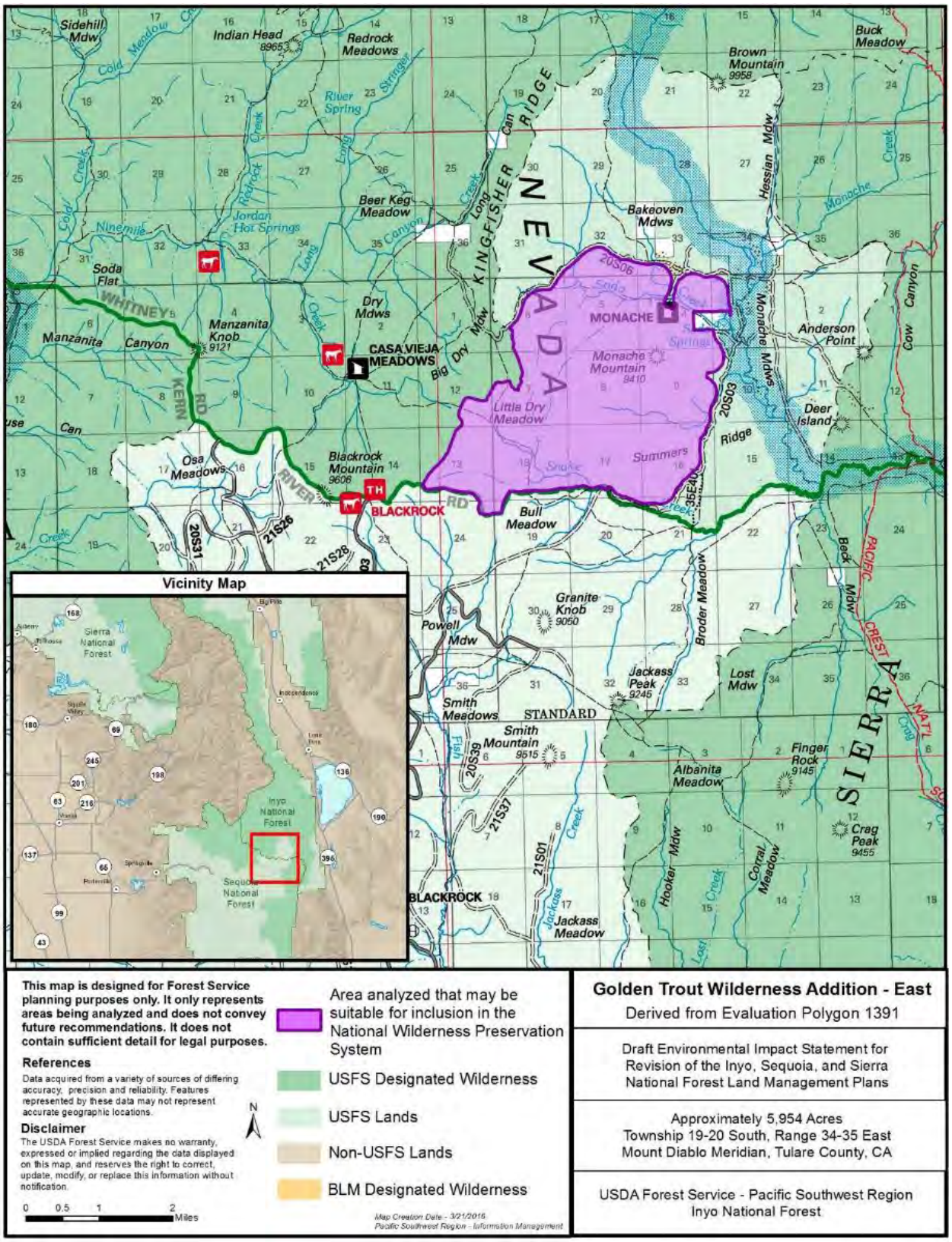


Figure B-30. Map of Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Huntoon Creek, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1361.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 8,855 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Huntoon Creek map (Figure B-31).

The boundary follows the California-Nevada state line, National Forest System roads, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the Excelsior Mountains and includes Huntoon Creek. The elevation ranges from 7,200 to 7,800 feet. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands.

Current Uses

Currently, the area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. The polygon is managed as inventoried roadless areas. The northern portion of the polygon is in sage-grouse priority habitat. The most southeastern portion of the area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area; potential future management activities include fencing, corrals, and helicopter use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. This polygon is very remote, with good opportunities for solitude. A power line corridor may be visible from some of the area. Visitors may also be able to hear traffic from the roads that are located along the northern, western and southern perimeters. There is a high opportunity to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration. There is one private land inholding (40-acre parcel) in the southwestern corner of the polygon. The land owner is unknown, as is access to the private land parcel. Managing the polygon to preserve its wilderness characteristics would be affected by overlap with the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area and priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

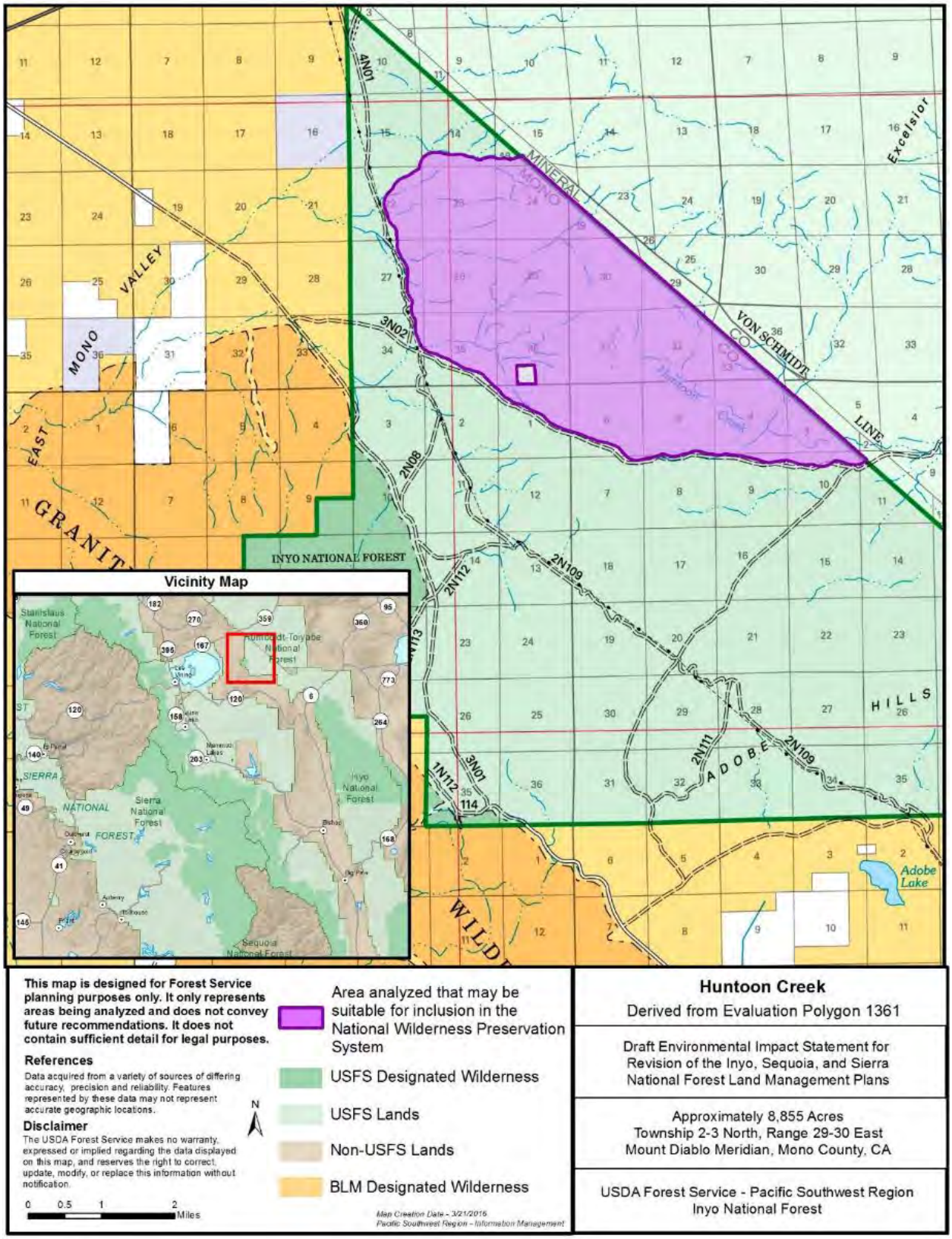


Figure B-31. Map of Huntoon Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Inyo Mountain Wilderness Addition, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1236.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 6,775 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Inyo Mountain Wilderness Addition map (Figure B-32).

A small portion at the southern end of this area (The Narrows) is contiguous with the Inyo Mountain Wilderness. The boundary follows National Forest System roads and trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is west of Saline Valley Road, north of a Forest Service motorized trail, east of Andrews Mountain, and south of Eureka Valley Road. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes canyons, including Marble Canyon, extremely rugged terrain; and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. Marble Canyon is a unique geologic feature in this area.

Current Uses

The majority of the polygon is inventoried roadless area. The area includes prehistoric and historic cultural resources sites. Marble Canyon is a scenic destination for day hikers. Off highway vehicle use occurs along the motorized trails surrounding the southern and western boundary. Cross-country hiking and backpacking are limited due to the lack of water within this area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There is low human impact to plant and wildlife communities. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the proximity to motorized recreation. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; however that may be limited to due lack of water. There are developments related to mining activity as well as range improvements.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

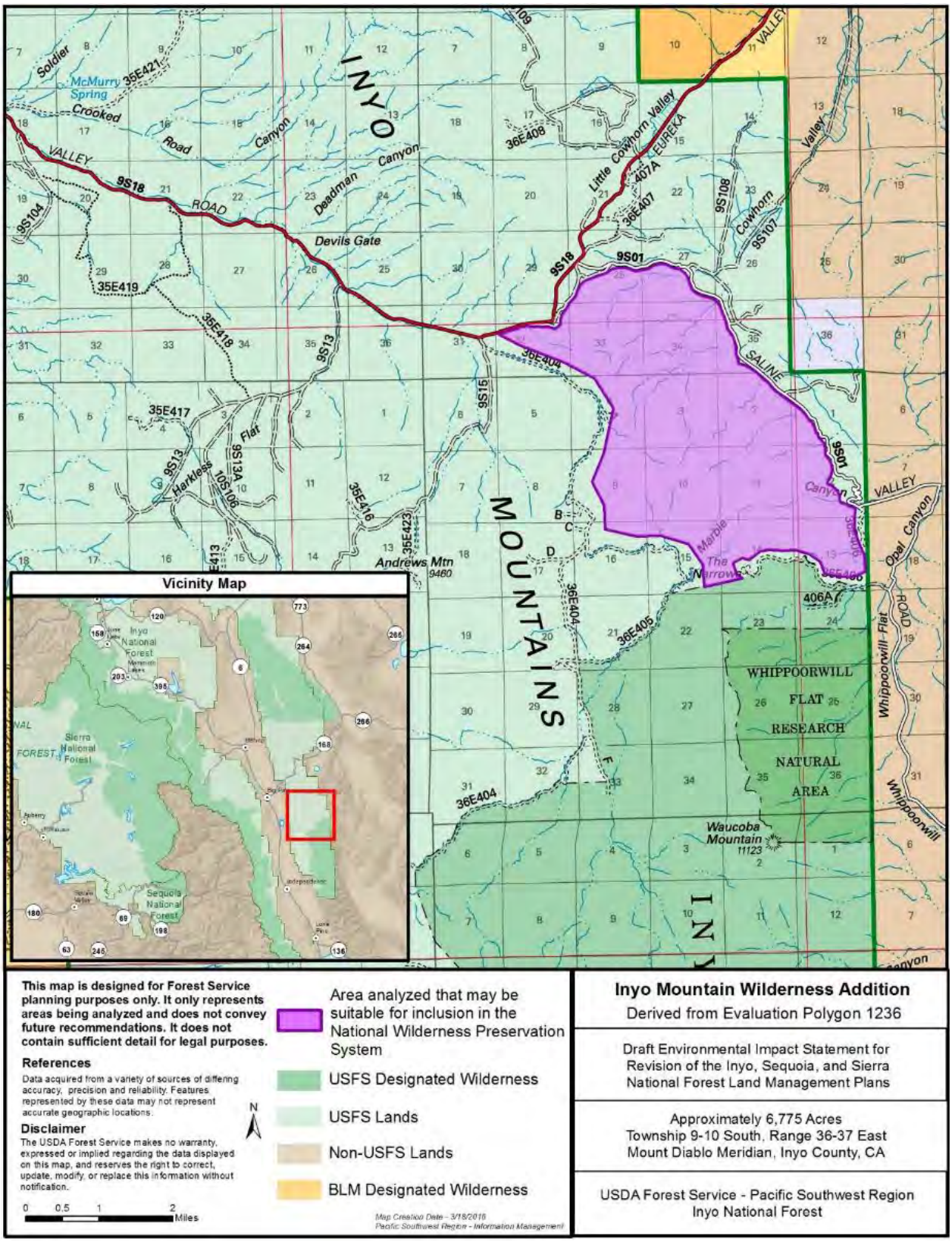


Figure B-32. Map of Inyo Mountain Wilderness Addition area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Marble Canyon, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1248.

Number of **Acres**

The area is approximately 15,392 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Marble Canyon map (Figure B-33).

The boundary follows several roads, motorized trails, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Black Canyon, and north of Highway 168. It includes Black Mountain. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as inventoried roadless area. There is some firewood harvest occurring in the area from Westgard Pass Road. The area includes historic and prehistoric structures. Current recreation uses include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and nature viewing.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity with mostly natural species composition. The area largely reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. There are numerous motorized trails protruding into the polygon. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to proximity to the road and motorized trail system. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist, travel in the lower elevation desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water and steep topography. There is limited opportunity to reshape the polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness characteristics due to the proximity to roads and motorized trails.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to add underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

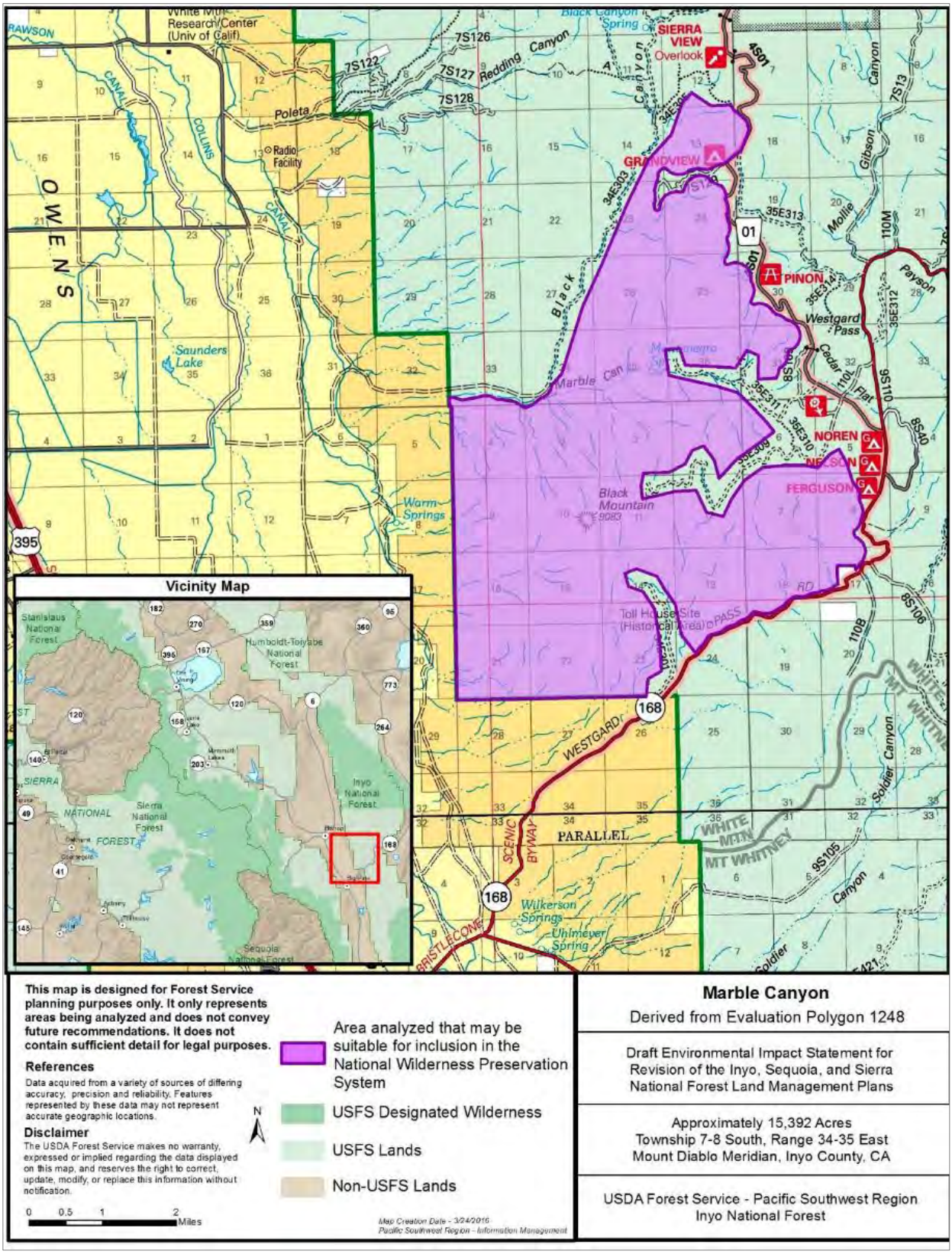


Figure B-33. Map of Marble Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Marble Creek, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1308.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 13,886 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Marble Creek map (Figure B-34).

This area is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness along its western side. The boundary follows National Forest System roads, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located on the east side of the White Mountains between Indian Creek on the north and Leidy Creek to the south. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The elevation ranges from 5,200 to 9,000 feet. There is steep terrain in the western portion of the polygon, but in the eastern portion it is relatively flat and open.

Current Uses

The western portion of the polygon is located within a cattle allotment. Guided hunting occurs in this polygon. There is one water right. The western portion of polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. The entire polygon occurs within the White Mountain wild horse territory. The polygon is located adjacent to an old mining site, where mining activity may still occur.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate to high ecological integrity with some invasive plant species. Visibility to private land development, power lines, and Highway 264 has the potential to impact the opportunity for solitude. Most of the area is free from motorized noise, especially along the western perimeter of the polygon. The northern and southern perimeters are bounded by lightly used roads. There is low to moderate potential for encounter with other visitors. The area is largely undeveloped and there are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as cross-country hiking, hunting and general forest exploration, particularly along the western portion of the polygon.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area during the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

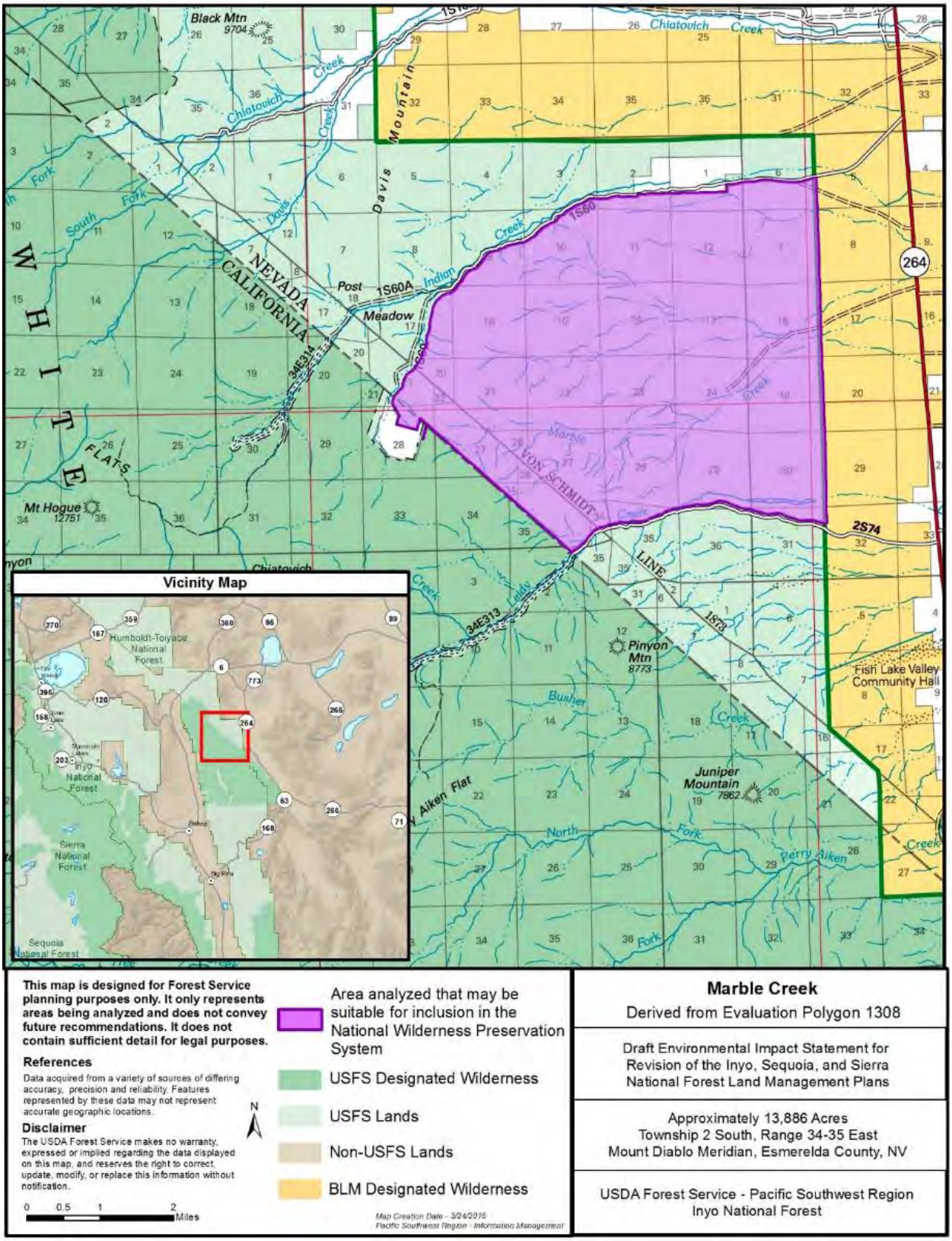


Figure B-34. Map of Marble Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Mazourka Peak, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1236.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 41,524 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Mazourka Peak map (Figure B-35).

The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary and National Forest System roads and trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. However, the polygon is elongated vertically from north to south and roads and motorized trails protrude into the polygon, making for an irregularly shaped boundary. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is a large polygon on the west side of the Inyo Mountains Wilderness between Eureka Valley Road on the north and Mazourka Canyon on the south. It includes Mazourka Peak and Santa Rita Spring. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes the steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains, with steep slopes, canyons, extremely rugged terrain; and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. The elevation ranges from 4,400 to 9,500 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. The area includes prehistoric and historic cultural resources sites.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There is low human impact to plant and wildlife communities. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the proximity to motorized recreation. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. While these opportunities exist, travel in this desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water, steep topography and routes requiring climbing skills. There are developments related to mining activity as well as range improvements.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

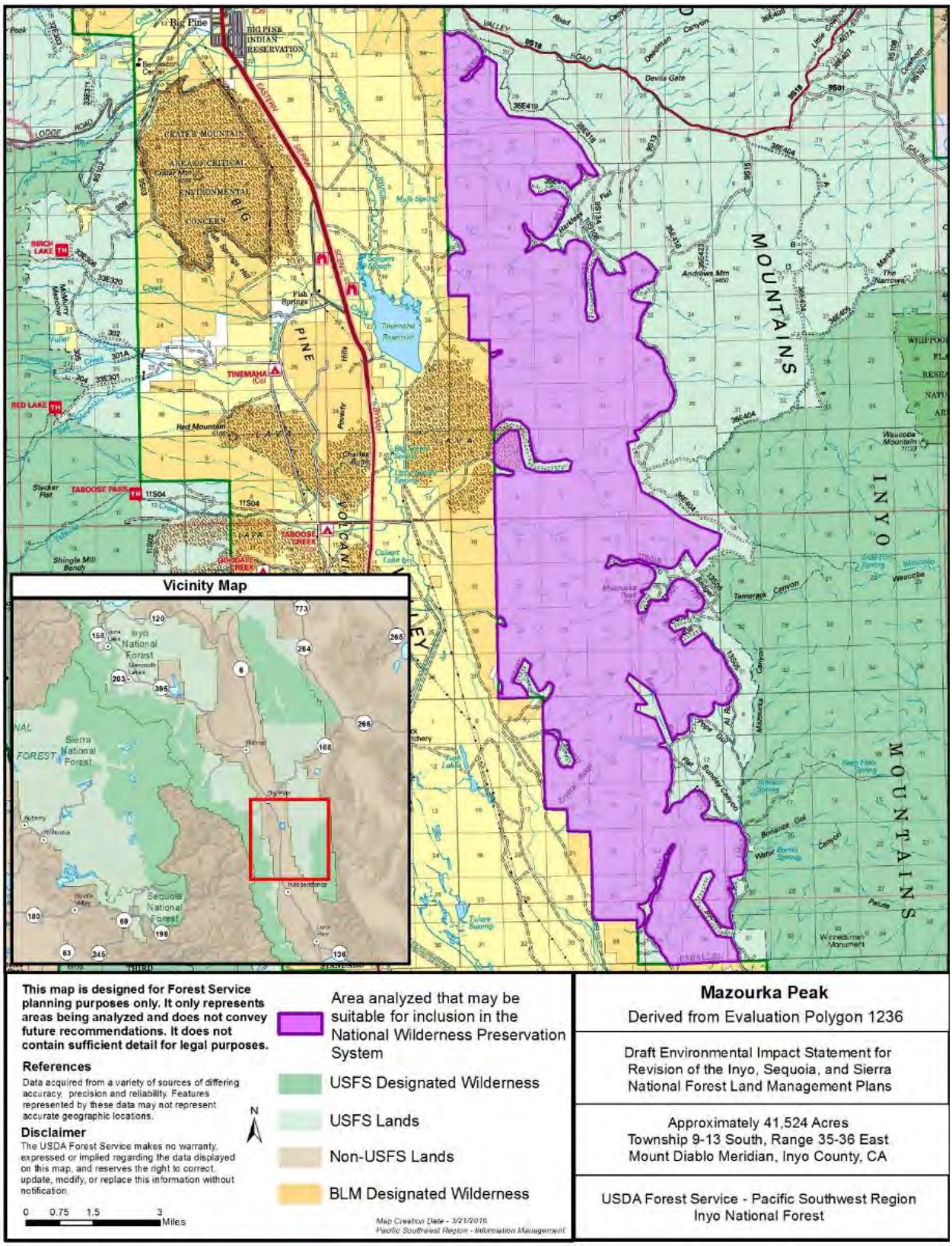


Figure B-35. Map of Mazourka Peak area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

McBride Flat, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1550.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 10,461 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the McBride Flat map (Figure B-36). The boundary follows several National Forest System roads and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service. The polygon is located in both California and Nevada.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the southern end of the Excelsior Mountain area, north of the Pizona area, and southeast of Mono Lake. The elevation ranges from 7,000 to 8,400 feet. The ecosystem consists of a mosaic of pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush flats, with some small alkali meadows.

Current Uses

The western portion of this polygon (in California) is managed as inventoried roadless area. The entire area occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area; potential future management activities include fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. This area receives very low use, with access provided by two motorized trails and system roads. There are no perennial water sources, which limit cross-country recreation activities, like hiking and backpacking. Some dispersed use may occur along the roads.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. There are opportunities for solitude through the majority of this polygon. There is likely opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, although the extent and amount of use may be limited due to the lack of water sources in the area. The remoteness of this area from other forest management activities and uses may make it difficult to manage for wilderness characteristics. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory, where habitat restoration activities or horse population management activities may be needed.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Polygon was not previously included in the final inventory, but has been added due to an administrative boundary change. The public has not had an opportunity to provide input on this area as potentially recommended wilderness.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

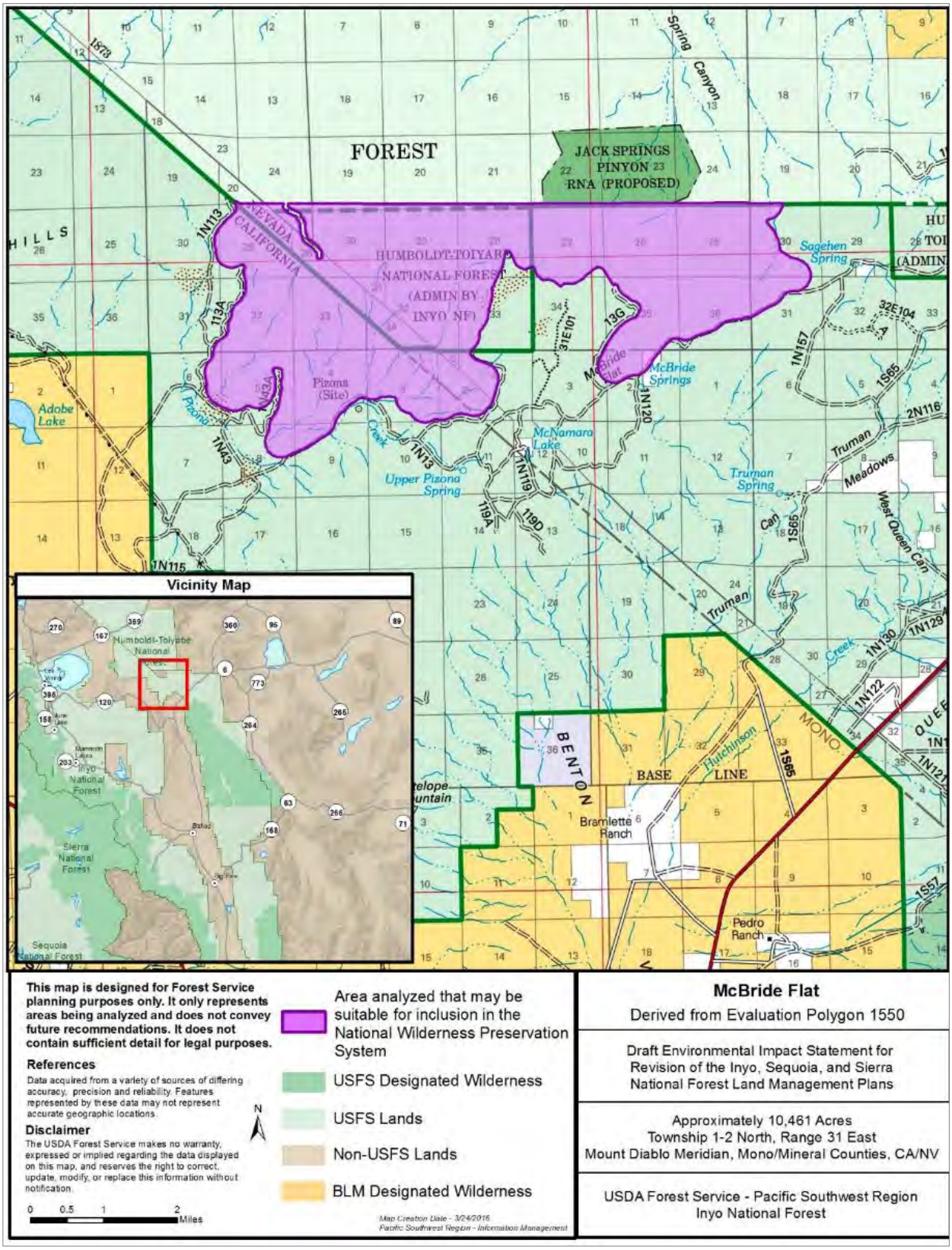


Figure B-36. Map of McBride Flat area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1), Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygons 1246. There are two slightly different boundaries for this area, one for alternative C and one for alternative B. The alternative B version of this area was previously referred to as Deep Springs South in earlier information shared with the public.

Number of Acres

The area for alternative C is approximately 10,657 acres. The area for alternative B is approximately 11,840 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-37).

In alternative C, the boundary follows the original boundary of the parent evaluation polygon. The area's southeast boundary is contiguous with the Piper Mountains Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, and the forest administrative boundary, making the area fairly easy to locate on maps and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

In alternative B, the boundary was refined to make it more clearly identifiable and use setbacks from roads and motorized trails that were consistent with other wilderness boundary setbacks on the forest. The northern and western sections of the boundary closely follow National Forest System roads and motorized trails. The southern boundary generally follows a prominent natural feature, an east-west trending ridgeline. The eastern end of the southern boundary departs the ridgeline to become a 200 foot offset from a National Forest System road. The eastern boundary is formed by the forest's administrative boundary.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located at the northern end of the Inyo Mountains, an area where complex geological forces have produced a striking desert range that contrasts with Deep Springs Valley. The area is north of the boundary between the White Mountain and Mt. Whitney Ranger Districts and southeast of Westgard Pass. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 8,600 feet.

Current Uses

The entire polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are a large number of cultural resource sites. Portions of the area are also used as a geological field study area. The area includes one water right. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has intact ecological integrity and reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. The steep topography and lack of surface water supports a remote experience from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness. The sense of remoteness from occupied and modified areas outside the wilderness may be diminished along the area's periphery by motorized vehicle use on forest system roads. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes. There are opportunities for

primitive and unconfined recreation. Travel in the lower elevation desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water and steep topography. The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas offer primitive recreation opportunities typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding and deer hunting. This area's other features of value include the Poleta Fold geologic features, which have scientific and educational values, and cultural resource sites including encampments, rock rings and lithic scatters.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of Alternatives B and C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (2), Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygons 1242.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 2,678 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-37).

The boundary supports management of the area as potential wilderness because it is contiguous with the Piper Mountains Wilderness along the eastern boundary. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System Roads, making the area fairly easy to locate on maps and on the ground.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located west of the Piper Mountains Wilderness and north of Little Cowhorn Valley. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography is flat and rolling hills. The elevation ranges from 7,600 to 8,400 feet.

Current Uses

The area is not located within an inventoried roadless area. Due to lack of surface water and extreme summer heat, the area receives low recreation use, including hiking and hunting. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. There are no known developments in the area that would degrade the undeveloped quality. The combination of alkali flats and old growth pinyon-juniper is a unique feature of this area. Potential for

encountering other visitors in this area is low. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation such as cross-country hiking, general forest exploration, photography, and deer hunting. The polygon is surrounded by a road system to the north, west, and south.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

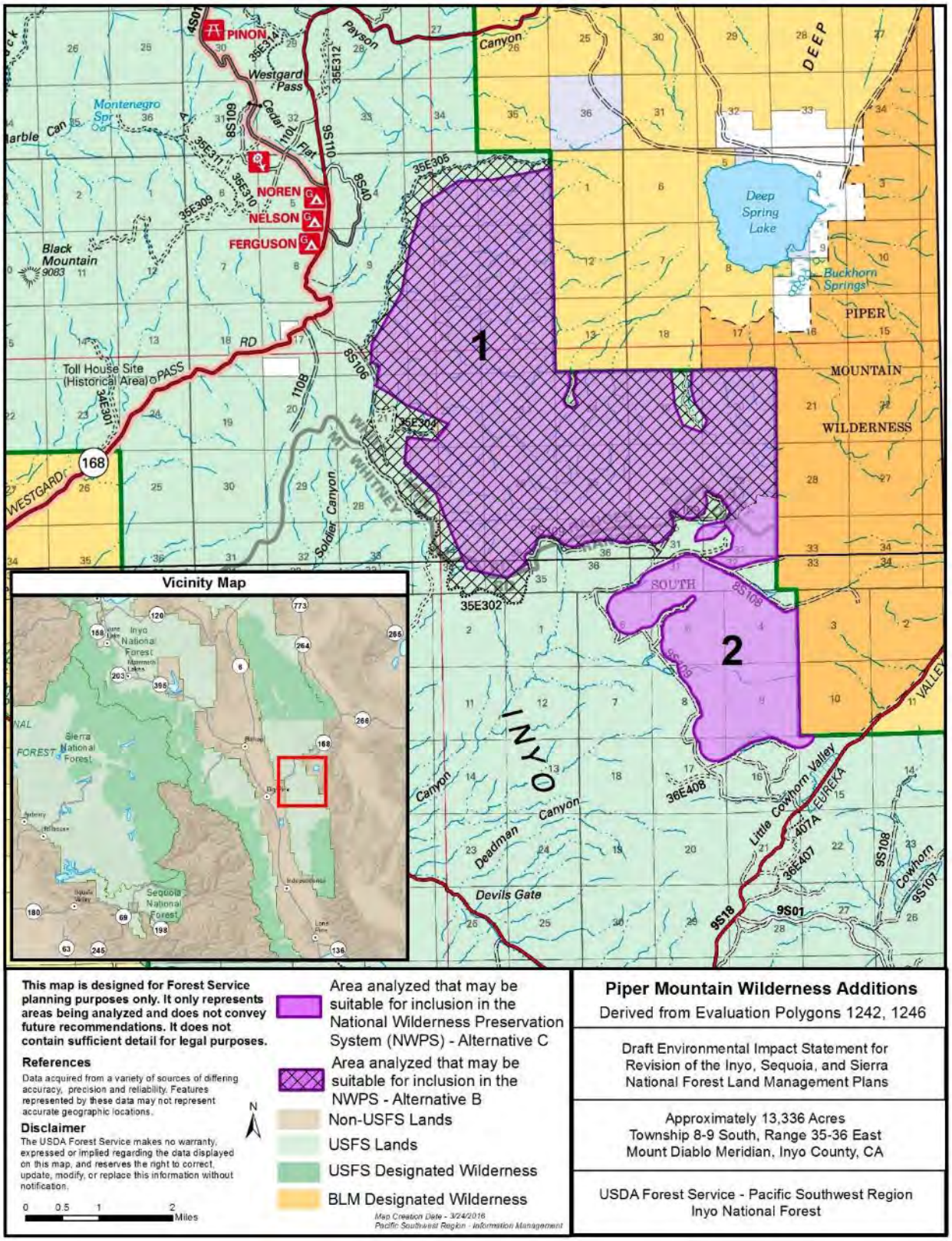


Figure B-37. Map of Piper Mountain Wilderness addition area analyzed as recommended wilderness in Alternatives B and C

Pizona-Truman Meadows, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1339.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 19,762 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Pizona-Truman Meadows map (Figure B-38).

The boundary follows the National Forest System roads, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground, though it is oddly shaped due to these features. Most of the adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the southern end of the Excelsior Mountains, north of Highway 6, and includes Truman Meadows, Antelope Mountain, and Upper Pizona Spring. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes moderate rolling hills, broad, open sagebrush flats, and ancient volcanic flows. Elevations range from 6,000 to 8,000 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are mining claims and a recently authorized exploration plan of operation. Watershed treatments are present in Truman Meadow. The area is within a wild horse management area. A significant prehistoric site has been formally documented in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity with some alterations to natural conditions. Wilderness characteristics are impacted by mining activities, as well as past vegetation management activities believed to be conducted by the military. There are developments related to historic sites and historic grazing management. Highway 6 is visible from parts of the area and power lines are visible along the western perimeter, which impacts the opportunity for solitude. However, sights and sounds are minimal throughout the remotest parts of the area. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration. Recreation opportunities may be limited by the lack of available water. The polygon has an irregular Y-shaped boundary due to the location of short spur cherry stem roads and the forest boundary. Due to the Y-shaped boundary, there is not much potential to reshape the polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

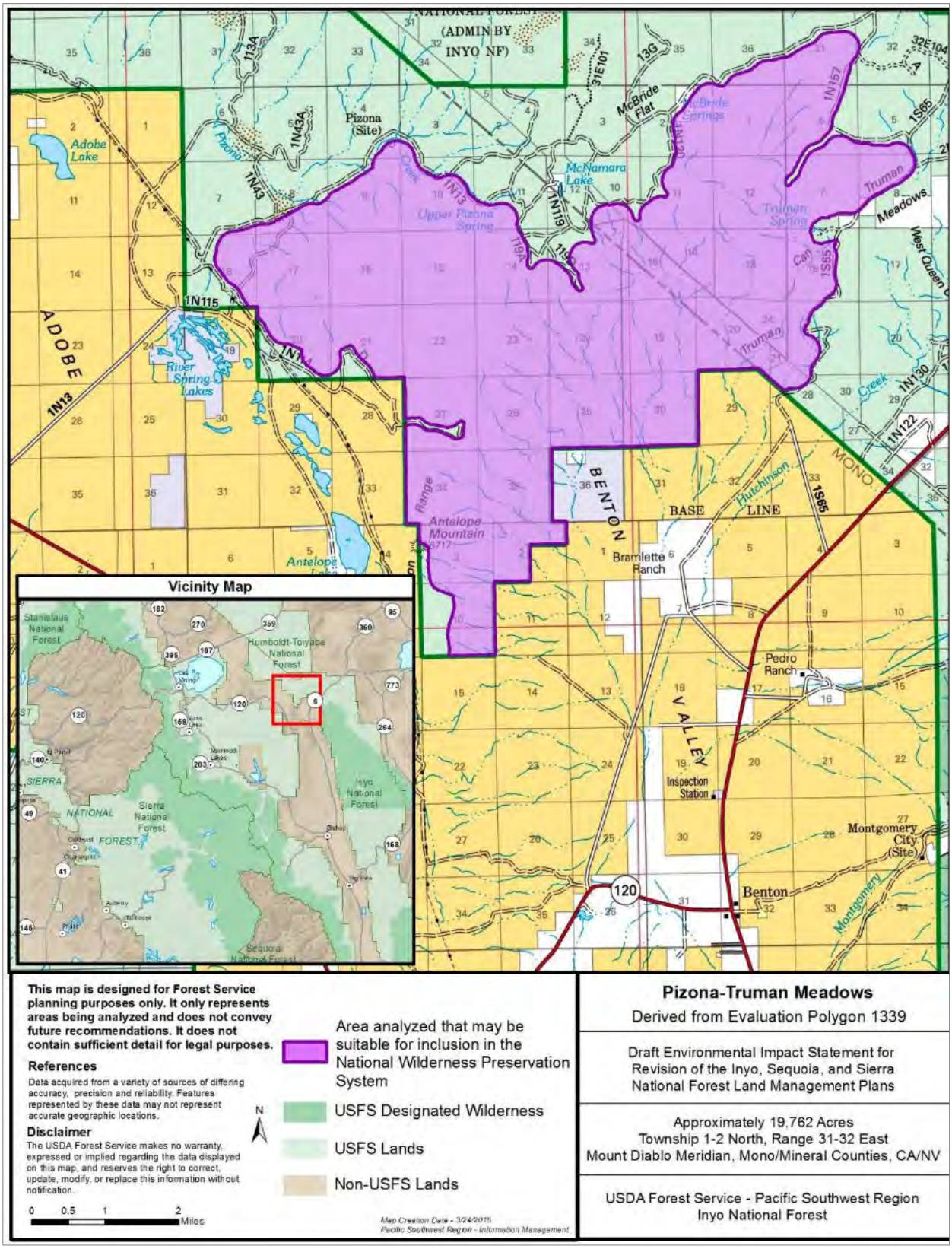


Figure B-38. Map of Pizona-Truman Meadows area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Redding Canyon, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1248.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 8,284 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Redding Canyon map (Figure B-39). The boundary follows several motorized trails and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Poleta Canyon, and northwest of Black Canyon. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as inventoried roadless area. The area includes historic and prehistoric structures. Current recreation uses include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and nature viewing.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity with mostly natural species composition. The area largely reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. There are motorized trails surrounding and protruding into the polygon. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to proximity to the motorized trail system. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist, travel in the lower elevation desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water and steep topography. There is limited opportunity to reshape the polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness characteristics due to the proximity to motorized trails.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to add underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

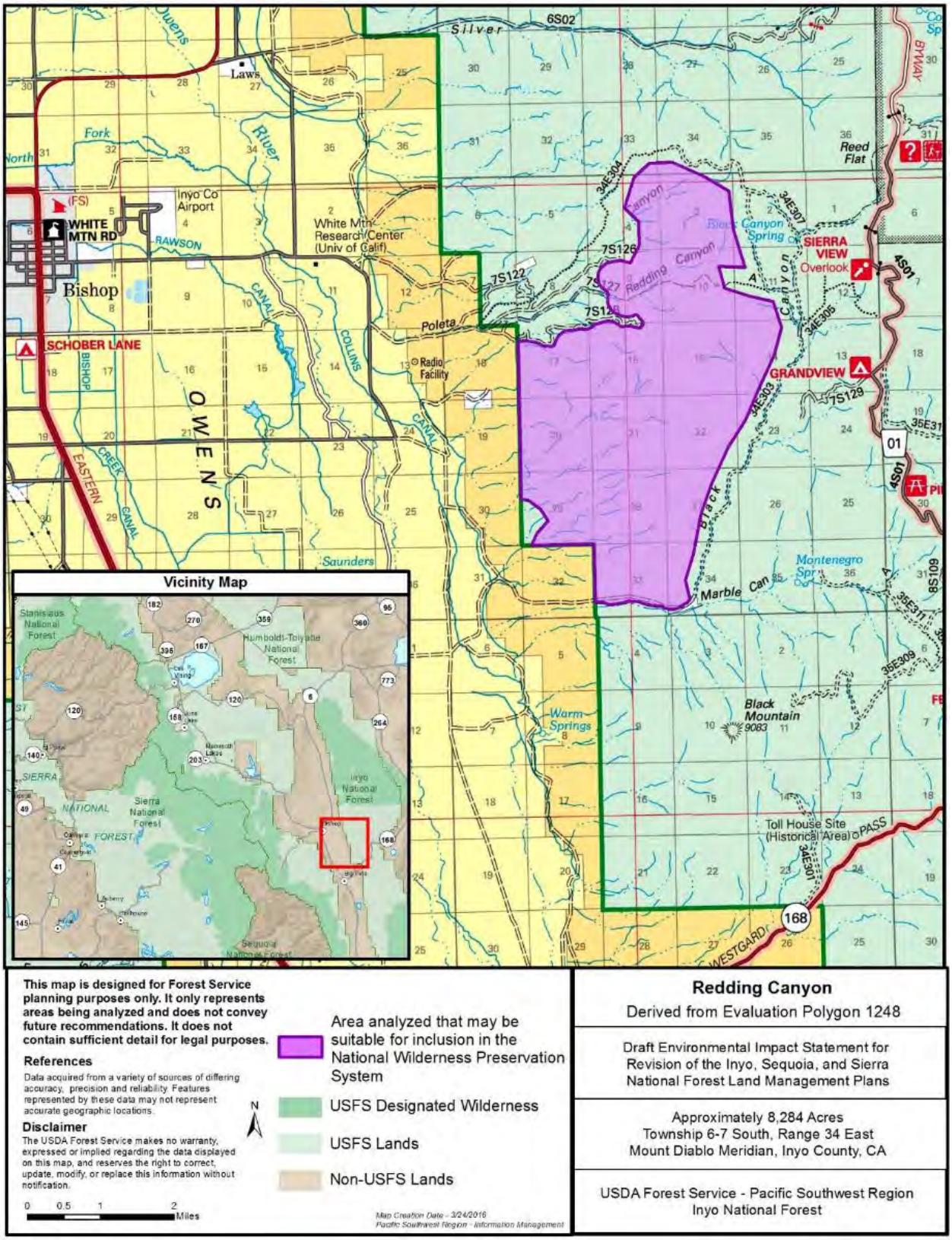


Figure B-39. Map of Redding Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Silver Creek, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1248.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 8,076 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Silver Creek map (Figure B-40). The boundary follows roads, motorized trails, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, or private landowners.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Silver Canyon, and north of Poleta Canyon. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as inventoried roadless area. The area includes historic and prehistoric structures. Recreation use is limited within this polygon due to the ruggedness of the area and lack of access from authorized trails or roads. Some hunting may occur in the lower elevations of the polygon, but this use is limited.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity with mostly natural species composition. The area largely reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. There are roads and motorized trails surrounding the polygon. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to proximity to the roads and motorized trails. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. While opportunities for primitive recreation do exist, travel in the lower elevation desert environment is challenging due to the lack of surface water and steep topography. There is limited opportunity to reshape the polygon to make it more suitable or manageable for wilderness characteristics due to the proximity to roads and motorized trails.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to add underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

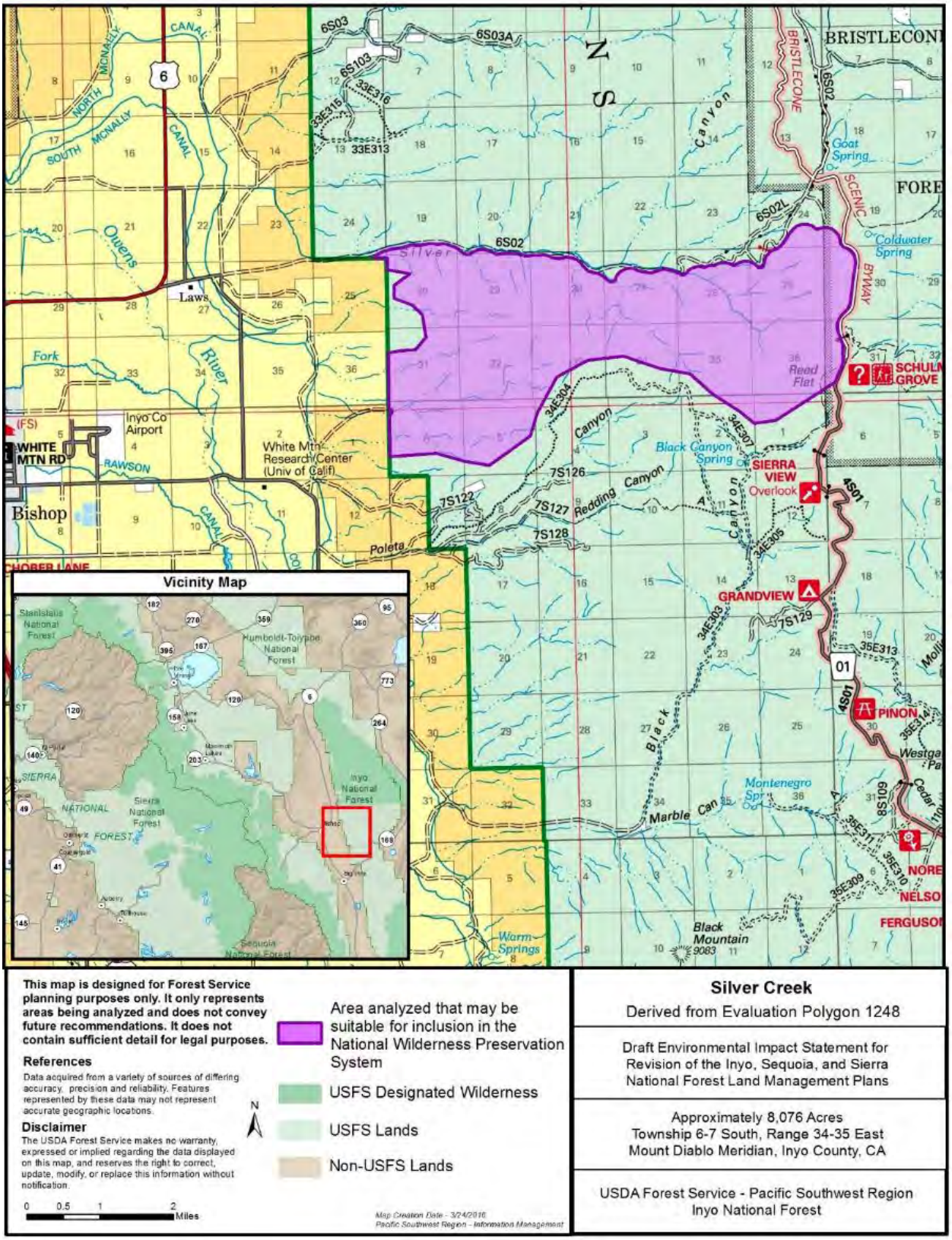


Figure B-40. Map of Silver Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Soldier Canyon, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1246.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 10,037 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Soldier Canyon map (Figure B-41). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, the forest administrative boundary, and private land boundaries, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Most of the adjacent land is managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located between the White Mountains and Inyo Mountains, north of Eureka Valley Road and south of Highway 168. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 8,600 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are a large number of cultural resource sites. Recreation uses within this polygon are limited due to the ruggedness of the area. Hiking and horseback riding may occur along the Soldier Canyon road, but may not go further into the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity and reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the proximity to motorized recreation. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

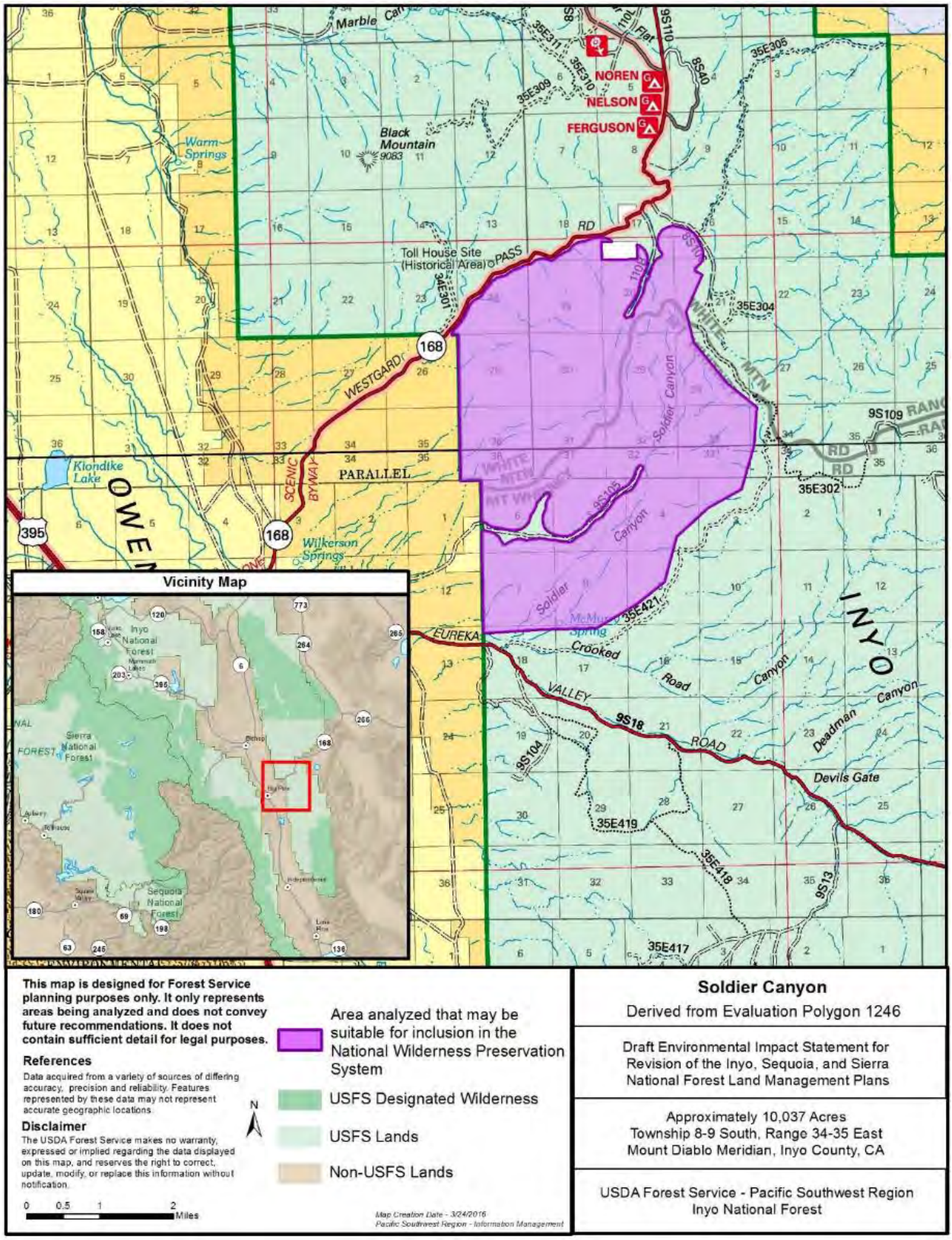


Figure B-41. Map of Soldier Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

South Huntoon Creek, Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1357.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 5,805 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Huntoon Creek map (Figure B-42). The boundary follows National Forest System roads, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Hills. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands. The elevation ranges from 7,000 to 7,500 feet.

Current Uses

Currently, the area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless areas. The area southeastern portion of the polygon occurs within the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area; future potential management activities include fencing, corrals, and helicopter use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. There are dry alkali lakes which are a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest. A power line corridor is visible from some of the area due to minimal topographic relief. Visitors would also be able to hear traffic from the roads. The interior of the polygon is within one mile of roads, which surround the polygon on all sides. There is a high opportunity to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities, including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing and general forest exploration. Recreation opportunities may be limited by the lack of available water. Managing the polygon to preserve its wilderness characteristics would be affected by overlap with the Montgomery Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management activities inconsistent with wilderness.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

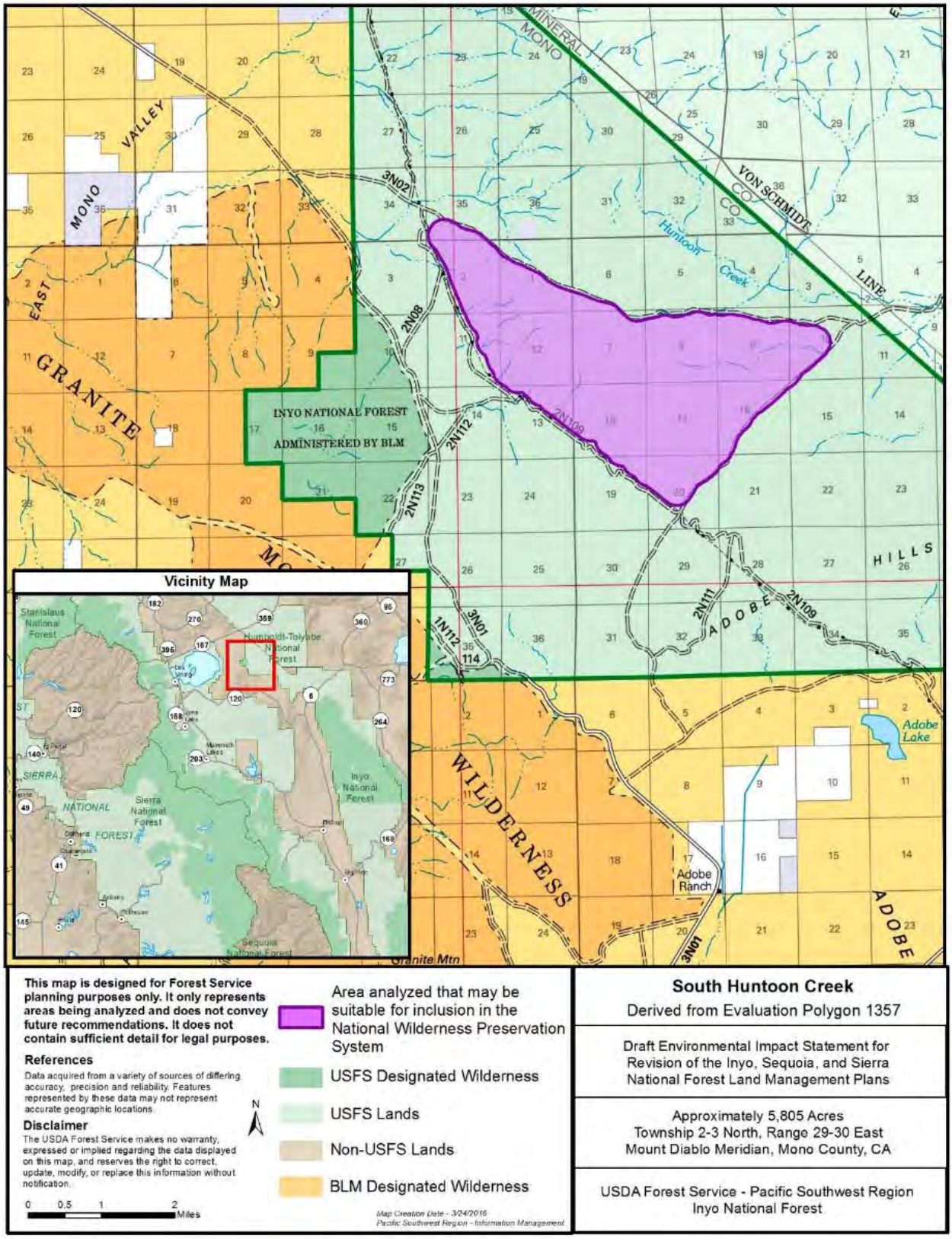


Figure B-42. Map of South Huntoon Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

South Sierra Wilderness Addition – East (1), Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1391. There are two different boundaries for this area, one for alternative C and one for alternative B.

Number of Acres

The area for alternative C is approximately 25,249 acres. The area for alternative B is approximately 17,622.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Sierra Wilderness Addition – East map (Figure B-43). In alternative C, the boundary follows the original boundary of the parent evaluation polygon. The area is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness along the entire length of its western border. The remaining boundary follows the forest administrative boundary and roads, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The southern boundary is adjacent to the Sacatar Trail Wilderness, which is administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The surrounding area is mostly managed by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management with some adjacent private property.

In alternative B, the boundary was reshaped to exclude the northern portion around and north of Sage Flat and southwestern portion west of Long Canyon. The boundary follows natural features in these areas. The southwestern boundary follows a prominent ridge, which is easily locatable on a map or on the ground. The location of the boundary is intended to minimize the potential for incursions by motorized vehicles. There are several unauthorized routes in these areas. The southern boundary change allows for vegetation management needed around the Kennedy Meadows community.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The South Sierra Addition is located along the eastern escarpment the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Elevations range from 9,300 feet along the western boundary, to 4,300 feet along the eastern boundary. The area is characterized by steep slopes and forested canyons that descend to alluvial fans in the Mojave Desert. Haiwee Canyon, which contains a perennial stream, is the predominant drainage. Several other canyons along the escarpment contain streams that have perennial flows for some of their length. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, white fir and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The topography is characterized as Eastern Sierra escarpment with steep slopes and forested canyons. This area contains largely intact true Mojave Desert ecosystems; vegetation includes Joshua trees, cholla cactus, creosote, and canyon live oak.

Current Uses

The majority of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area. Livestock grazing occurs in the area with no known range improvements associated with the allotments. The area receives low amounts of recreation use including backpacking, day-hiking and hunting. The lower section of Haiwee Canyon Trail, the only forest system trail in the area, has been heavily damaged by flash floods in recent years. There are several improvements in the area related to water supply.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity, and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. Several invasive species

are present in the area. There are several improvements in the area that represents a departure from apparent naturalness. The area provides good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The steep terrain and lack of trails throughout most of the area support a remote experience away from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness. The sense of remoteness may be diminished along the area's eastern periphery by U.S. Highway 395. This area's other features of value include the Mojave Desert and oak woodlands with high ecological integrity. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of Alternatives B and C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wildernesses.

South Sierra Wilderness Addition – East (2), Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 1,424.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Sierra Wilderness Addition – East map (Figure B-43). The area connects with the South Sierra Wilderness at its southeast corner. The boundary follows National Forest Systems roads and motorized trails and the forest's administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located between Monache Mountain to the west and Deer Island to the east. Ecosystem types include red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. The topography includes gentle to moderate slopes. The elevation ranges from 4,500 to 9,400 feet. The South Fork of the Kern River, a designated Wild and Scenic River, is located in the eastern boundary of this polygon.

Current Uses

Grazing and range improvements occur in the Monache area and there has been some headcut and stream improvement work. Several cultural resources are in the area. Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and fishing.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity. The area moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. The potential for encounters with other visitors is medium to high due to the small size of this polygon and the short distance between the two authorized roads adjacent to this polygon (1.5 miles). Motorized recreation just outside the area may impact opportunities for solitude. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

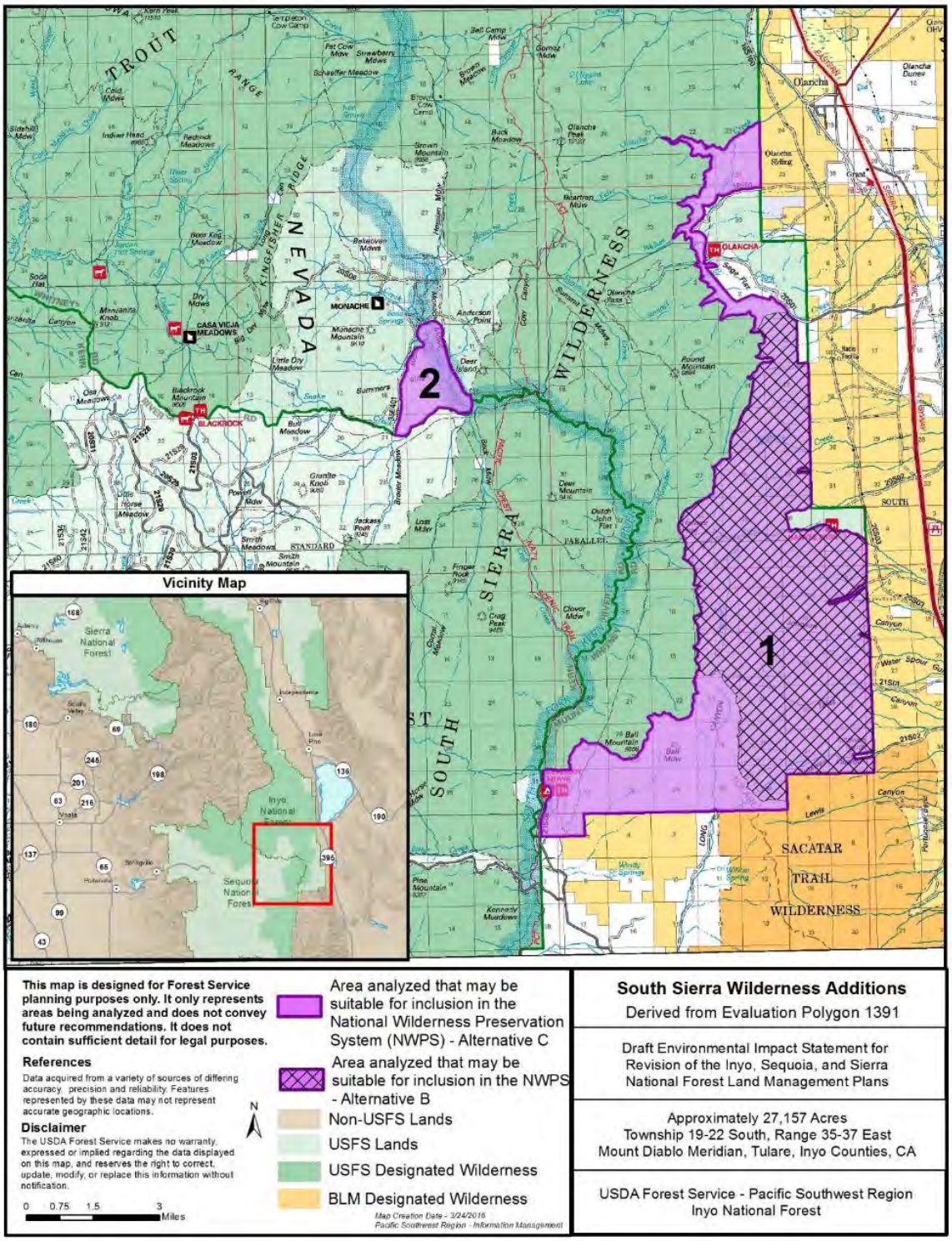


Figure B-43. Map of South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) and East (2) areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in Alternatives B and C

White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West), Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1281. There are two different boundaries for this area, one for alternative C and one for alternative B.

Number of Acres

The area for alternative C is approximately 7,142 acres. The area for alternative B is approximately 5,062.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the White Mountains Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-44). In alternative C, the boundary follows the original boundary of the parent evaluation polygon. The northern portion of the area is contiguous with the White Mountain Wilderness. The remaining boundary generally follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. All adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes motorized trails that intersect the middle of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

In alternative B, the boundaries not contiguous with the White Mountain Wilderness are refined to make them more clearly identifiable and to use setbacks from roads and motorized trails that were consistent with other wilderness boundary setbacks on the forest. The eastern boundary uses the 9,000 feet contour interval, which visitors could locate on a map or with the use of GPS. The southern boundary and a portion of the western boundary are straight lines, which visitors could locate on a map and on the ground because the line is an offset from a utility corridor. The remainder of the western boundary is offset from Wyman County Road or a utility corridor adjacent to White Mountain Road.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the high elevations of the southern White Mountains. Elevations range from 9,000 feet along the southern and eastern boundaries, to 11,000 feet along the northern boundary near Blanco Mountain, a soaring pyramid-shaped mountain underlain by dolomite. Water Canyon and Mill Canyon, which contain perennial streams, are the predominant drainages in the potential recommended area. Vegetation communities in the area include mountain mahogany, pinyon juniper forests, sagebrush shrub and subalpine forest types. The majority of the recommended area is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and bristlecone pines are scattered across the south facing slopes of Blanco Mountain. Priority sage-grouse habitat occurs in the western portion of both polygons; however, the alternative B polygon boundary was adjusted to provide for potential habitat improvement projects in the sage-grouse habitat lower than 9,000 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area. Livestock grazing occurs in this area; there is no known range improvement associated with the allotments in the area. The area receives low amounts of recreation use that includes day-hiking and hunting. Overnight camping is prohibited in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. There are forest system trails that are also used as stock trails in the Water Canyon and Mill Canyon drainages. There is one private inholding in the area, an approximately 40-acre parcel on the south slope of Blanco Mountain. There is no known existing road access to the inholding.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has good ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. There are no known invasive plant species in the area. The area provides good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. There are two unmaintained forest system trails in the area, both of which are in small canyons. The steep terrain and unmaintained trails support a remote experience away from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness. The sense of remoteness may be diminished along the area's eastern periphery by motorized vehicle use on Wyman Road, White Mountain Road, or the utility corridor.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of Alternatives B and C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.
- The area contains ecological features in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest that are of scientific and educational value.

White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East), Inyo National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1281. There are two different boundaries for this area, one for alternative C and one for alternative B.

Number of Acres

The area for alternative C is approximately 3,187 acres. The area for alternative B is approximately 2,505.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the White Mountains Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-44). In alternative C, the boundary follows the original boundary of the parent evaluation polygon. The northern portion of the area is contiguous with the White Mountain Wilderness. The remaining boundary generally follows motorized trails and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. However, the southern boundary is a straight line that would be difficult to locate on the ground. All adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The boundary excludes motorized trails that intersect the middle of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

In alternative B, the western and eastern boundaries are refined to make them more clearly identifiable and to use setbacks from roads and motorized trails that were consistent with other wilderness boundary setbacks on the forest. The southern boundary uses a prominent ridgeline, which visitors could locate on a map or on the ground. The western boundary uses an offset from the Dead Horse Meadow Motorized Trail and one of its spurs, which visitors could locate on a map and on the ground.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located on the southeastern slopes of the White Mountains. The majority of the area is within the south rim of the Cottonwood Creek watershed, with Black Birch Canyon the most notable geographic feature. The Cottonwood Creek wild and scenic river corridor overlays the extreme northeast corner of the potential recommended area. Elevations range from 8,500 feet along the southern boundary, to 6,800 feet along Cottonwood Creek. Vegetation communities in the area include pinyon juniper forest.

Current Uses

The entire area is managed as inventoried roadless area. Livestock grazing occurs in the area, with no permanent range improvements associated with the allotments. The area receives low amounts of recreation use that likely includes hiking and hunting.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has good ecological integrity, and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. There are no known invasive plant species in the area. The area provides good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Portions of the Cottonwood Creek stock trail may be evident through the area, but there are no other known trails. The steep terrain and absence of trails support a remote experience away from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness. The sense of remoteness may be diminished along the area's periphery by motorized vehicle use along the western boundary. The area is generally distant from occupied and modified areas.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Inyo National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of Alternatives B and C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness and contains a wild and scenic river.
- Opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

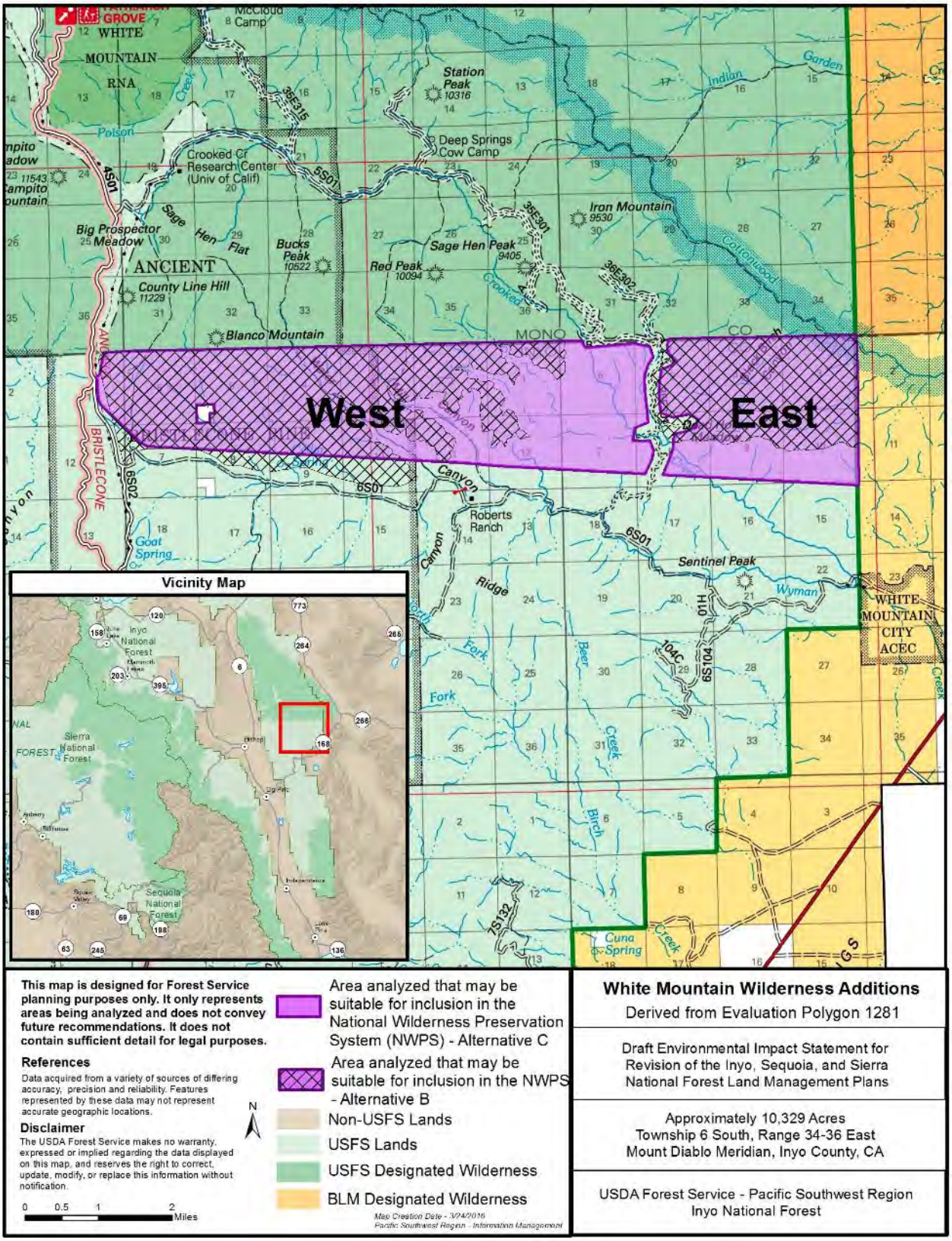


Figure B-44. Map of White Mountains Wilderness Additions areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternatives B and C

Sequoia National Forest – Maps and Descriptions of Areas Analyzed

The following map and table provide an overview of all areas analyzed on the Sequoia National Forest that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Individual maps are included with each description.

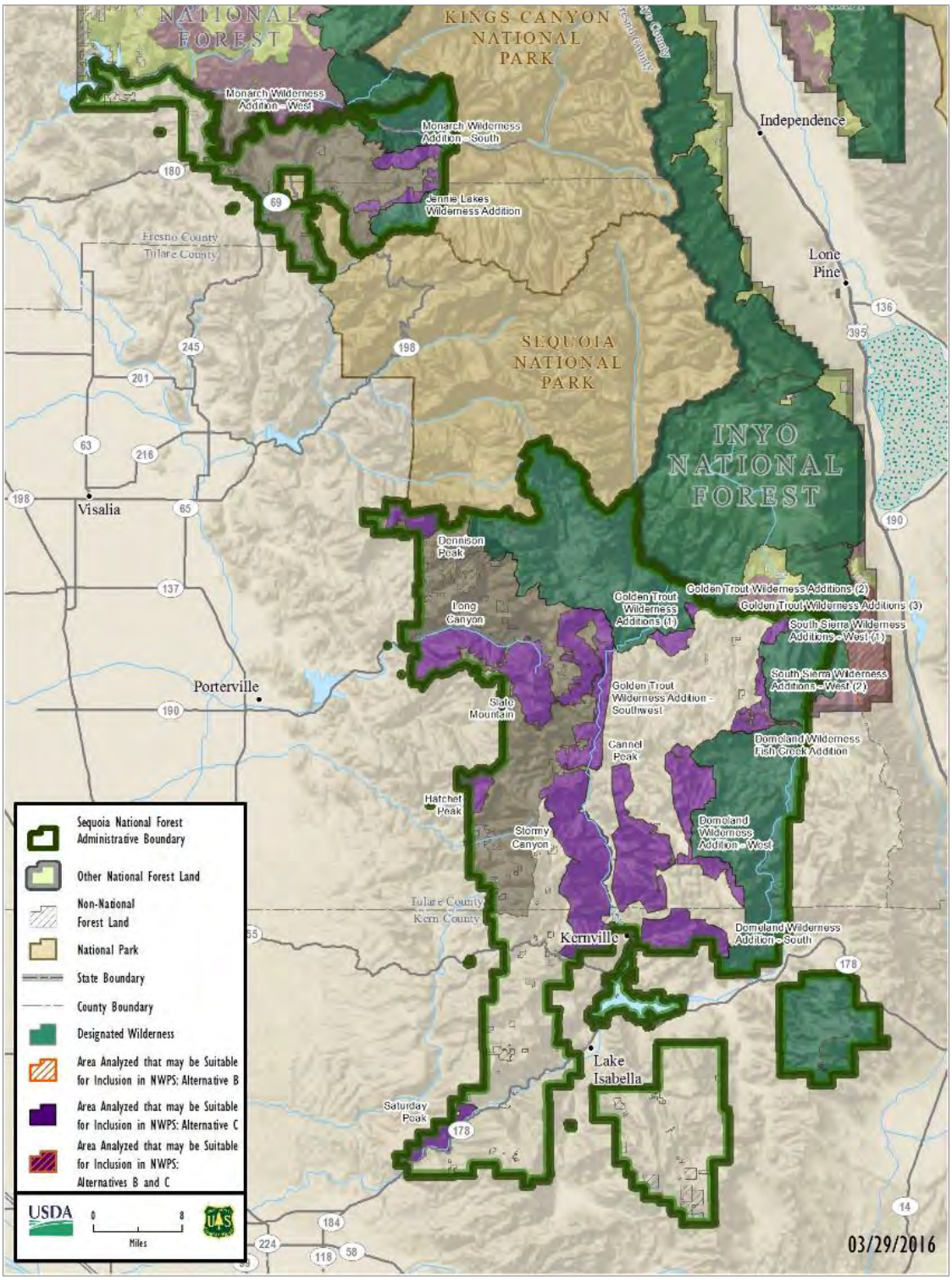


Figure B-45. Overview of Sequoia National Forest areas analyzed that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Table B-4. Sequoia National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives b and c.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
66	8,289	Saturday Peak-Greenhorn Roadless	None	Saturday Peak (8,176)
160	16,126	Slate Mountain	None	Slate Mountain (16,004)
162	15,806	North of Black Mountain	None	Long Canyon (15,794)
190	7,100	Dennison Peak	None	Dennison Peak (7,100)
1377	11,559	Adjacent to Monarch Wilderness	None	Monarch Wilderness Addition – South (5,472)
1384	39,629	Cannel Peak	None	Cannell Peak (27,208)
1385	8,216	Jennie Lakes Roadless-adjacent to Jennie Lakes Wilderness	None	Jennie Lakes Wilderness Addition (5,263)
1387	89,627	North Fork Kern-adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness	None	Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (1) (3,488) Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – Southwest) (27,973)
1390	1,100	Osa Meadows, Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness	None	Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (2) (967)
1391*	17,745	Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East	None	Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (3) (492) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West (1) (2,155) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West (2) (2,880)
1394	51,801	Domeland/ Woodpecker Roadless Area, Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness	None	Domeland Wilderness Addition- South (14,666) Domeland Wilderness Addition- West (18,817)
1404	6,068	Hatchet Peak	None	Hatchet Peak (6,060)
1408	48,730	Upper Kern Canyon Escarpment-Baker Peak	None	Stormy Canyon (40,457)
1431	7,234	Woodpecker Roadless, Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness	None	Domeland Wilderness Fish Creek Addition (3,932)

* Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the acres occurring on the Sequoia National Forest.

Cannel Peak, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1384.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 27,208 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Cannel Peak map (Figure B-46). The boundary follows National Forest System Roads, motorized trails, county road 99, and creeks, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service and a few privately-owned parcels. There are a few maintenance access roads and an aqueduct authorized under special use permit that runs along the southwest edge of the unit. Roads 24S56B, 24S38, 23S13 extend into the polygon beyond the cherry stem. The boundary excludes all public motorized trails, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located just north of Kernville. It extends from the Kern River Canyon up steep brush-shrouded slopes to the lip and beyond to the adjacent Kern Plateau. It rises to a maximum elevation of approximately 9,500 feet at Cannell Peak. It is a complex unit that has an incredible diversity of plants and animals related to elevation. The western border consists of steep, densely brushed slopes and ravines just above the North Fork Kern River which rises to form the western lip of the Kern Plateau. The brush fields give way to open stands of oak and pine that rise further to break into an open plateau with open pine stands adjacent to huge open grassy meadows. Stands of the endemic Piute cypress (only one of 13 stands known to exist in the Kern River Valley) exist within the unit. The large open wet meadows of the Kern Plateau also provide prime habitat for several species of salamanders and the mountain yellow-legged frog.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in this area. There is a hydroelectric impoundment along Salmon Creek. There is one hiking trail that accesses Salmon Creek Falls. The Kern Plateau is accessed by one main road; with the exception of groomed snowmobile trails, recreation visitation on the Plateau is limited to the summer and fall months. Recreational users consist of day hikers and backpackers along the trails as well as horse parties, particularly near the open grassy meadows located on the high-elevation plateau. The unit has a rich archaeological history and was and is used extensively by the Tubatulabal Tribe who accessed the plateau from Fay Ranch in the lowlands to the south.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The vast majority of this area is unaffected by intentional human manipulation. The unit appears natural and undisturbed. The old healing scars from the timber sales and exploratory mining are not noticeable to the casual recreational user. It is important habitat for several species of slender salamander, mountain yellow-legged frog and for Piute pines in the lower elevations. There are no recreational developments in this polygon. The northwest portion is adjacent to locations of extremely high developed and undeveloped recreation use along the North Fork Kern River and opportunities for solitude are limited given the crowds of recreationists along the river. Half upslope and onto the Kern Plateau, the opportunity for quiet and solitude are greatly enhanced, even during the peak recreational visitation months in the summer. Opportunities for solitude are

also limited in the southwest portion of the area, adjacent to the motorized Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail. Military training overflights are a common occurrence in this area and also affect opportunities for solitude. Increasingly, there is a community interest in building new off highway vehicle routes across and through the Kern Plateau, so there is growing motorized recreational interest in this area.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

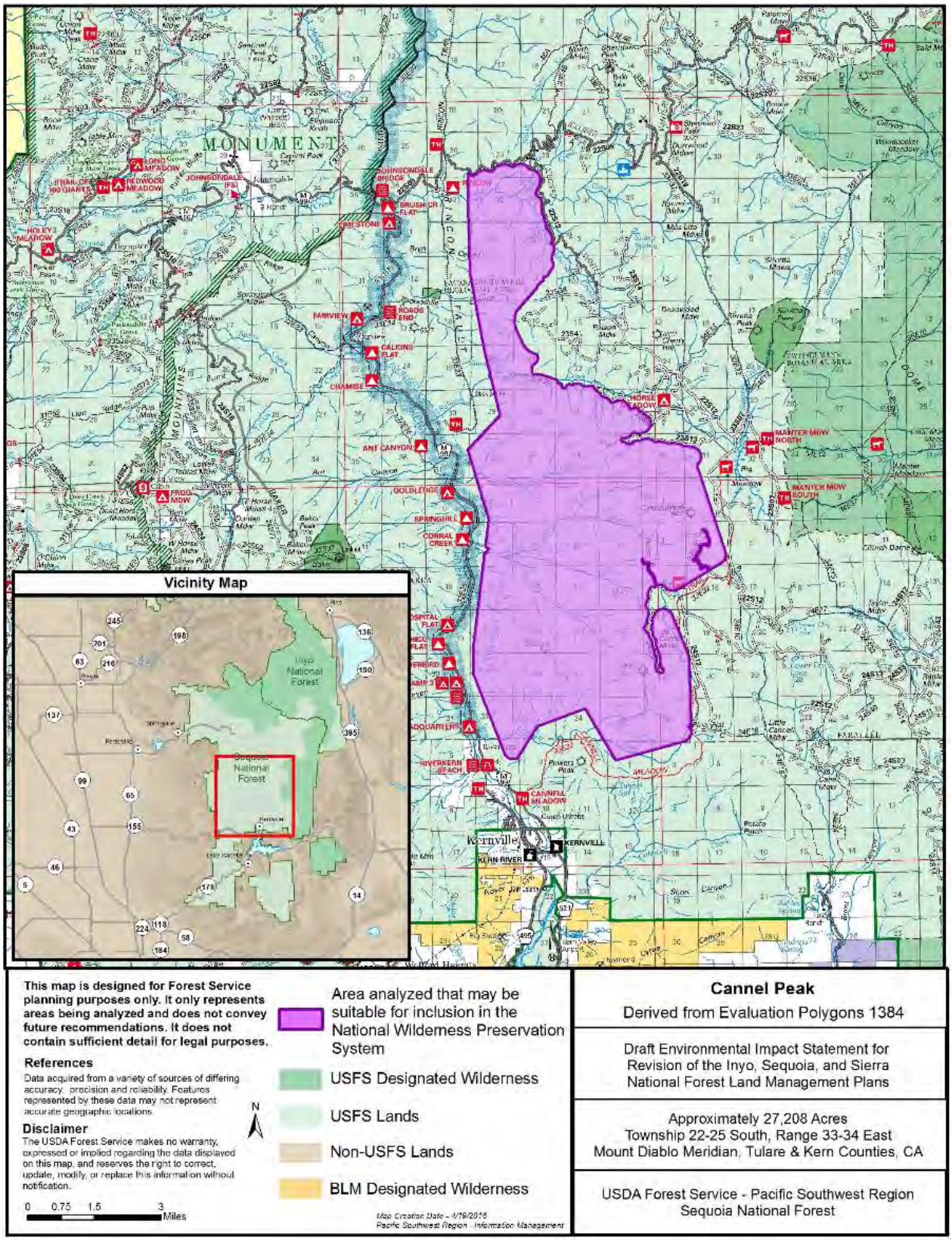


Figure B-46. Map of Cannel Peak area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Dennison Peak, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 190.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 7,100 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Dennison Peak map (Figure B-47).The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, National Forest System roads, and Tulare County Road 276, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or National Park Service or are privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is a mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of chaparral, oak woodlands and mixed conifers in the Dennison Peak area south of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Much of the unit is visible from the county road and foothill and valley communities.

Current Uses

The area is within an inventoried roadless area, the Giant Sequoia National Monument, and adjacent to the Moses Recommended Wilderness. There are two special use permitted water lines within the area. There is evidence of past mining operations. Grazing and a little recreation use occurs in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The unit has been affected by human intervention. Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species and denser understory throughout the entire unit. There is one noticeable mine in the area and possibly others that are not noticeable. There are two minor structures associated with the mine but they are not maintained. There are non-native species present. There may be some opportunities of primitive and unconfined recreation. Approximately half the unit is covered with dense vegetation. Cross county travel would be difficult in some areas without major clearing of vegetation. The eastern portion of the unit is very steep and rugged and would be difficult to transverse by users. The potential for solitude is high, away from adjacent roads and trails. While some areas within the interior are screened from sight, views of private property, roads and the San Joaquin valley development is frequent at higher elevations.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Contiguous with the Moses Recommended Wilderness.
- Opportunities for solitude.

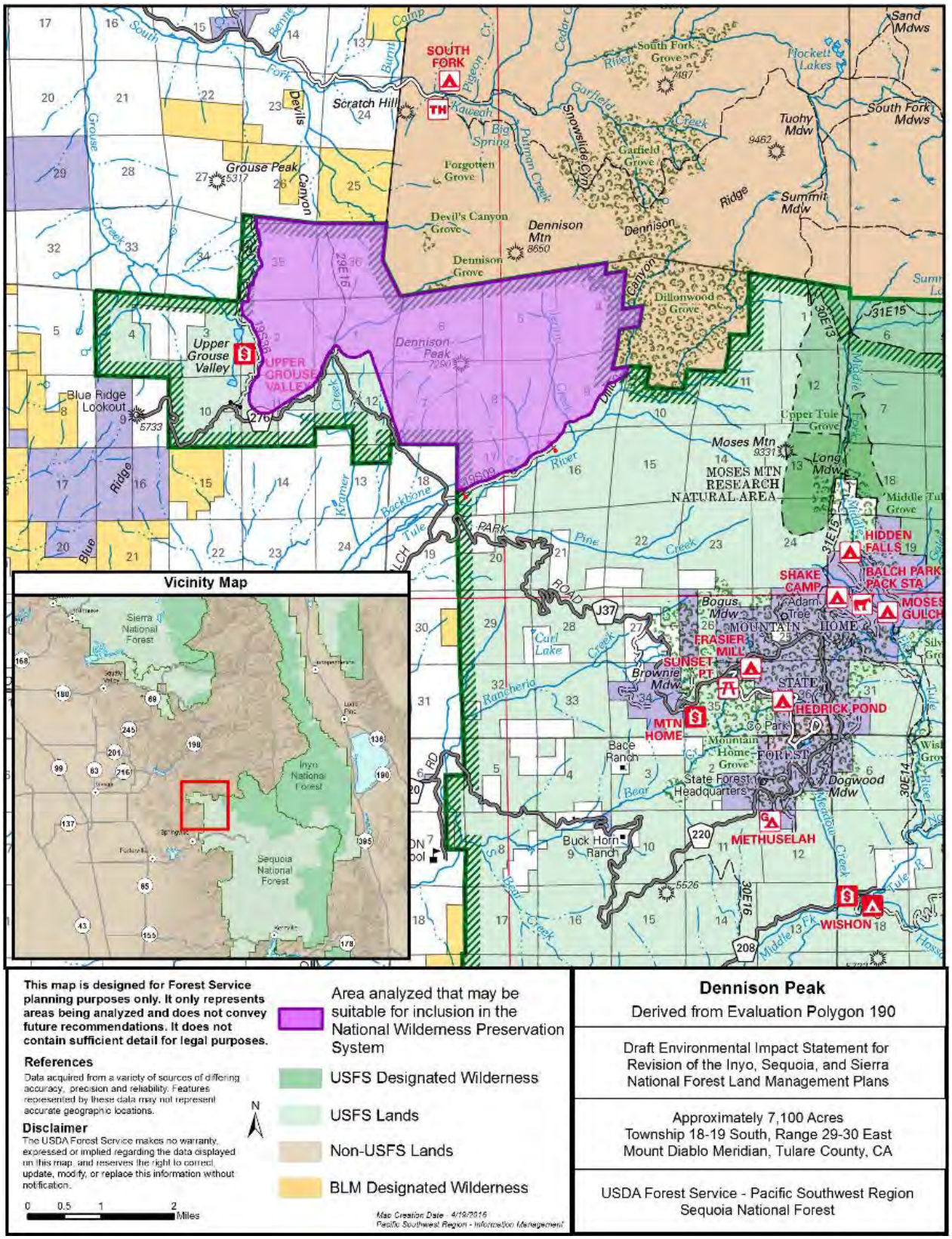


Figure B-47. Map of Dennison Peak area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Domeland Wilderness Addition – West, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1394

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 18,817 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Domeland Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-48). The eastern boundary of this area is contiguous with the Domeland Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized and non-motorized trails, and section boundaries, making this area fairly easy to locate on a map or on the ground, though also creating an irregular shape due to these features. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service. The current polygon has three motorized routes, a portion of road 22S21, beyond the cherry stem and motorized trails 34E12 and33E32. The boundary excludes a top and middle portion of the original parent polygon where there are multiple roads and trails open to the public, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located northeast from Kernville along the Domeland Wilderness and southeast of Sherman Peak. This area is a high-elevation mountainous area from 6,800 to 9,300 feet on the Kern Plateau. The biotic communities in the mid-elevations are composed of various shrubs, forbs, non-native grasses and chaparral. Higher elevations are composed primary of conifer forests with abundant meadows and mountain streams. General topography of the area is rolling plateau with ridges divided into two sections.

Current Uses

Portions of the area are managed as inventoried roadless area. The northern most area is in the Trout Creek South Fork Kern critical aquatic refuge and includes the Twisselman Botanical Area. The area is lightly used for dispersed camping, hiking, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. Historic and prehistoric sites occur within the area. Cattle grazing currently occurs in the area. Existing mechanized and motorized opportunities are popular in the area and are present along the boundary and within the unit. Skirting inside the western edge of the polygon is motorcycle trail 33E32, the Cannell Meadow Trail; in the northern portion of the polygon is road 22S21; and bisecting the polygon is 34E12, the Sirretta Trail. The Sirretta Trail is identified in the Mediated Settlement of 1990 for removal and/or replacement. A special use permit is issued to Edwards Air Force Base for their pilot wilderness survival training that occurs approximately 5 times each year in this area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area generally appears natural and reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. Conifer forests and shrublands appear natural. The area has been affected by past sheep and cattle grazing and current cattle grazing. The Twisselmann Botanical Area provides a very unique and high value special resource that contributes to the wilderness character of the area. Roads and off highway vehicle use in surrounding areas reduce opportunities for solitude in portions of the areas; however, the steep topography and elevation, and the proximity to the extensive existing wilderness, provide opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation. The only developments

around the areas are dispersed camping sites, one developed campground, some structures on private inholdings, livestock structures including water troughs, fence line and corrals.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of these Areas

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

Domeland Wilderness Addition – South, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1394

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 14,666 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Domeland Wilderness Addition map (Figure B-48). The southeastern corner of this area is contiguous with the Domeland Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized and non-motorized trails, section boundaries, and the forest administrative boundary, making this area fairly easy to locate on a map or on the ground, though also creating an irregular shape due to these features. The adjacent land is largely managed by the Forest Service. The southern boundary is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management and privately-owned lands. The boundary excludes areas in the southern portion of the original parent polygon where roads open to public use and multiple motorized trails exist, supporting management of the area for both wilderness and other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located east of Kernville and south of the Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail and the County line between Kern and Tulare Counties. This area is mid to high-elevation ridge topped hills and canyons ranging in elevation from 2,800 to 8,000 feet. The biotic communities in the mid-elevations are composed of various shrubs, forbs, non-native grasses and chaparral. Higher elevations are composed primary of conifer forests with meadows and streams. General topography of the area is rugged, steep slopes, ridged tops, and canyons.

Current Uses

Portions of the area are managed as inventoried roadless area. The area is lightly used for dispersed camping, hiking, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. Historic and prehistoric sites occur within the area. The area is currently grazed by cattle. Motorcycle riding is popular in the surrounding area and along the boundaries.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area generally appears natural and reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. Conifer forests and shrublands appear

natural. The area has been affected by past sheep and cattle grazing and current cattle grazing. Roads and off highway vehicle use in surrounding areas reduce opportunities for solitude in portions of the areas; however, the steep topography and elevation, and the proximity to the extensive existing wilderness, provide opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation. The only developments around the areas are dispersed camping sites, some structures on private inholdings, livestock structures including water troughs, fence line and corrals.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of these Areas

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

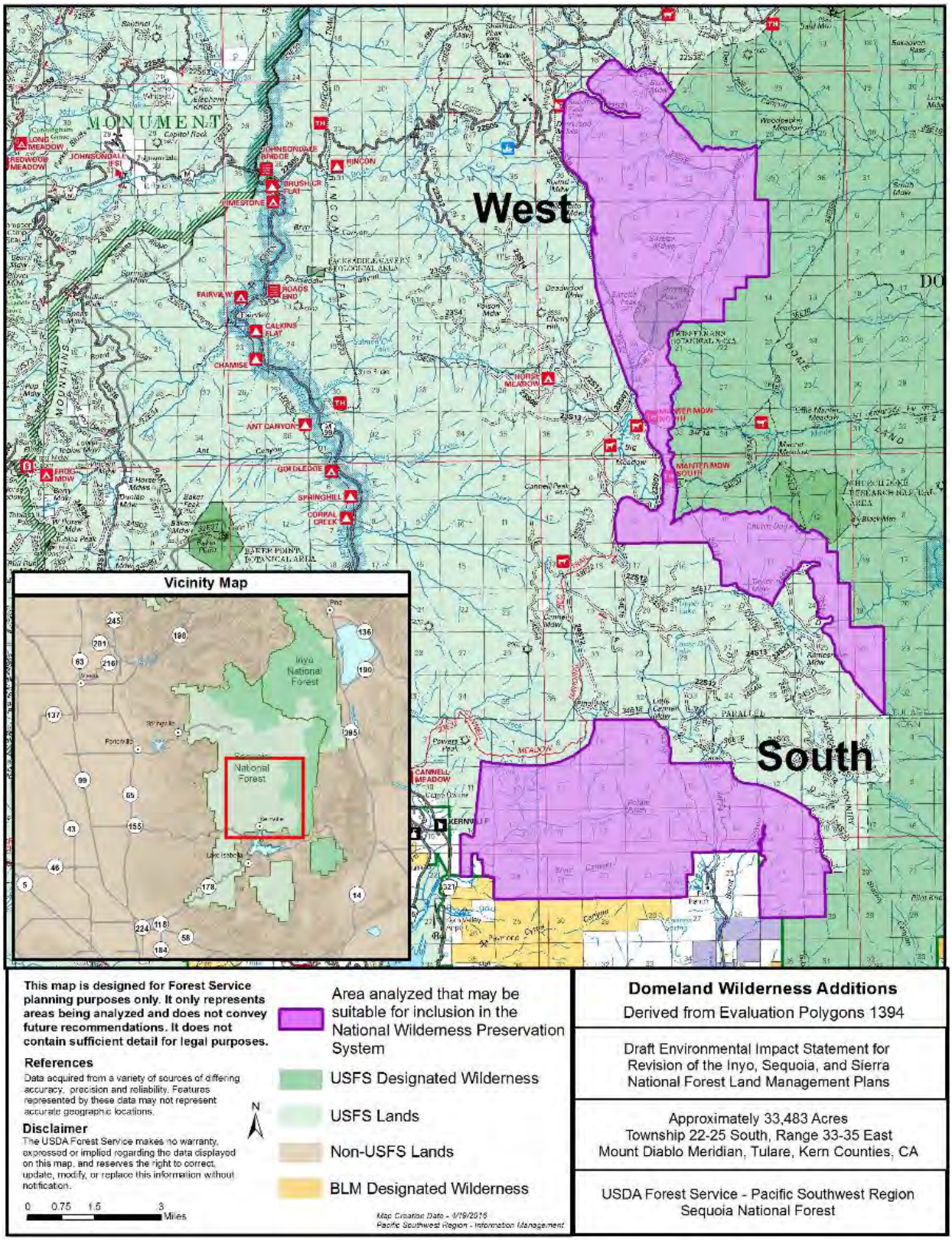


Figure B-48. Map of Domeland Wilderness Addition areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Domeland Wilderness Fish Creek Addition, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1431

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 3,932 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Domeland Wilderness Fish Creek Addition map (Figure B-49). This southern boundary of this area is contiguous with the Domeland Wilderness. The remaining boundaries follow National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to recognize on maps or on the ground. The adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes all motorized trails in the northwestern portion of the original parent polygon and excludes roads that are open to the public in the southern portion, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located just northwest of Bald Mountain. It is a high-elevation mountainous area from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, primarily comprised of shrublands, graduating to conifer and mixed conifer in the higher elevations, including eastside pine, pinyon/juniper, and Sierran mixed conifer. The rest is grass or exposed bedrock. The shrub type it is mostly high desert/montane chaparral transition.

Current Uses

A portion of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area. Most of the Bald Mountain Botanical Area is included. The area is currently in the old forest emphasis area and Southern Sierra fisher conservation area. Grazing occurs in the area. The area is lightly used for dispersed camping, hunting and fishing. A special use permit is issued to Edwards Air Force Base for their pilot wilderness survival training that occurs approximately 5 times each year in this area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area generally appears natural and reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. The area has been affected by past sheep and cattle grazing and there is current cattle grazing, wildfire and a limited amount of timber harvest. Natural wildfires and many rock outcrops have eliminated visual evidence of past timber harvest. The Bald Mountain Botanical Area and the Fish Creek Canyon with interesting geologic features (basalt caps) provide a very unique and high value special resource that contributes to the wilderness character of the area. The area has little visitation and opportunities for solitude are good. Development and signage is scarce and the area is remote providing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation experiences when considered as an expansion of the existing Domeland Wilderness.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

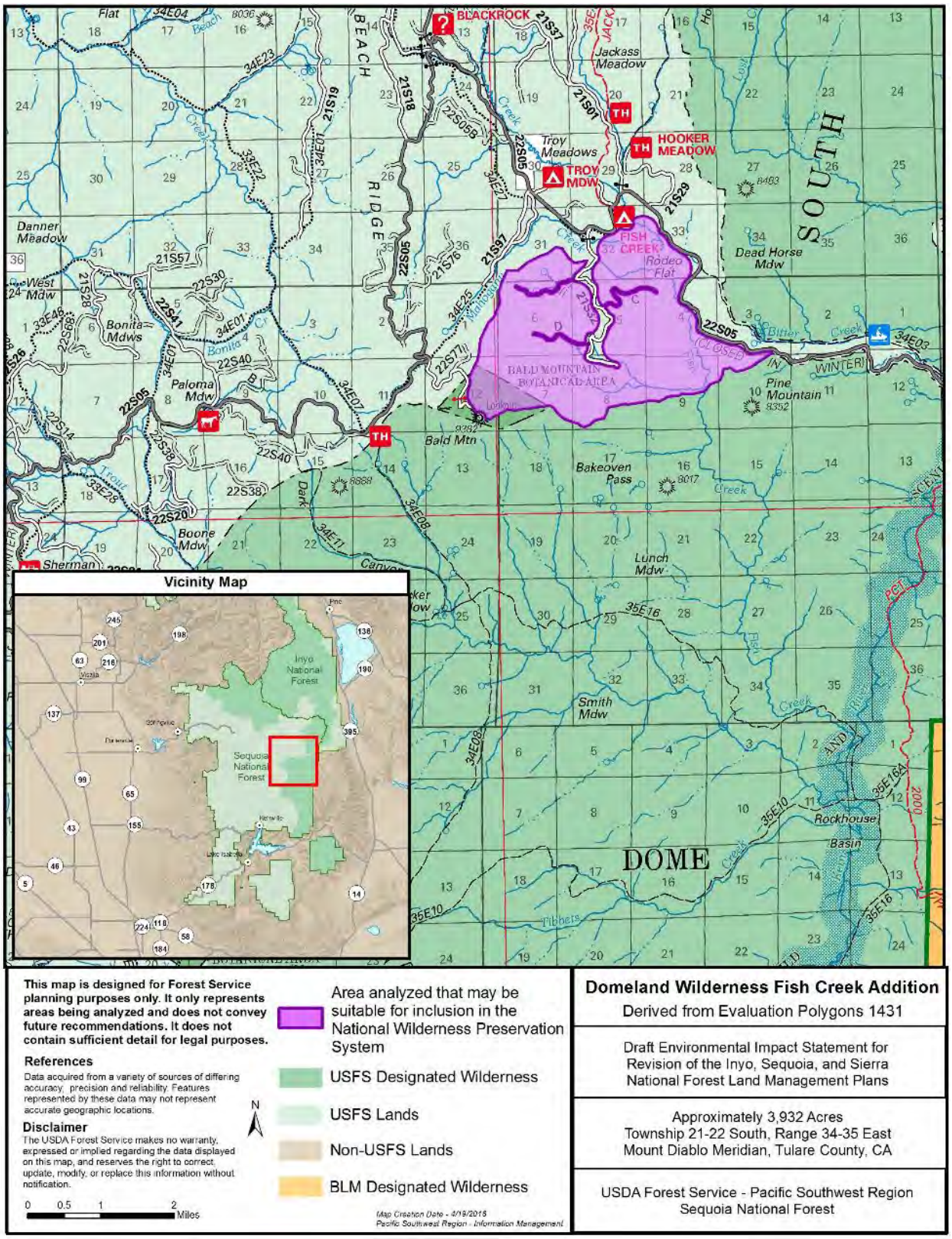


Figure B-49. Map of Domeland Wilderness Fish Creek Addition area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (1), Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygons 1387.

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 3,488 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Golden Trout Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-50). This northern boundary of this area is contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and areas with motorized trails, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes most of the eastern portion of the original parent polygon due to the presence of motorized trails, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The area is a mid to high elevation mountainous area on the Kern Plateau. The northern boundary follows Soda Creek. The area is north of Lion Meadow (trail 33E21) trailhead and the trail bisects the polygon.

Current Uses

The Lion Meadow trail provides access to the wilderness. Most of the current recreation activities occur on roads and trails adjacent to the area and on Lion Meadow Trail.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The whole area has a natural fire regime which has shaped the vegetation. The vegetative community across the unit that now exists would appear natural to a casual recreational visitor. The overall character of the area appears natural and has ecological integrity.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (2), Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygons 1390.

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 967 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Golden Trout Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-50). The northern and western boundaries of this somewhat triangular shaped area are contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness. The eastern boundary follows a National Forest System road and a

motorized trail, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes the motorized trail along the southeastern portion of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The area is a mid to high elevation mountainous area on the Kern Plateau. Osa Meadow is on the eastern boundary and the headwaters for Osa Creek, a tributary of the Kern River.

Current Uses

Current recreation activities occur on roads and trails adjacent to the area. Adjacent activities include dispersed camping, hiking, backpacking, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding and motorcycle trail-riding occur on several forest system trails on the perimeter of this unit. Grazing occurs in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The whole area has a natural fire regime which has shaped the vegetation. The vegetative community across the area would appear natural to a casual recreational visitor. Access roads from previous timber clearing operations are not obtrusive. While range improvements such as fences, corrals and water troughs occur near some water sources in the area, they are unobtrusive. The overall character of the area appears natural and has ecological integrity. Meadow restoration is planned to start in 2016.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.
- Osa Meadow is the last known refuge for Kern River rainbow trout and these will be reintroduced to the drainage in the near future.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Golden Trout Wilderness Additions (3), Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygons 1391.

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 492 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Golden Trout Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-50). The northwestern portion of this area is contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The surrounding area is managed by the Forest Service, both the Inyo National Forest and Sequoia National Forest.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is a mountain landscape east of Blackrock Mountain (elevation 9600 feet). The area has some rock outcroppings and supports high elevation eastside pine, red fir, Jeffery pine, sagebrush, and the golden trout.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Several cultural resources occur in the area and there is a small amount of dispersed camping. The Blackrock Trailhead with horse corrals are on the boundary of this polygon and the Golden Trout Wilderness.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity. The area moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium. Motorized recreation just outside the area may impact opportunities for solitude. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

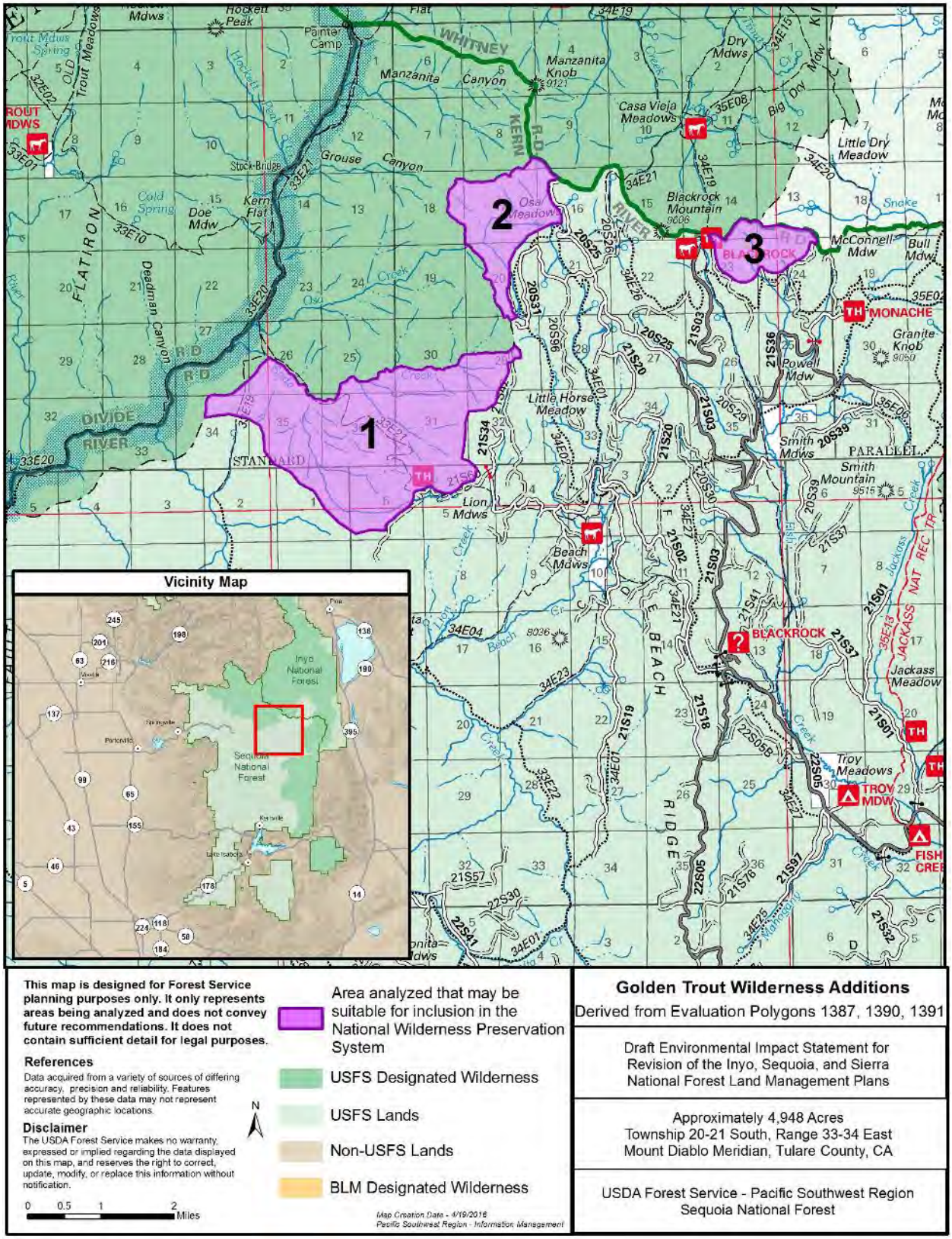


Figure B-50. Map of Golden Trout Wilderness Additions area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – Southwest, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1387.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 27,973 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – Southwest map (Figure B-51). This northern portion of this large area is contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness. The eastern boundary is parallel to the Rincon motorized trail on the east and the North Fork Kern River on the west; the southern boundary is parallel to state high 99. The western boundary follows non-motorized trails, country roads, section boundaries, creeks, the boundary of the Freeman Creek Grove, and private property boundaries. Forest system road 22S82 vertically bisects the northern portion of this polygon. The adjacent areas are managed by the Forest Service or are privately owned. The boundary excludes most of the eastern and part of the western portions of the original parent polygon due to the presence of motorized trails on the east and areas with roads open to the public found along the boundary of the western portion. This is in support of management of the area for both wilderness and other adjacent uses. Access to Derrington cabin is under permit with California State Fish and Wildlife.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is a mid to high elevation mountainous area, bounded on the east by the precipitous canyon of North Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic River. As the terrain rises steeply out of the Kern Canyon, vegetation transitions from chaparral through oak-confer to mixed conifers at higher elevations. Outstanding landscape features include waterfalls, pinnacles, granite domes, and columnar basalt flows on the Kern River.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Use is primarily confined to trails and the North Fork Kern River within the area, with concentrations of use along roads at the boundaries. The Freeman Creek Giant Sequoia Grove is located in the northern portion of this area. Current visitor use is generally low with little chance of encounters with other visitors. Mountain climbing is popular within the polygon at Dome Rock and Needles. Mountain biking, dispersed camping, hiking, whitewater kayaking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing are popular in this polygon. Organization camps use the area heavily. Access to Derrington cabin is under permit with California State Fish and Wildlife.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The roads, including cherry stemmed roads, private in holdings, and developed facilities surround the area reduce the natural quality. Access roads from previous timber clearing operations are noticeable. There is a road under special use permit and a Southern California Edison powerline in the area. The overall character of the area appears natural with ecological integrity despite the impacts from developments. The river corridor with steep-sided canyon walls is well insulated from the west side activities, has no developed facilities and extremely limited access even for foot travel and appears primarily affected by the forces of nature. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher, several species of slender salamander and mountain yellow-legged frogs. Species composition is generally the result of natural processes. Given the steepness

of the topography, there is minimal recreational use on the steeper slopes providing opportunities for solitude. Developed recreation facilities or services on the boundaries and cherry stems limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as well as solitude. High visitor use in the summer, organizational camp activities, private inholdings, and use of the Forest Service heliport at Peppermint reduce the opportunities for solitude. High helicopter use at the Peppermint heliport during active fire suppression activities will seasonally reduce opportunities for solitude. Potential encounters with other visitors are high throughout most of the polygon.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

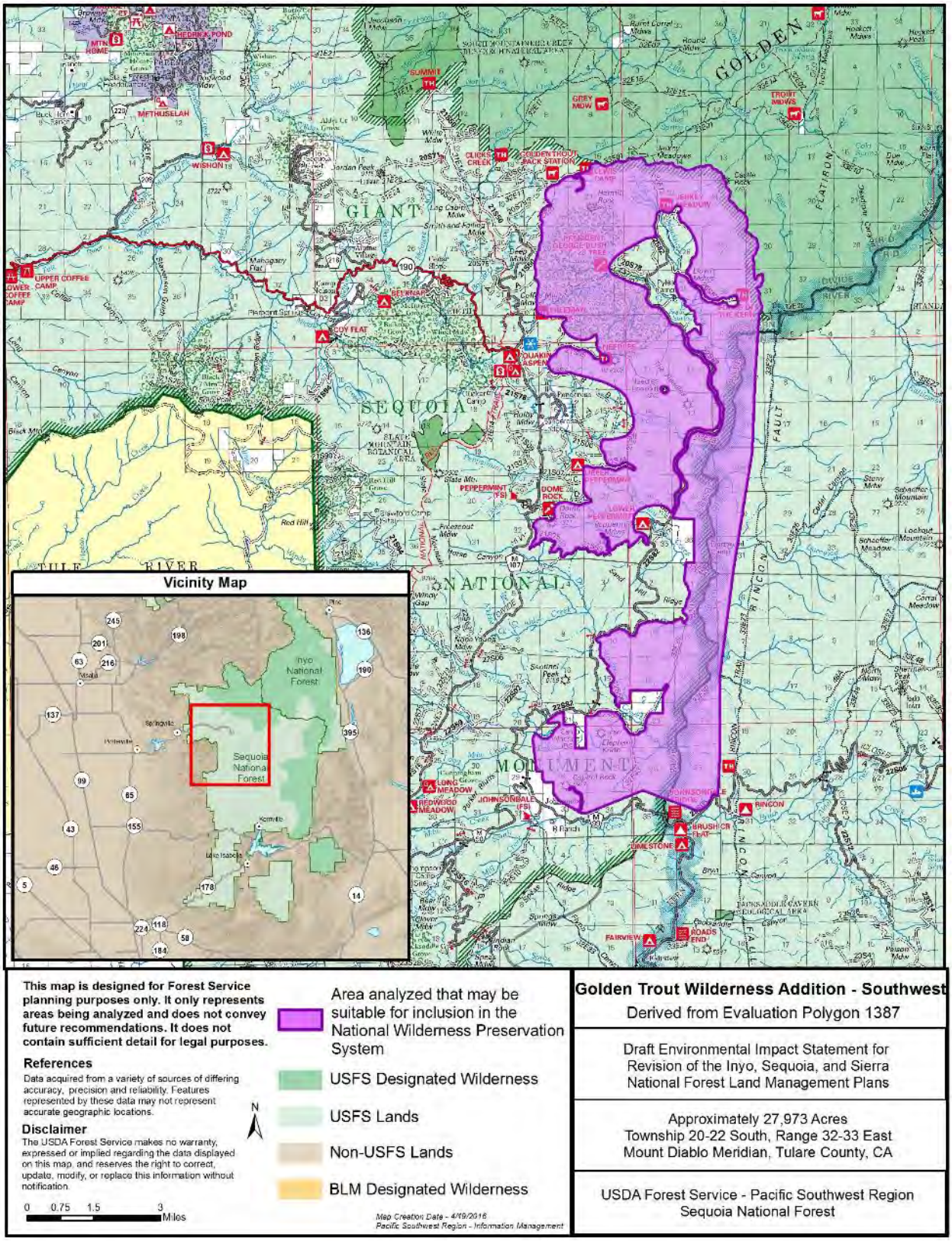


Figure B-51. Map of Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – Southwest area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Hatchet Peak, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1404.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 6,060 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Hatchet Peak map (Figure B-52). The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, National Forest System roads, and parts of Mountain Road 50, making it fairly easy to locate on maps and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Tule River Indian Reservation, or private landowners.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located on the western boundary of the Sequoia National Forest and southeastern boundary of the Tule River Indian Reservation. The area is primarily a moderate to steep west-facing slope, with a high point at Hatchet Peak at an elevation of 6,385 feet. The entire area lies within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The vegetation is mixed oak woodland.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Use is generally low and currently limited to areas near open roads adjacent to the area. Several historic and prehistoric sites are in the area. This is part of a very active Tule River Tribe fuels emphasis area. The north end of the polygon has been logged and planted. There is evidence of old roads used in logging and planting operations. A Southern California Edison power line runs through the area. There is a non-motorized, loop trail used for mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

Fire suppression has most affected the vegetation. The area has been a frequent site of illegal marijuana cultivation. This area is grazed, and timber harvest and ranching/grazing occur on adjacent Tule River Indian Reservation, Bureau of Land Management, and private ranch lands. Because of the close proximity to other landownerships, visual evidence of development outside the area is present within the area. All these contribute to diminishing the apparent naturalness. In addition, these ongoing activities could affect the sense of solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Fuel reduction to protect objects of interest and tribal lands, as guided by the monument management plan, could affect wilderness management.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

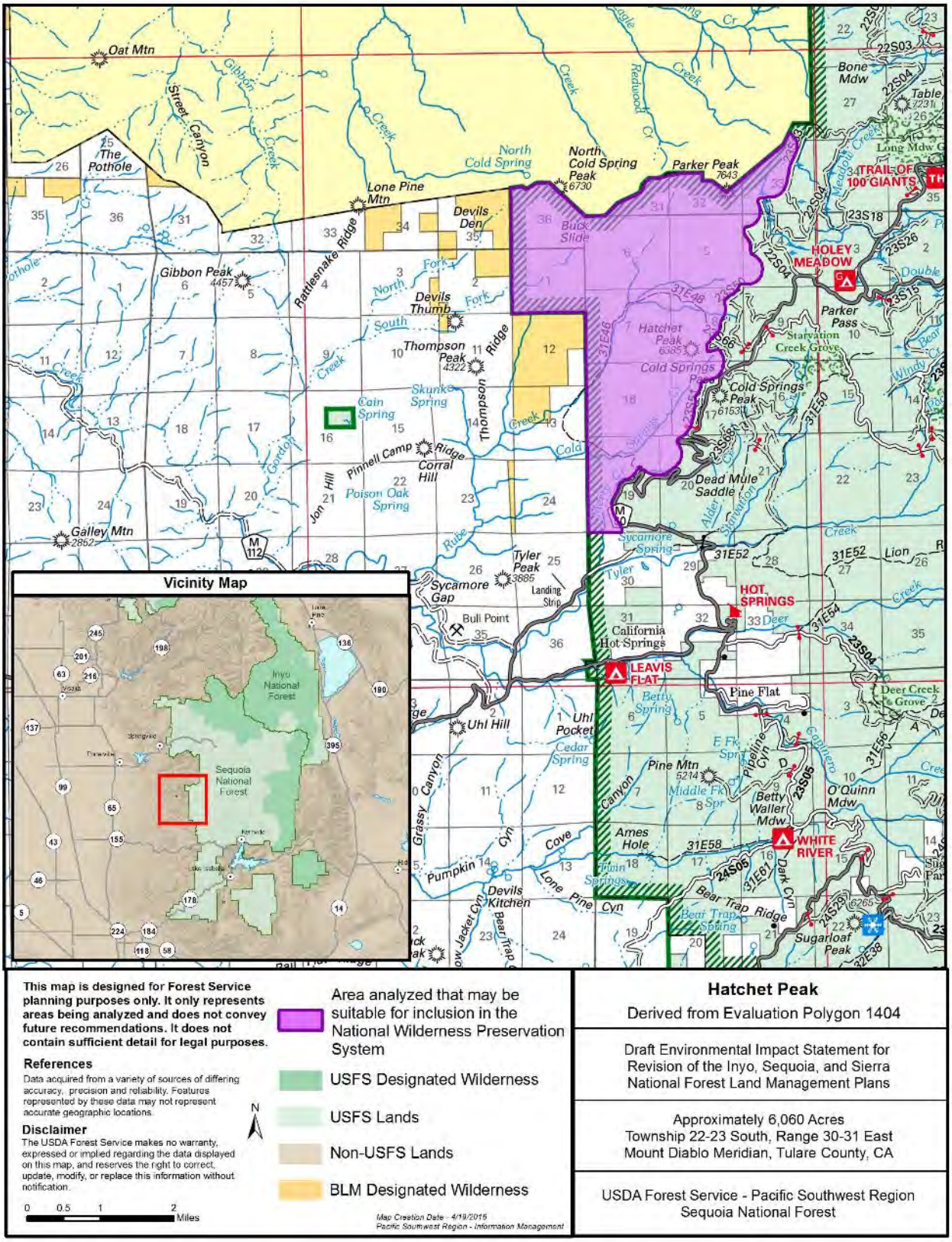


Figure B-52. Map of Hatchet Peak area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Jennie Lakes Wilderness Addition, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1385.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 5,263 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Jennie Lakes Wilderness Addition map (Figure B-53). The southern boundary of this area is contiguous with the Jennie Lakes Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, National Forest System roads, and section boundaries, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The boundary excludes areas from the original parent polygon that contain roads open to the public, supporting management of the area for both wilderness and other adjacent uses. The adjacent areas are managed by the Forest Service or the National Park Service, with a couple areas that are privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is a moderately high elevation mountainous area contiguous with Jennie Lakes Wilderness and National Park Service wilderness. Vegetation is mixed conifer forests interspersed with meadows and streams.

Current Uses

This area is within the Giant Sequoia National Monument, and much of the area is within an inventoried roadless area. Grazing occurs in the area. The area includes several cultural resources. Big Meadows trail leads to Jennie Lakes Wilderness, a popular destination for hikers and horse riders. Multiple popular developed recreation sites line Big Meadows Road along the boundary.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The composition of plant and animal communities are intact, and the area appears to reflect ecological conditions. In some areas manipulations due to fuels management and past logging are noticeable to the casual visitor. The recreational developments along Big Meadows Road receive heavy recreation use and include campgrounds, a recreation rental cabin, three popular trailheads, and a developed pack station. Highway 198 borders a quarter mile section of the northern boundary and is a busy road in the summer months. Much of the unit is screened from roads and campgrounds by steep topography and trees. The activity at multiple developed recreation facilities along the boundary limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation within the area.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

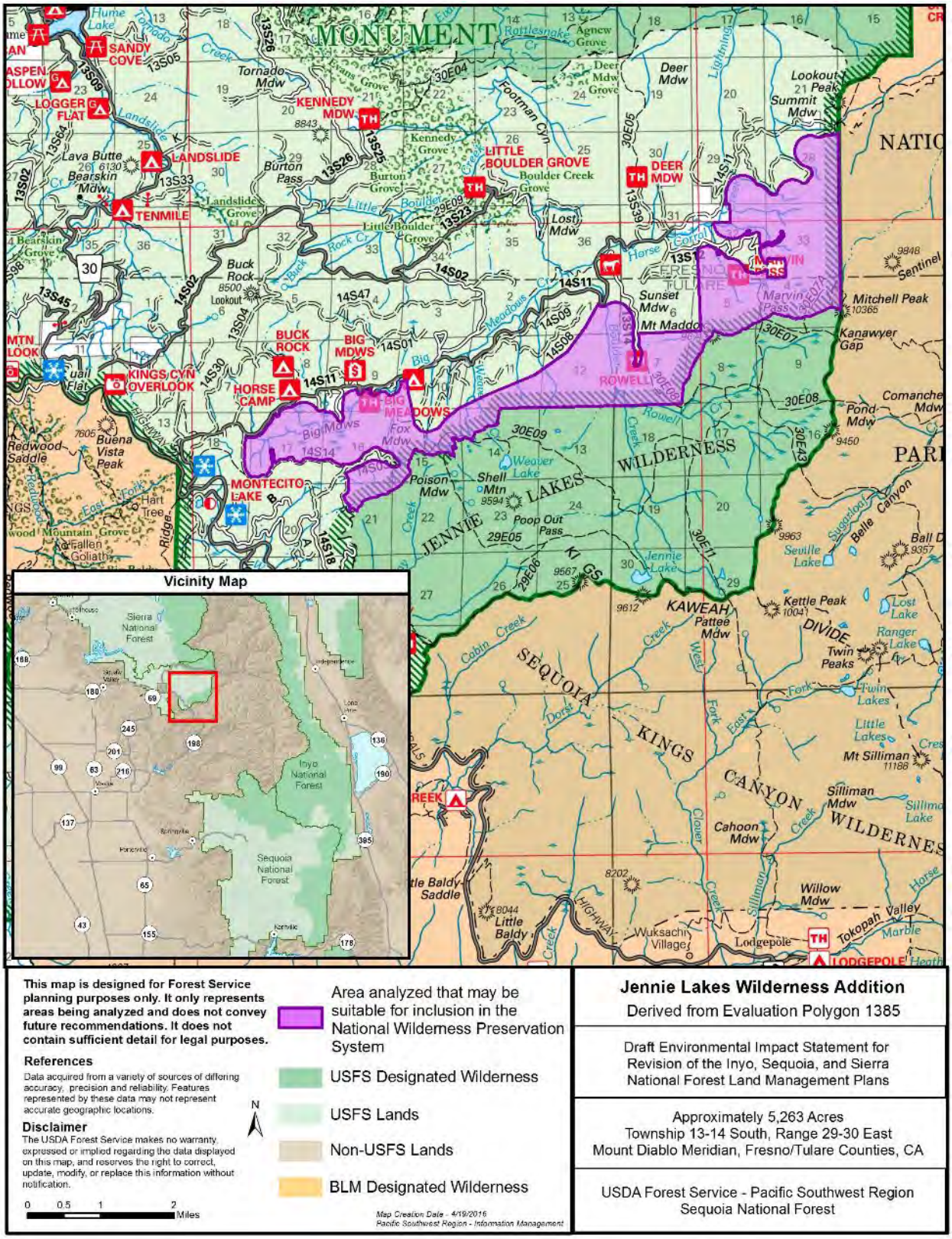


Figure B-53. Map of Jennie Lakes Wilderness Addition area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Long Canyon, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 162.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 15,794 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Long Canyon map (Figure B-54). The boundary for this area follows Highway 190, the forest administrative boundary, private land, and National Forest System roads, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or Tule River Indian Reservation or are privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located immediately north of the Tule River Indian Reservation and south of Highway 190. It is a low- to mid-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of chaparral, oak woodlands and mixed conifers north of the Black Mountain. A small portion of the Black Mountain Giant Sequoia Grove is within the southern boundary of the unit. There are marble outcrops and travertine formations in the area. The area contains a number of rare plants and important amphibian species. This area is within the Tule River Tribe fuels emphasis area.

Current Uses

The polygon is within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Ranching occurs in the area. This is in the Tule River Tribe fuels emphasis area. Important cultural resource sites are located in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The unit has been affected by human intervention. Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species throughout the entire unit. The area is largely undeveloped. There are roads that are under special use permits. There are two range allotments with associated water troughs and fence lines. This is a tribal fuels emphasis area. Along the southern boundary, the Tule River Indian Reservation access road to Black Mountain crosses the boundary into the polygon in several places. There are overgrown roadbeds from past forest activities. An old, non-system road leads from Coy Flat campground to two historic mines. Immediately adjacent to this unit are developed recreation facilities, the Tule River Indian Reservation, and a highway corridor that provides entry into the southern portion of the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The area is primitive and quiet once access is gained by overland hiking, although difficult in some portions due to dense stands of shrubs and steep terrain. Traffic sounds originating from the highway corridor and associated recreation facilities can be heard from the interior of the unit.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

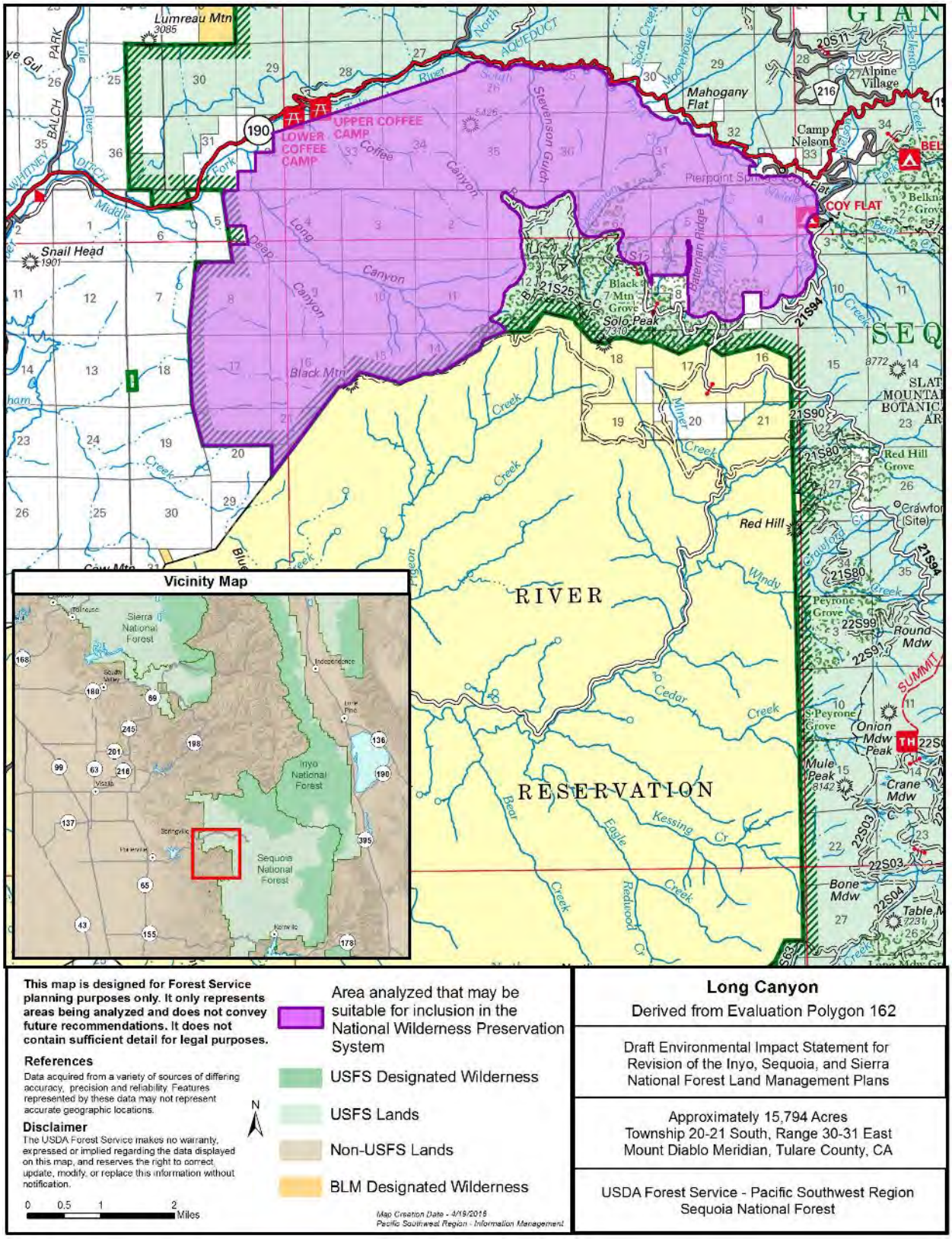


Figure B-54. Map of Long Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Monarch Wilderness Addition – South, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1377.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 5,472 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Monarch Wilderness Addition –South map (Figure B-55). The area's northern boundary is contiguous with Monarch Wilderness; the eastern boundary is contiguous with the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks; the western and southern boundaries follow National Forest System roads, trails, and creeks, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The adjoining land is mostly managed be the Forest Service. A few adjoining areas are privately owned. The boundary excludes areas along the southern and western portions of the original parent polygon that contain roads open to the public, supporting management of the area for both wilderness and other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located south of the South Fork of the Kings River, southeast of Evans Grove, and northeast of Little Boulder Grove. This is a mid to high elevation, mountainous area primarily of mixed conifer with giant sequoia groves located along the Kings River. The area includes a couple Giant Sequoia groves.

Current Uses

This area is entirely within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The northern portion is managed as inventoried roadless area. The northern portion is very lightly visited by recreationists.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The northern half of the area shows very little indication of intrusion by humans. The overall character of the area appears natural and includes a few thousand acres of giant sequoia groves and is close to Windy Gulch Geologic Area. This is a highly scenic and natural appearing area. Ecological integrity is largely intact, and there has been little effect to natural plant, wildlife, watershed and soils conditions. This area provides opportunities for solitude.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

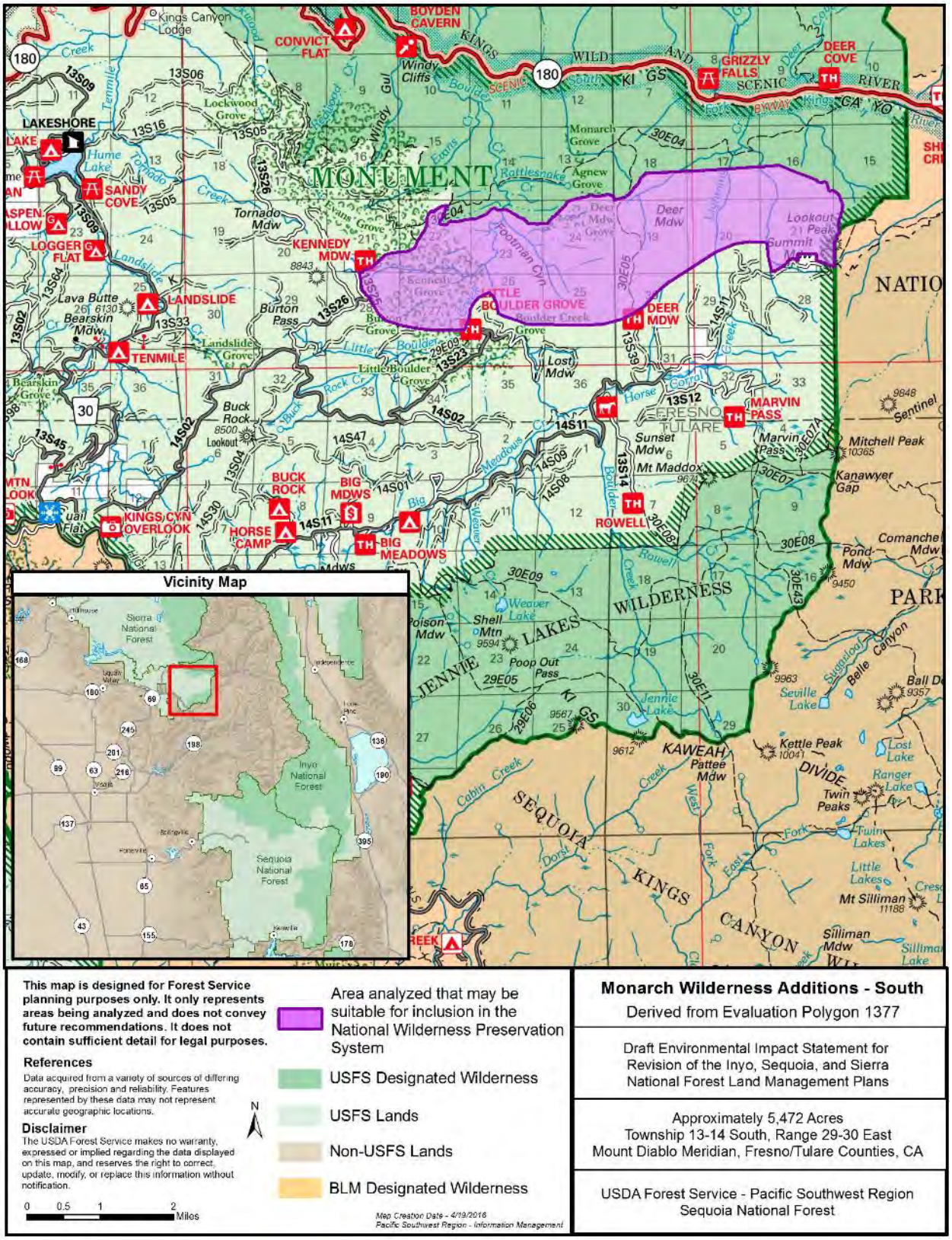


Figure B-55. Map of Monarch Wilderness Addition – South area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Saturday Peak, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 66.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 8,176 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Saturday Peak map (Figure B-56). The boundary for this area mostly follows the forest administrative boundary and the Kern River, making it fairly easy to identify on a map and on the ground. The two-lane section of California State Highway 178 runs along the southern boundary, along the south-east side of the Kern River. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or are private lands. The boundary excludes the small motorized area (Oak Flat) in the northern portion of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located in the southwestern most portion of the Sequoia National Forest. This area is a low elevation, mountainous canyon area along the north side of the lower Kern River Gorge. It ranges in elevation from 1,500 feet to 4,500 feet. Vegetation is dominated by annual grassland with areas of blue oak woodland, live oak woodland, and chaparral.

Current Uses

The area is very lightly visited, mainly by hunters in the fall. Grazing occurs in the area. There are several developed day use sites just outside the perimeter of the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The overall character of the land appears natural. This area contains a relatively intact stand of ecologically important Blue Oak woodland. Adjacent uses affecting naturalness include a power transmission line in the west and recreation use along the Kern River. Due to the narrow, elongated shape, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited. Activities and uses on its perimeter can be seen and heard from within the area.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.

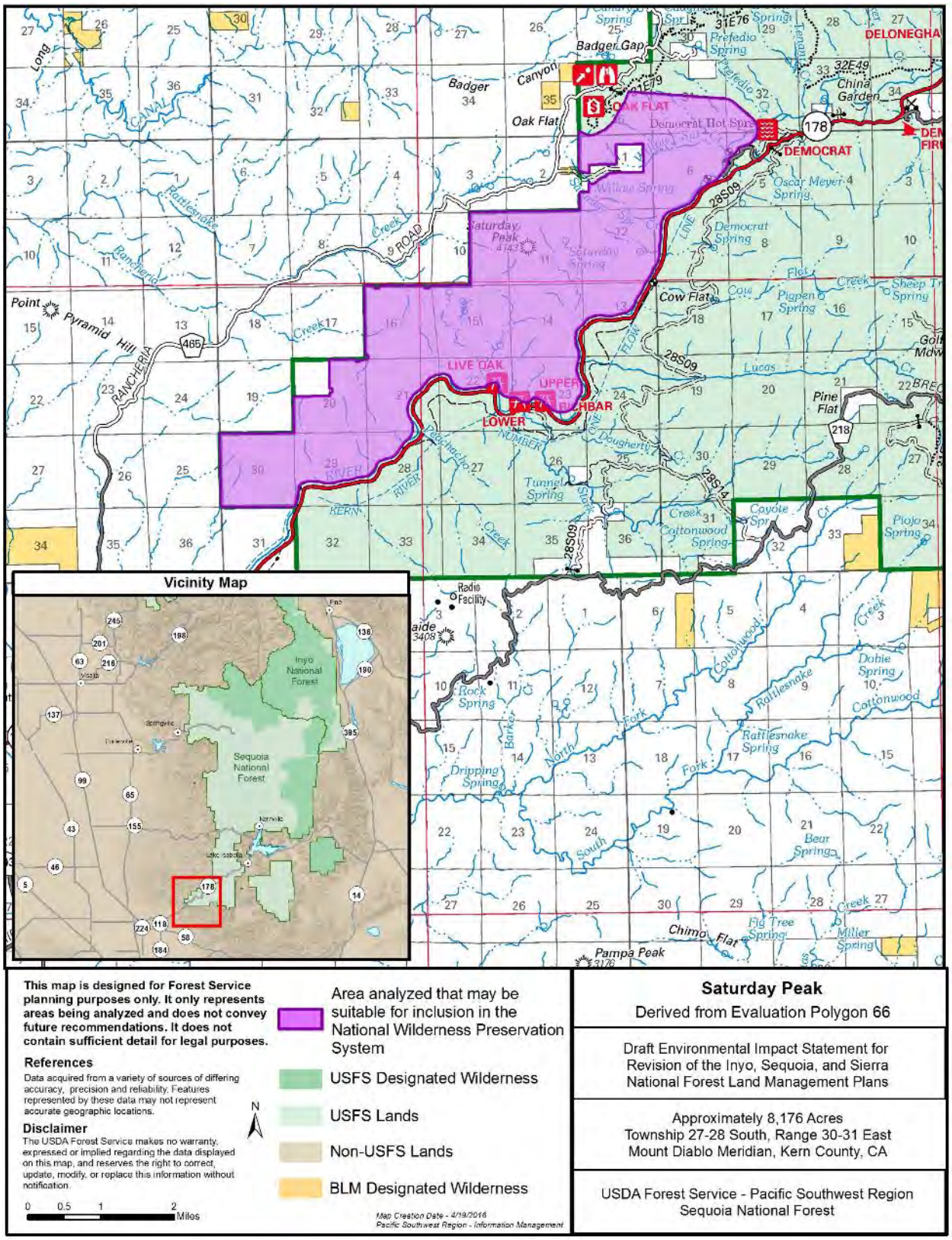


Figure B-56. Map of Saturday Peak area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Slate Mountain, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 160.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 16,004 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Slate Mountain map (Figure B-57). The boundary for this area follows National Forest System roads, the Western Divide Highway, Highway 190, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. Adjacent lands are largely managed by the Forest Service or Tule River Indian Reservation. Some areas are privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located near the northeast corner of the Tule River Indian Reservation. It is a mid- to high-elevation mountainous area composed primarily of mixed conifer, Giant Sequoia groves and sub-alpine areas near Slate Mountain. Immediately adjacent to this area are three small communities, a Forest Service heliport, and a highway corridor that provides entry into the southern portion of the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Current Uses

The polygon is within an inventoried roadless area and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The Slate Mountain Botanical Area is within this polygon. Grazing occurs in the southern portion. Some non-native fish are stocked within the area. The Summit National Recreation Trail bisects the area and allows mountain bike use and provides good access for recreation visitors. There is a historic lookout cabin on Slate Mountain that is not maintained and powerlines exist within the area. Overnight camping is uncommon, although it generally occurs during hunting season.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The unit has been affected by human intervention. Fire suppression activities have led to denser stands of shade tolerant species throughout the entire area. A small proportion of the area has been logged and some associated road beds and plantations exist. The majority of the unit is undeveloped. Access roads from previous management are not obtrusive. Grazing improvements are fence lines and water troughs. There are opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in the area. Traffic noise along the highway corridors is limited and would likely not impact the opportunities for solitude. There is a heliport along the eastern boundary of the unit. Helicopters coming and going out of the heliport could be disruptive to visitors.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

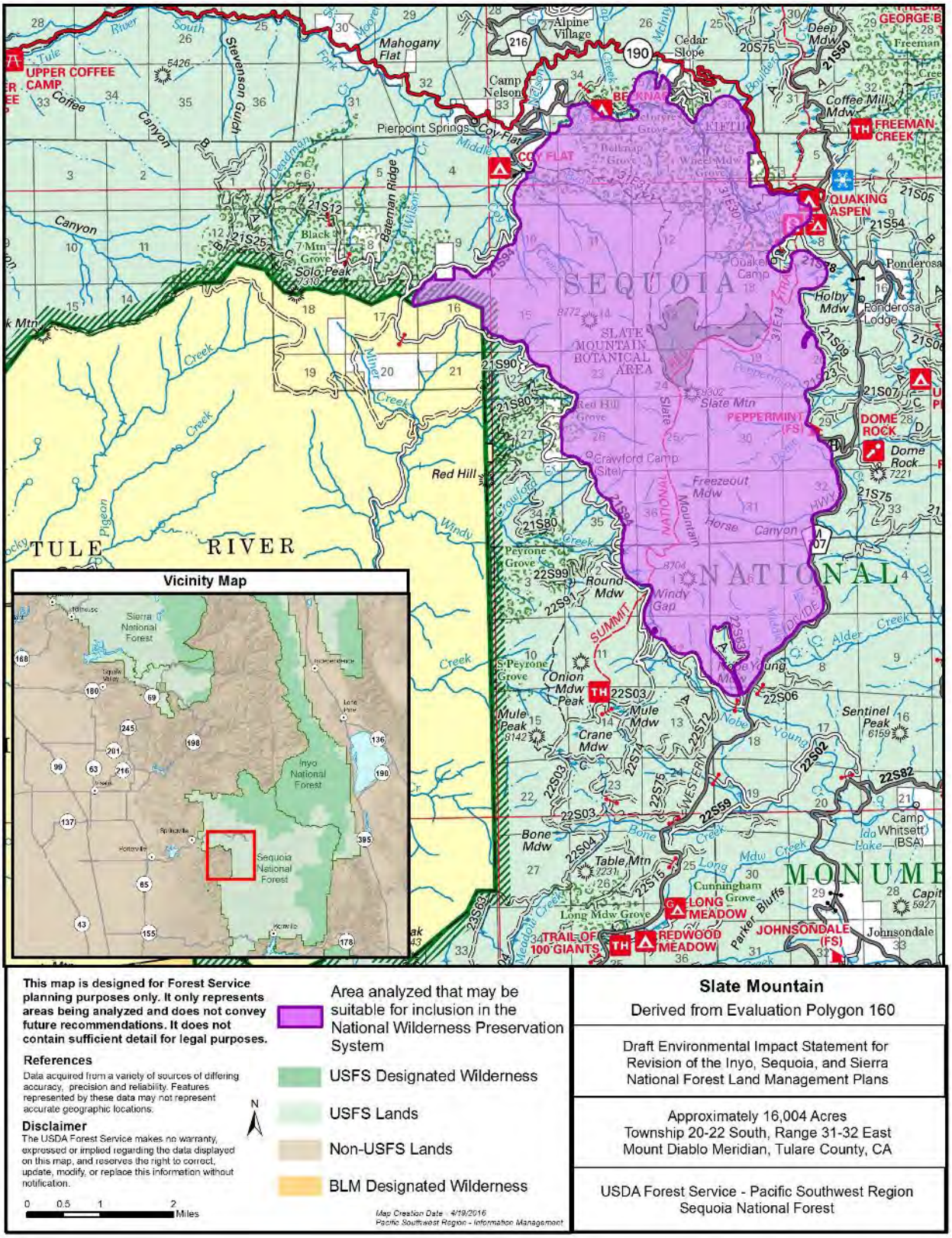


Figure B-57. Map of Slate Mountain area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West (1), Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 2,155 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Sierra Wilderness Additions –West map (Figure 40).

The eastern boundary of this polygon is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows a motorized trail, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The adjacent area is managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes the motorized trails around Granite Knob in the northern portion of the original parent polygon, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

Jackass Peak is a distinctive granitic landmark over 9,000 feet in elevation at the southwestern tip of this area. The area includes Broder Meadow, a high elevation wet meadow which spreads out under a ridgeline reaching over 8,000 feet. The vegetation cover type is predominately conifer/mixed conifer with wet meadows.

Current Uses

Grazing currently occurs in the area. There are cultural resources consisting of multiple tribal village sites that form a continuous network. Mountain biking and hiking are popular in this area as is snowmobiling in the winter.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has moderate ecological integrity and moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. Fire regimes are mixed and fires appear to be occurring within natural fire regime. There is very little impact from humans within this area on wildlife. The area does provide contiguous wildlife habitat. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low, based on the low number of current visitors to the South Sierra Wilderness. Roads and off highway vehicle use in surrounding areas reduce opportunities; however, the topography and elevation, and the proximity to the extensive existing wilderness, provide opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West (2), Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 2,880 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Sierra Wilderness Additions –West map (Figure B-58). The eastern boundary of this elongated polygon is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows a motorized trails, National Forest System roads, and South Fork of the Kern River, making it fairly easy to identify on maps and on the ground. The adjacent area is managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes the western portion of the original parent polygon, which includes several motorized trails including trail 35E13, the Jackass National Recreation Trail, as well as areas with roads open to the public, supporting management of the area for both wilderness and other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is just south of Jackass Peak, running along the western and southern boundary of the South Sierra Wilderness to Kennedy Meadows Campground. The area includes ridgelines running north to south and reaching 9,000 feet in elevation forming a geological barrier for the existing South Sierra Wilderness. Jackass Peak is a distinctive granitic landmark over 9,000 feet in elevation and can be seen from some parts of this polygon. The vegetation cover type is predominately conifer/mixed conifer with wet meadows.

Current Uses

Current primitive recreation activities in this area include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and horseback riding on several forest system trails that cross the polygon and access the South Sierra Wilderness. Deer hunting in the fall and fishing on the South Fork Kern River are also primitive activities in the area. Grazing occurs in the area. There are cultural resources in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has moderate ecological integrity and moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. Fire regimes are mixed, and fires appear to be occurring within natural fire regime. The area is predominately pinyon-juniper near Kennedy Meadow and pine on the east side.

There is very little impact from humans within this area on wildlife. The area does provide contiguous wildlife habitat. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low, based on the low number of current visitors to the South Sierra Wilderness. Roads and off highway vehicle use in surrounding areas reduce opportunities for solitude; however, the topography and elevation, and the proximity to the extensive existing wilderness, provide opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

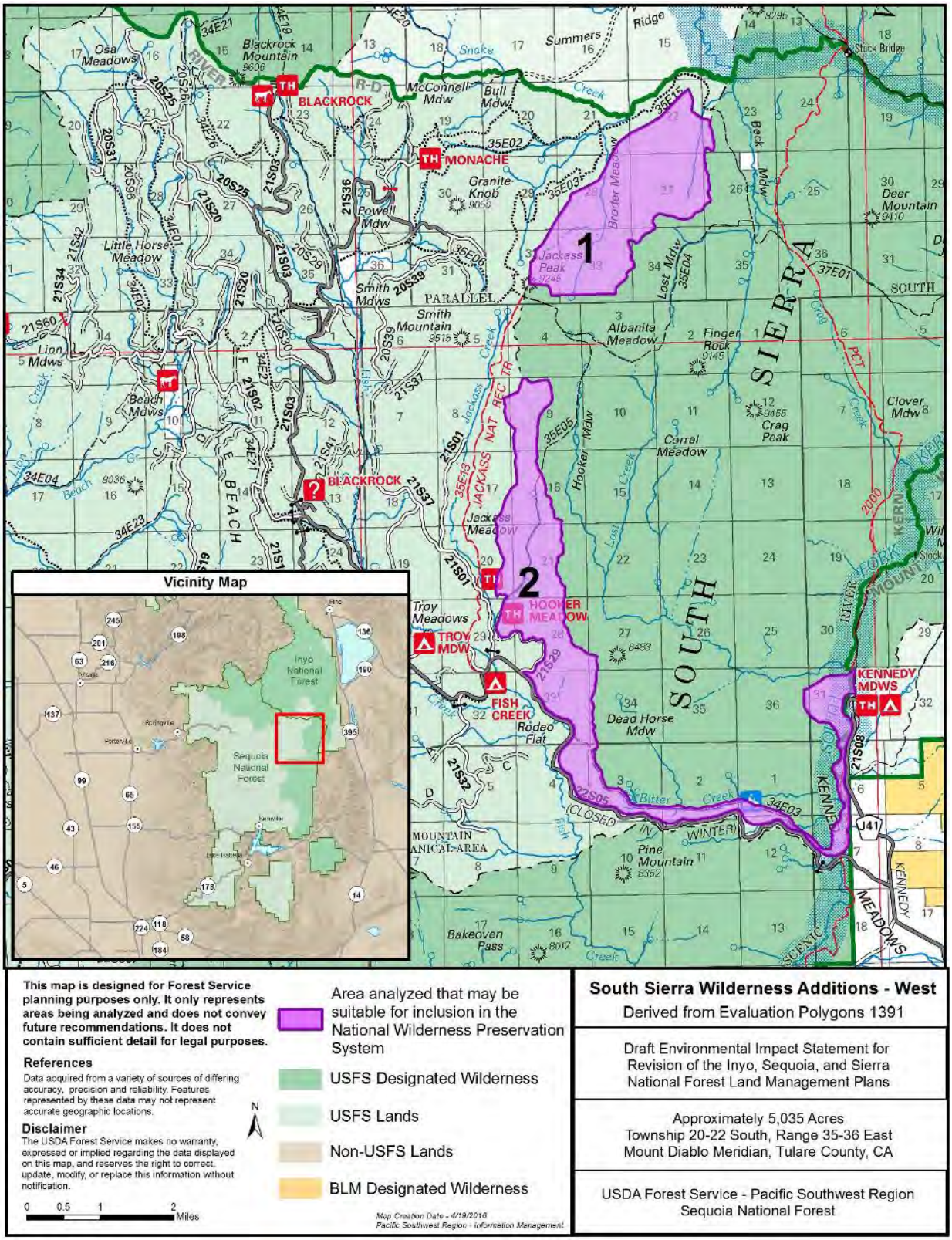


Figure B-58. Map of South Sierra Wilderness Additions – West area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Stormy Canyon, Sequoia National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1408.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 40,457 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Stormy Canyon map (Figure B-59). The boundary follows county and National Forest System roads, motorized and non-motorized trails, ridges, streams, the Kern River, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on maps and on the ground. The adjacent area is managed by the Forest Service or is privately owned. The boundary excludes motorized trails in the southwestern portion of the original parent polygon, as well as areas with roads open to the public along the western boundary, supporting management of the area for both wilderness and other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The area is located north of Wofford Heights and highway 155, east of the Greenhorn Mountains, south of Mountain 99, and west of the North Fork of the Kern River. The area is primarily a steep, east-facing slope on the Upper Kern Canyon Escarpment, with the highest point at Baker Peak at an elevation of 7,926 feet. The vegetation is predominately shrub land with limited hardwood woodland and conifer hardwood woodland.

Current Uses

This area is generally managed as inventoried roadless area, with a small portion on the west within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Baker Point Botanical Area is located within the area. The eastern edge borders parts of the North Fork Kern River Wild and Scenic River corridor. This area along the river experiences extremely high visitor use and there is extensive recreation development just outside the eastern boundary. Recreation use includes hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Numerous cultural resources are in the area. Baker Point Botanical Area is located on the west side of the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area somewhat reflects natural conditions, with natural processes, such as fire and secondary plant succession, except for plantations on the western periphery and a few meadows on the western periphery with large gullies. The steep character and vegetation type generally limits access to most of the area. A communication site is located at Baker Point, as is the Baker Point Lookout. The area is generally steep, with limited access. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high if hiking on trails such as the Whiskey Flat Trail, a popular non-motorized trail beginning at the north end of the town of Kernville and travelling north along the Upper Kern River. Military training overflights occur frequently in this area.

Sounds from motorized activities outside of the area could interfere with opportunities for solitude. A traveler is likely to see or hear evidence of civilization from within the area, including powerlines. On east-facing slopes, sights and sounds from adjacent development and activities would be apparent. Numerous developed and undeveloped recreation facilities, which are very heavily used, are adjacent to the eastern boundary of the area, along the Kern River. Private land adjacent to the area includes residences and businesses in the communities of Riverkern, Kernville, and Wofford Heights. Mountain 99 is heavily traveled and adjacent to the Kern River on the opposite side. The Upper Kern River also receives thousands of commercial and private whitewater boating visitors each year, as a world-wide whitewater recreation and fishing destination.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.

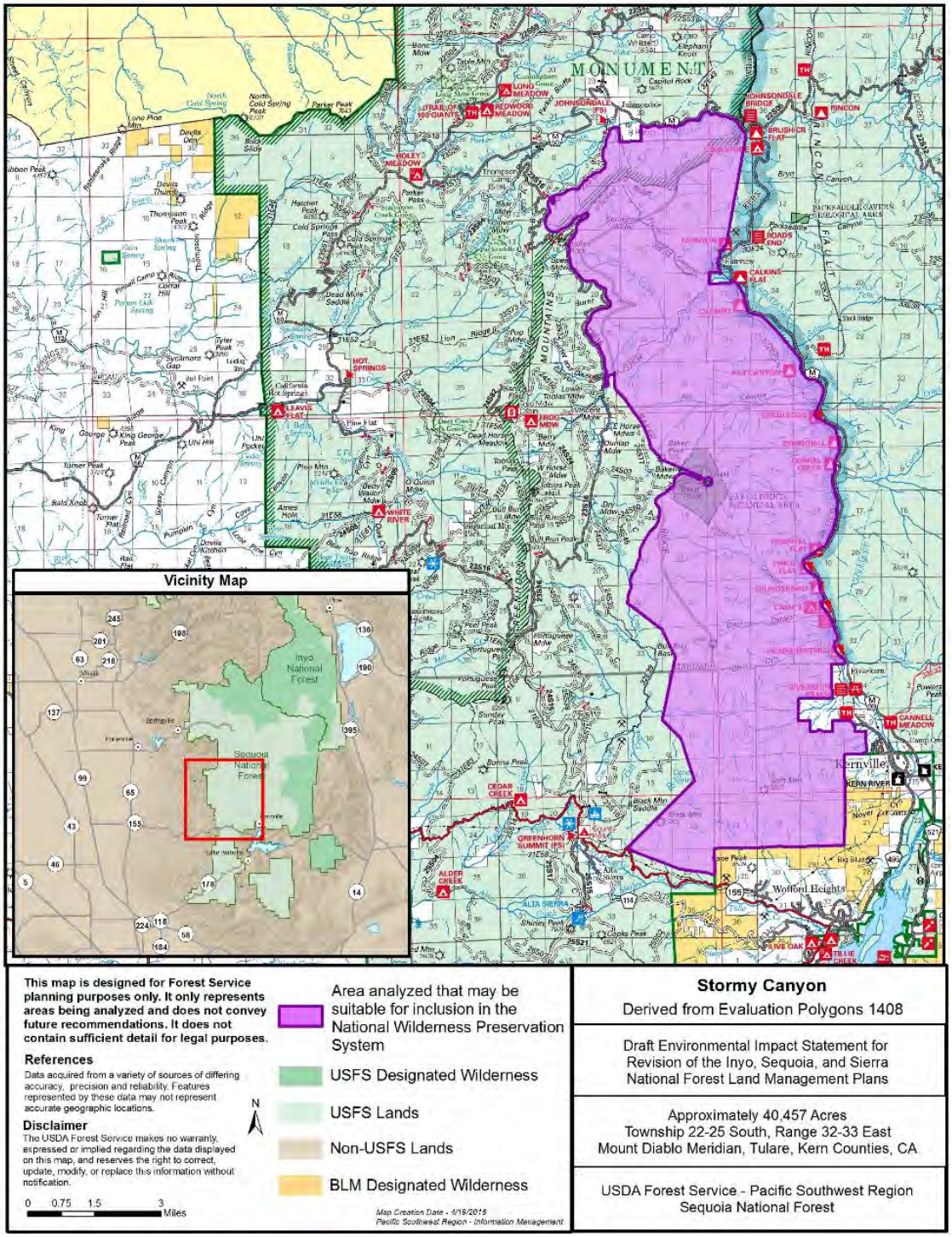


Figure B-59. Map of Stormy Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Sierra National Forest – Maps and Descriptions of Areas Analyzed

The following map and table provide an overview of all areas analyzed on the Sierra National Forest that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Individual maps are included with each description.

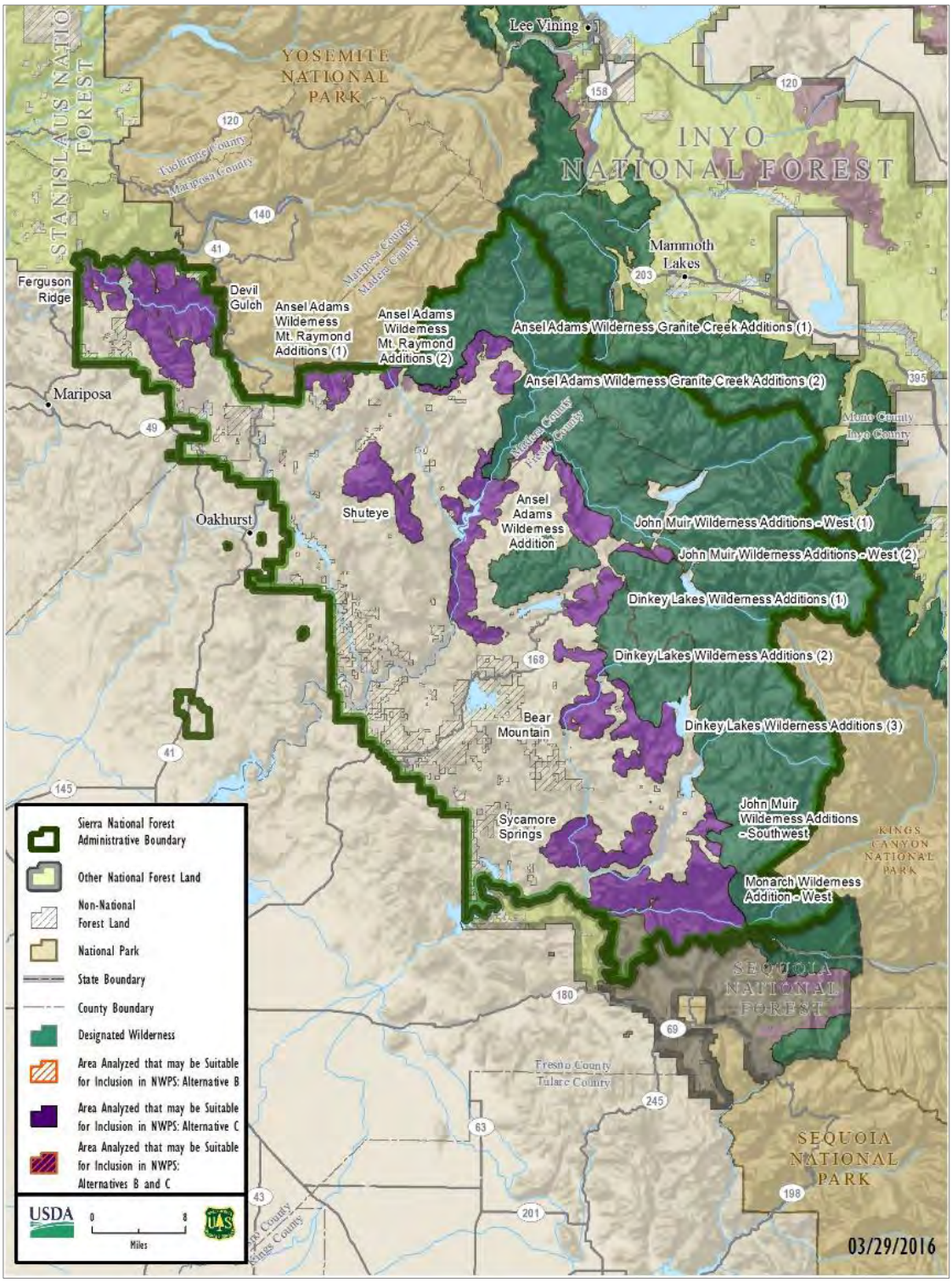


Figure B-60. Overview of Sierra National Forest areas analyzed that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Table B-5. Sierra National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives B and C

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
315	17,908	Sycamore Springs	None	Sycamore Springs (17,908)
539	48,312	Adjacent to Dinkey Lakes Wilderness	None	Bear Mountain (9,247) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (1) (8,317) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (2) (4,178) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (3) (16,318)
646	18,013	Shuteye	None	Shuteye (14,418)
772	47,747	Devil Gulch	None	Devil Gulch (37,325) Ferguson Ridge (7,800)
795	1,206	Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness 2	None	John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (2) (1,206)
797	1,299	Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness 3	None	John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (1) (1,299)
819	37,528	San Joaquin River, Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition (37,062)
821	13,370	Mount Raymond	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions (1) (9,117) Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions (2) (661)
822	10,581	Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions (1) (6,964) Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions (2) (2,949)
1378*	71,974	Adjacent to John Muir and Monarch Wildernesses	None	John Muir Wilderness Additions – Southwest (3,359) Monarch Wilderness Addition – West (42,512)

* Evaluation Polygon 1378 was evaluated as a whole, but it overlays the boundary between the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests with portions in each forest. The figures here represent the acres of the whole evaluation polygon and acres of potential recommended wilderness that are administered by the Sierra National Forest.

Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 819

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 37,062 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition map (Figure B-61).

This area is located between the Ansel Adams Wilderness and the Kaiser Wilderness, west of highway 81 and north of highway 168. The northern boundary connects with the Ansel Adams wilderness. The western portion is bounded by Forest Service Road 4S81 and a penstock on the west, Stump Springs Road on the east, and power line and the Town of Big Creek to the south. The California Riding and Hiking Trail cuts across the southern tip of the eastern part of the area. The area is bisected by the San Joaquin River including Mammoth Pool Reservoir. The acreage includes 1,017 acres of surface water for Mammoth Pool Reservoir. The eastern portion is bounded by National Forest System roads and almost connects with the northeastern boundary of the Kaiser Wilderness. Adjacent lands are mostly managed by the Forest Service with some privately owned land.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area consists of steep timber and brush slopes around the San Joaquin River Canyon and the timbered area between the eastern Kaiser Wilderness and the southern Ansel Adams Wilderness. The dominant cover type is Sierra mixed conifer interspersed with montane hardwood and ponderosa pine. Elevations range from 2,400 to 8,700 feet.

Current Uses

This area is managed as inventoried roadless area with 28% of the area being in a designated roadless area. Grazing occurs in the area. A few non-motorized trails that are infrequently maintained occur in the area and are used by day hikers, backpackers, equestrians, hunters and anglers. Water improvements and hydropower infrastructure occur in the area. There are cultural and historical sites in the area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The vegetation community in the northern portion of area is not within the natural range of variation. The southern portion of area was affected by the 2014 French Fire and the 2013 Aspen Fire with remnants of suppression actions including direct and indirect fire line construction by dozers and hand crews. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component.

Opportunities for solitude are limited in the area around Mammoth Pool. Much of the northern section surrounds Mammoth Pool and is what people see when recreating at the reservoir. The area around Mammoth Pool is within sight and sound of motorized boats on the lake and the area includes the China Bar Campground, a popular boating destination. Major hydropower infrastructure is visible from a portion of the area in the San Joaquin River Canyon. Downstream from the hydropower infrastructure is a popular noncommercial river rafting area. Upwards of 100 people raft the river on weekends when there are downstream water releases. Extensive fire

suppression impacts are also visible from this area notably from the Aspen Fire north of Stump Springs Road. Subsequent logging and reforestation has occurred since the fire.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

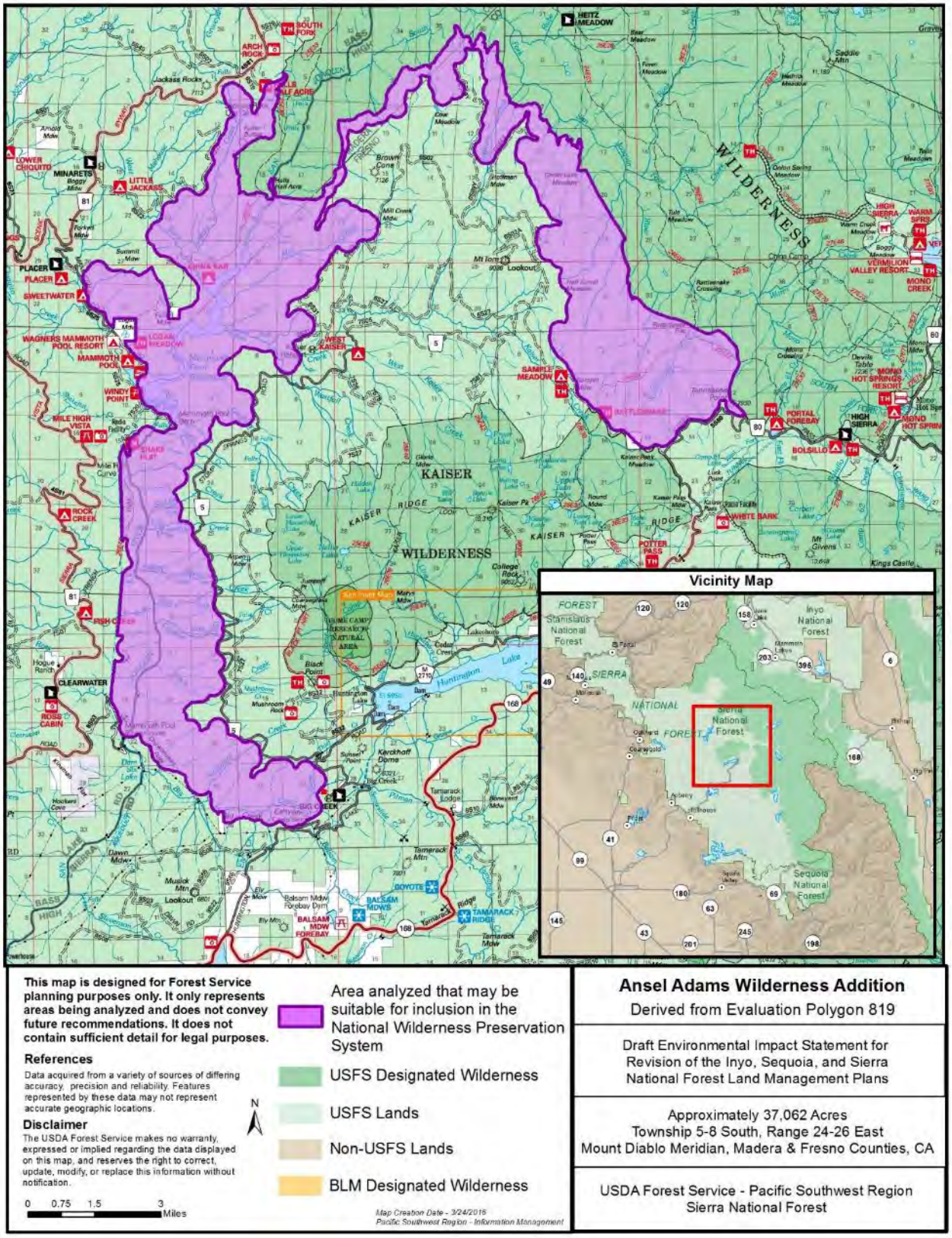


Figure B-61. Map of the Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions (1), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 822

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 6,964 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions map (Figure B-62). The northern boundary is adjacent to the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The boundary excludes developed recreation sites, existing development, roads, motorized trails, mining claims, and private property, thereby eliminating potential conflicts with wilderness in the management of these developments.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located south of Yosemite National Park, west of Clover Meadow, and north of Forest Road 7. It is characterized by heavily timbered slopes rising northward toward the existing Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary. Elevation in this area ranges from 7100 feet to 9300 feet. There are several large lakes and meadows and rich old-growth forests of red fir. Areas of montane chaparral are also present.

Current Uses

The majority of this areas is managed as inventoried roadless area. Near the area are three campgrounds, four trailheads, two vista points along the Scenic Byway and a corral. A majority of these developments support access to the wilderness and Yosemite National Park. Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, fishing (in stocked waterways), hunting, camping and sightseeing. Cattle grazing also occurs here. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area to tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area appears natural. No invasive species populations are known in the area. The vegetation communities in the area are within the natural range of variation. These areas have endangered species and habitat. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in waterways. Motorized traffic is audible near the motorized trails and, in some places, may be visible from this area. Overall there are opportunities for solitude, however, they are generally a result of inaccessibility to high elevation areas. The area excludes portions of the original evaluation polygon where activities associated with developed recreation sites, existing development, roads, motorized trails and private property in the area would have been in conflict with protecting wilderness characteristics. The area has potential for fire that will require suppression activities in order to protect adjacent recreation developments, private property and the community of Wawona.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area presents an opportunity to protect habitat for the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions (2), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 822.

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 2,949 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Granite Creek Additions map (Figure B-62). The southeastern boundary is adjacent to the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The boundary excludes developed recreation sites, existing development, roads, motorized trails, mining claims, and private property, thereby eliminating potential conflicts with wilderness in the management of these developments.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located south of Yosemite National Park, east of Clover Meadow, and west of the San Joaquin River. The area is characterized by heavily timbered slopes of Sierra mixed conifer, lodgepole pine and red fir rising from 6500 feet to 7500 feet eastward toward the existing Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary. The unit also includes a portion of Granite Creek. The area is primarily granitic rock and open gravelly and sandy areas associated with rocky areas. Conifer stands are located in steep, rocky terrain.

Current Uses

The majority of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area. Near the area are two campgrounds and three trailheads. A majority of these developments support access to the wilderness. Recreational opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, fishing (in stocked waterways), hunting, camping and sightseeing. Cattle grazing also occurs here. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area to tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

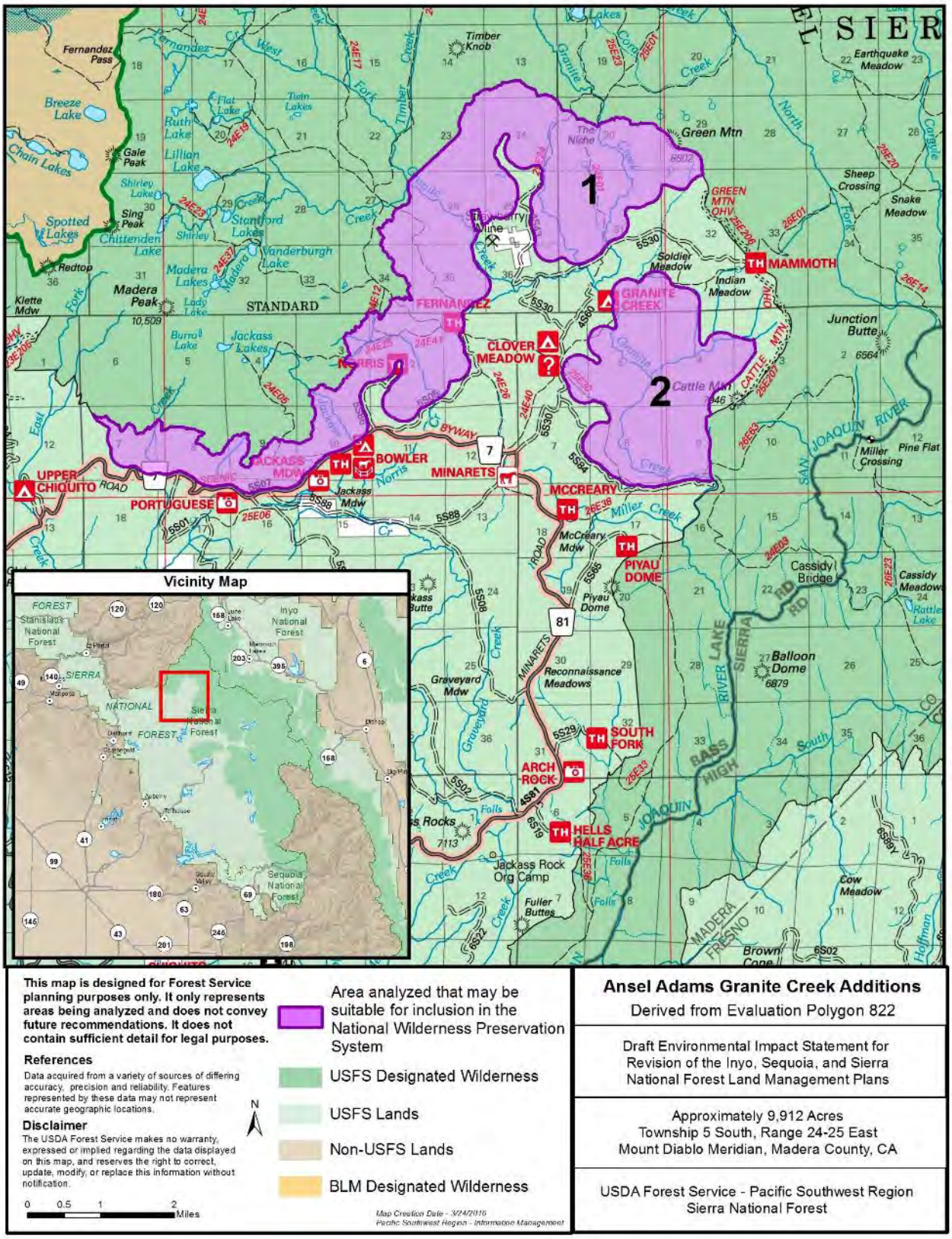
The area appears natural. No invasive species populations are known in the area. The vegetation communities in the area are within the natural range of variation. These areas have endangered species and habitat. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in waterways. Motorized traffic is audible near the motorized trails and, in some places, may be visible from this area. Overall there are opportunities for solitude; generally a result of inaccessibility to high elevation areas. The area excludes portions of the original evaluation polygon where activities associated with developed recreation sites, existing development, roads, motorized trails and private property in the area would have been in conflict with protecting wilderness characteristics.

The area has potential for fire that will require suppression activities in order to protect adjacent recreation developments, private property and the community of Wawona.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area presents an opportunity to protect habitat for the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.


Vicinity Map
This map is designed for Forest Service planning purposes only. It only represents areas being analyzed and does not convey future recommendations. It does not contain sufficient detail for legal purposes.
References
Data acquired from a variety of sources of differing accuracy, precision and reliability. Features represented by these data may not represent accurate geographic locations.
Disclaimer
The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.
Area analyzed that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System
USFS Designated Wilderness
USFS Lands
Non-USFS Lands
BLM Designated Wilderness
Ansel Adams Granite Creek Additions
Derived from Evaluation Polygon 822
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Revision of the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forest Land Management Plans
Approximately 9,912 Acres
Township 5 South, Range 24-25 East
Mount Diablo Meridian, Madera County, CA
USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region
Sierra National Forest
Map Creation Date - 3/24/2016
Pacific Southwest Region - Information Management
1
2
MAMMOTH
GRANITE CREEK
FERNANDEZ
CLOVER MEADOW
NORRIS
BOWLER
MINARETS
MCCREARY
PIYAU DOME
SOUTH FORK
ARCH ROCK
HELLS HALF ACRE
JACKASS MDW
PORTUGUESE
UPPER CHIQUITO
STANDARD
GREEN MTN OHV
Green Mtn
Madera Peak
Timber Knob
Junction Butte
Cattle Mtn
Balloon Dome
Reconnaissance Meadows
Jackass Rock Org Camp
Miller Crossing
Cassidy Bridge
Pine Flat
Earthquake Meadow
Sheep Crossing
Snake Meadow
Soldier Meadow
Indian Meadow
Cow Meadow
Brown Cone
Fuller Buttes
Graveyard Mdw
Jackass Mdw
McCreary Mdw
Piyau Dome
Fernandez Pass
Breeze Lake
Chain Lakes
Gale Peak
Sing Peak
Spotted Lakes
Redtop
Klette Mdw
Burro Lake
Jackass Lakes
Madera Lakes
Vanderburgh Lake
Stanford Lakes
Shirley Lake
Chittenden Lake
Ruth Lake
Lillian Lake
Flat Lake
Twin Lakes
Lady Lake
Cassidy Meadows
Rattle Lake
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
Stanislaus National Forest
Inyo National Forest
Sequoia National Forest
MADERA
FRESNO
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
SIERRA RIVER
BASS LAKE
HIGH JOAQUIN
MINARETS ROAD
SCENIC BYWAY
CATTLE MTN OHV
Miller Creek
Jackass Creek
Graveyard Creek
Norris Creek
Granite Creek
Timber Creek
Madera Creek
Fernandez Creek
Cow Creek
Falls
Falls Creek
Hoffman Creek
Carlisle Creek
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Fork
East
West
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South
Mine
The Niche
Cattle Mtn
Miller Crossing
Cassidy Bridge
Cassidy Meadows
Rattle Lake
Pine Flat
Junction Butte
Earthquake Meadow
Sheep Crossing
Snake Meadow
Green Mtn
Timber Knob
Madera Peak
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Fernandez Pass
Breeze Lake
Chain Lakes
Gale Peak
Sing Peak
Spotted Lakes
Redtop
Klette Mdw
Burro Lake
Jackass Lakes
Madera Lakes
Vanderburgh Lake
Stanford Lakes
Shirley Lake
Chittenden Lake
Ruth Lake
Lillian Lake
Flat Lake
Twin Lakes
Lady Lake
Jackass Mdw
Graveyard Mdw
McCreary Mdw
Piyau Dome
Reconnaissance Meadows
Balloon Dome
6879
Jackass Rock Org Camp
Fuller Buttes
Cow Meadow
Brown Cone
Miller Crossing
Cassidy Bridge
Pine Flat
Junction Butte
Cattle Mtn
Earthquake Meadow
Sheep Crossing
Snake Meadow
Green Mtn
Soldier Meadow
Indian Meadow
Mine
The Niche

Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions (1), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 821.

Number of Acres

The total of the area is approximately 9,117 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions map (Figure B-63). This area is located south of Yosemite National Park and on the west side of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The boundary is generally defined by Yosemite National Park to the north and west, and by the existing road system to the south and east. The adjacent lands are managed primarily by the Forest Service and National Park Service, with some areas that are privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The general topography of the area includes timbered slopes dropping steeply to the South Fork of the Merced River on the west and the lower slopes of Red Top and Madera Peaks to the east. Elevation in this area is from 5100 feet to 9,000 feet. There are several large lakes and meadows and rich old-growth forests of mixed conifer and fir with areas of barren rock and montane chaparral.

Current Uses

Most of this area is managed as inventoried roadless area. There is cattle grazing in the area. There is private property with road access on the edges of this area. Six trails cross through the area and access Yosemite National Park. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stock trout in waterways. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area appears natural. No invasive plant species populations are known in the area. The vegetation communities in the area are within natural range of variation. This area has endangered species and habitat. This area is undeveloped, and adjacent developments have been excluded from the area. Opportunities for solitude are generally high due to inaccessibility. Motorized traffic may be audible near the motorized trails and, in some places, it may be visible from this area. The area has potential for fire that will require suppression activities in order to protect adjacent recreation developments and hydroelectric infrastructure.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area presents an opportunity to protect habitat for the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions (2), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 821.

Number of Acres

The total of the area is approximately 661 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions map (Figure B-63). This area is located south of Yosemite National Park and on the west side of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The boundary is generally defined by the Ansel Adams Wilderness to the north and the existing road system on other sides. The adjoining lands are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The general topography of the area includes rocky and Sierra mixed conifer and red fir timbered slopes rising from 7000 feet to 8700 feet toward the current boundary of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. There are also patches of montane chaparral.

Current Uses

Portions of this area are managed as inventoried roadless area. The entire area is part of an active range allotment where cattle grazing occurs. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area. There are commercial uses by the Yosemite Trails Pack Station in Biledo Meadow with supporting structures at that site.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area appears natural. No invasive plant species populations are known in the area. The vegetation communities in the area are within natural range of variation. This area has endangered species and habitat. This area is undeveloped, and adjacent developments have been excluded from the area. Opportunities for solitude are generally high due to inaccessibility. Motorized traffic may be audible near the motorized trails and, in some places, it may be visible from this area. The area has potential for fire that will require suppression activities in order to protect adjacent recreation developments and hydroelectric infrastructure. The eastern extent of the area, bounded by Beasore Vista Road to the southeast, has seen logging in the past and there is still evidence of this activity remaining.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area presents an opportunity to protect habitat for the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

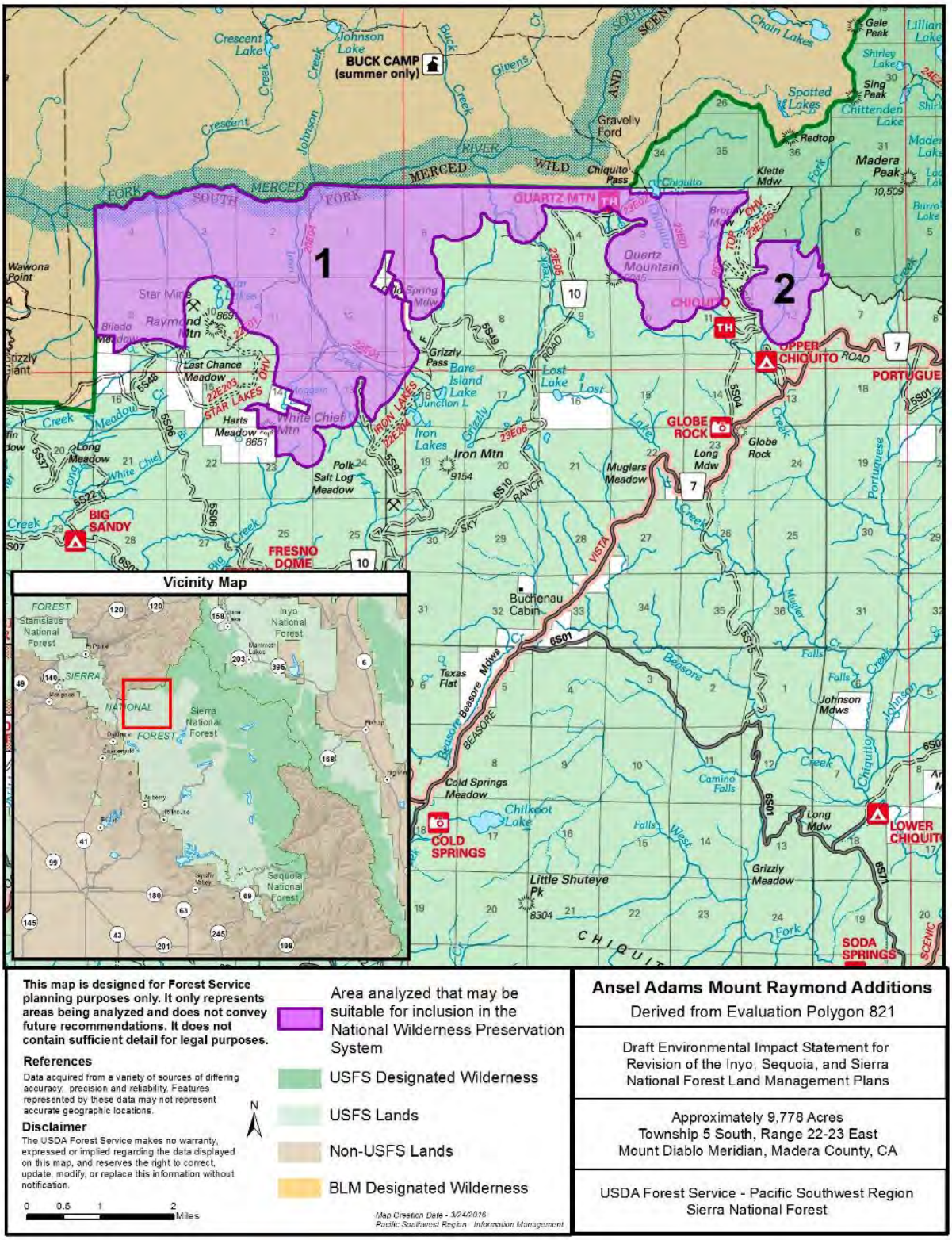

Figure B-63. Map of the Ansel Adams Wilderness Mount Raymond Additions area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Bear Mountain, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 539.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 9,247 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Bear Mountain map (Figure B-64). The boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized trails, and elevation contours, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is mostly managed by the Forest Service, but includes some private inholdings. The boundaries were set to exclude portions of the area that would be unmanageable as wilderness due to roads, motorized trails, private inholdings and other development.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area includes primarily forested slopes, minor creek drainages, scattered meadows, and a few small lakes. Elevation in the area ranges from 6000 feet to 9600 feet. The unit has three major geographical land marks: Dinkey Dome, Marble Point and Bear Mountain. The main vegetation type in the area is red fir and Sierra mixed conifer forest although there are substantial areas of barren ground and subalpine conifer within the area as well.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. There is a private parcel inholding within the area. The owner has used helicopters to access the private property in the past. Recreational activities occurring in the area include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, rock climbing and general sightseeing. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. The entire area is part of an active range allotment where cattle grazing occurs. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area. All of this area is part of the area managed by the nationally authorized Dinkey Landscape Restoration Collaborative. This is a collaborative effort to restore to a healthy condition forested areas in the Dinkey Creek Drainage. A committee composed of many stakeholders is guiding projects in this area. As part of the restoration effort, the group designs projects to create a diversity of tree ages and to increase the proportion of pines in the stands. Winter snow trails border this area on the west and the south and riding OSVs off trail into this area is likely.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area is within natural range of variation for vegetation communities. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Species composition is primarily natural, except for any areas that may have changed due to fire exclusion. There are likely scattered patches of bull thistle and woolly mullein. Due primarily to terrain limiting vehicle access, the area retains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

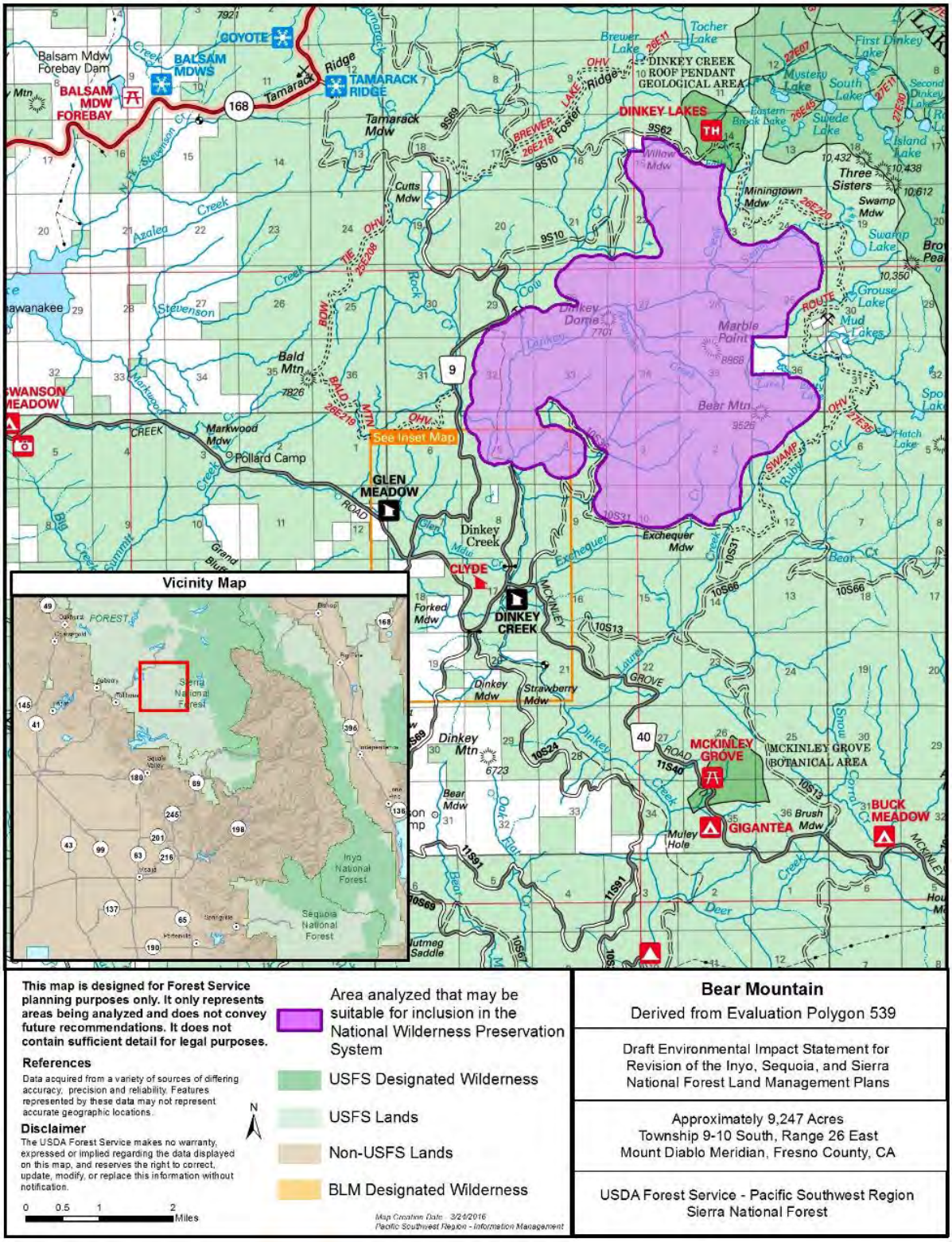

Figure B-64. Map of the Bear Mountain area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Devil Gulch, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 772

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 37,325 acres

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Devil Gulch map (Figure B-65). The area is located at the northern end of the Sierra National Forest adjacent to Yosemite National Park along its eastern boundary. The northern boundary follows contour lines and terrain features south of Pinoche and Henness ridges. The southern boundary follows a series of minor ridges, mid-slope contours, and Devil Gulch. The complexity of the terrain, in addition to the presence of several roads and private parcels, prevent locating the proposed boundary on ridgetops. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service or National Park Service or is privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The area surrounds the upper reaches of the South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic River. The area is characterized by steep and rugged terrain. Elevations range from 1,800 feet at Sims Cove to over 6,200 feet at Iron Mountain. Overall vegetation includes brush and wooded slopes rising steeply out of the river canyon with vegetation types including oak woodland, mixed conifers and ponderosa pine.

Current Uses

This area is managed as inventoried roadless area and includes the Devils Gulch Botanical Area and Bishop Creek Research Natural Area. It contains approximately 20 miles of non-motorized trails lightly used by day hikers, hunters and anglers. There is one mining claim in lower Devil Gulch and two private inholdings without road access. The trails in the area have received little or no maintenance in recent years. There are known traditional areas used by the South Fork Merced MiWuk people to conduct gathering for basket weaving and tribal burial areas.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area is includes a substantial area of low elevation land contiguous with Yosemite National Park, which encompasses a variety of ecological zones that are less common in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area includes rare plant species within the Devils Gulch Botanical Area and significant ponderosa pine stands in the Bishop Creek Research Natural Area. Due primarily to very rugged terrain, the area retains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

The proposed area is moderately manageable due to its relatively large size and inaccessibility. Little non-conforming use and the overall ruggedness of the area increase the feasibility of preserving wilderness qualities. However, the area has the potential for large fires that are likely to be aggressively suppressed due to the proximity to the Yosemite West community and other private property. It is likely that dozers and other motorized equipment would be extensively used to suppress fires.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Opportunity to protect ecological groups that may be minimally represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

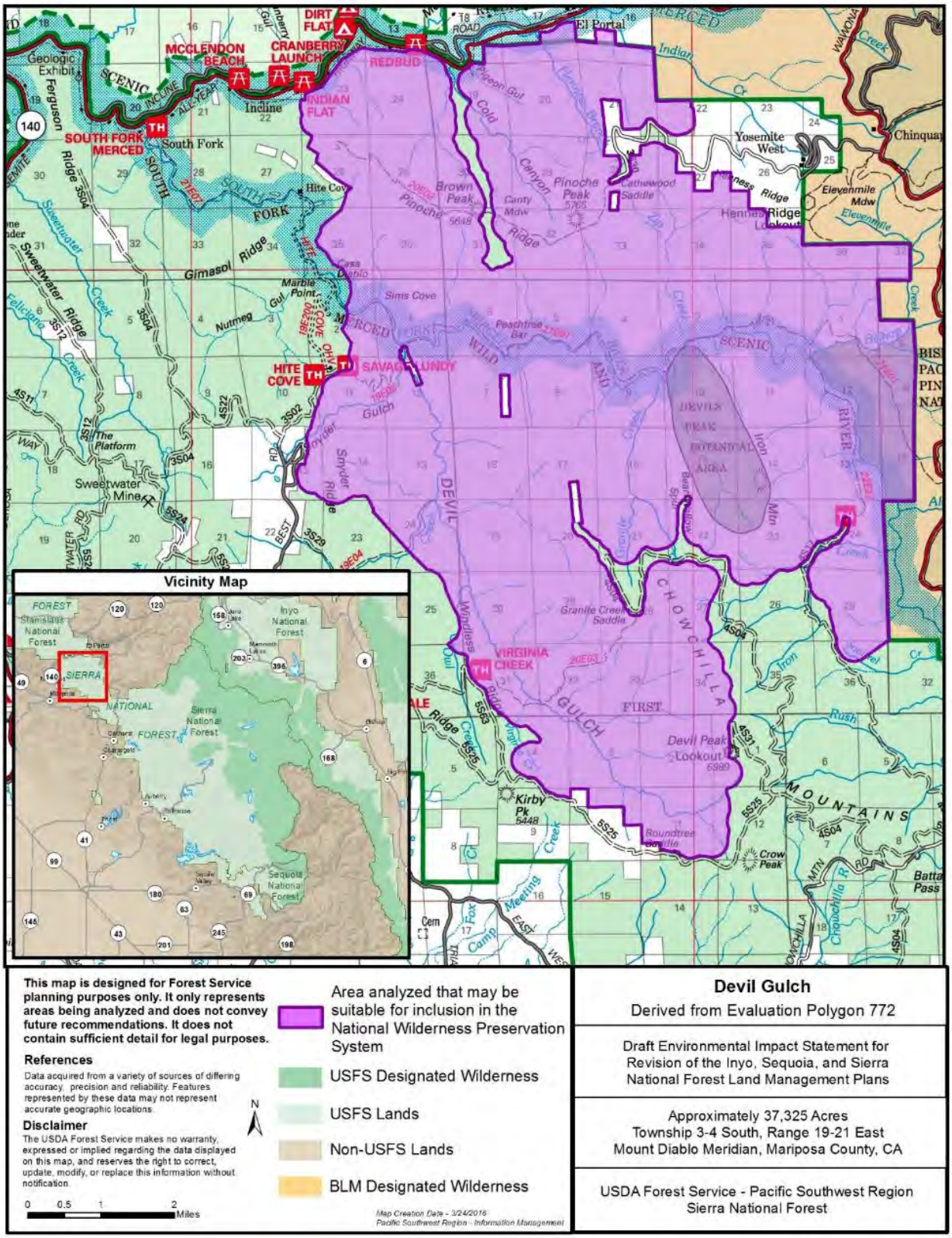

Figure B-65. Map of the Devil Gulch area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (1), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 539

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 8,317.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-66). The northern boundary is contiguous with the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized trails, and elevation contours, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is mostly managed by the Forest Service, but includes some private inholdings. The boundaries were set to exclude portions of the area that would be unmanageable as wilderness due to roads, motorized trails, private inholdings and other development.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located north of Sand Flats OHV area and east of Swamp OHV Route, highway 168 and Huntington Reservoir. It includes primarily forested slopes, minor creek drainages, scattered meadows, and a few small lakes. Nelson Mountain and Short Hair Meadow are located in this area. Eagle Peak is along the northern boundary and Hall Mountain is located along the southern boundary. Elevation in this area ranges from 7,100 feet to 10,000 feet. The main vegetation type in the area is red fir and subalpine conifer with substantial amounts of montane chaparral.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Recreational activities occurring in the area include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, rock climbing and general sightseeing. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area. The lower southern quarter of this area is within the Dinkey Collaborative area. Bear Butte, Midge Creek and Deer Lake OSV trails and routes border this area. The Whitebark Vista and Deer Lake OSV routes are partially within the area in the northern most and middle-western parts of the area. OSV riders commonly go off trail and ride cross country within this area as it is a popular location.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area is within natural range of variation for vegetation communities. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Species composition is primarily natural, except for any areas that may have changed due to fire exclusion. There are likely scattered patches of bull thistle and woolly mullein. Due primarily to terrain limiting vehicle access, the area retains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (2), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 539

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 4,178.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-66). The eastern boundary is contiguous with the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized trail areas, and elevation contours, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service. The boundaries were set to exclude portions of the area that would be unmanageable as wilderness due to roads, motorized trails, and other development.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located southeast of highway 80, south of Red Lake, Sand Flats OHV area and the Coyote Lake OHV Route and north of Chinese Peak, and east of Swamp OHV Route and highway 168. This area includes Tamarak Creek, Beryl Lake, and Tocher Lake. It includes primarily forested slopes, minor creek drainages, scattered meadows, and a few small lakes. Bear Butte and Weldons Camp are located in this area. The elevation in the area ranges from 7500 to 9700 feet. The main vegetation type in the area is subalpine conifer and red fir.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Recreational activities occurring in the area include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, rock climbing and general sightseeing. A primary trail accessing the northern Dinkey Lakes Wilderness crosses the area from Badger Flat trailhead. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area. This area is surrounded by the Snow Corral and Bear Butte OSV Routes on the north, western and southern sides. Cross-country OSV riding and play area within the vicinity of Beryl Lake, Tocher Lake and Red Lake are popular.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area is within natural range of variation for vegetation communities. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Species composition is primarily natural, except for any areas that may have changed due to fire exclusion. There are likely scattered patches of bull thistle and woolly mullein. Due primarily to terrain limiting vehicle access, the area retains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions (3), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 539

Number of Acres

The total area is approximately 16,318 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-66). The eastern boundary is contiguous with the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized trail areas, and elevation contours, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service. The boundaries were set to exclude portions of the area that would be unmanageable as wilderness due to roads, motorized trails, and other development.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located north of highway 40 and east of Swamp OHV Route. . This area ranges in elevation from 7200 – 10,500 feet. The main vegetation type in the area is subalpine conifer and red fir with barren patches and some Sierra mixed conifer.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Recreational activities occurring in the area include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, rock climbing and general sightseeing. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area. Part of the Snow Corral over snow vehicle loop is within the southeastern portion of the area. The western half of this area is included in the Dinkey Collaborative boundary.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area is within natural range of variation for vegetation communities. Some portions of this area have a heavy dead and down component which could lead to higher than normal fire effects. Species composition is primarily natural, except for any areas that may have changed due to fire exclusion. There are likely scattered patches of bull thistle and woolly mullein. Due primarily to terrain limiting vehicle access, the area retains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

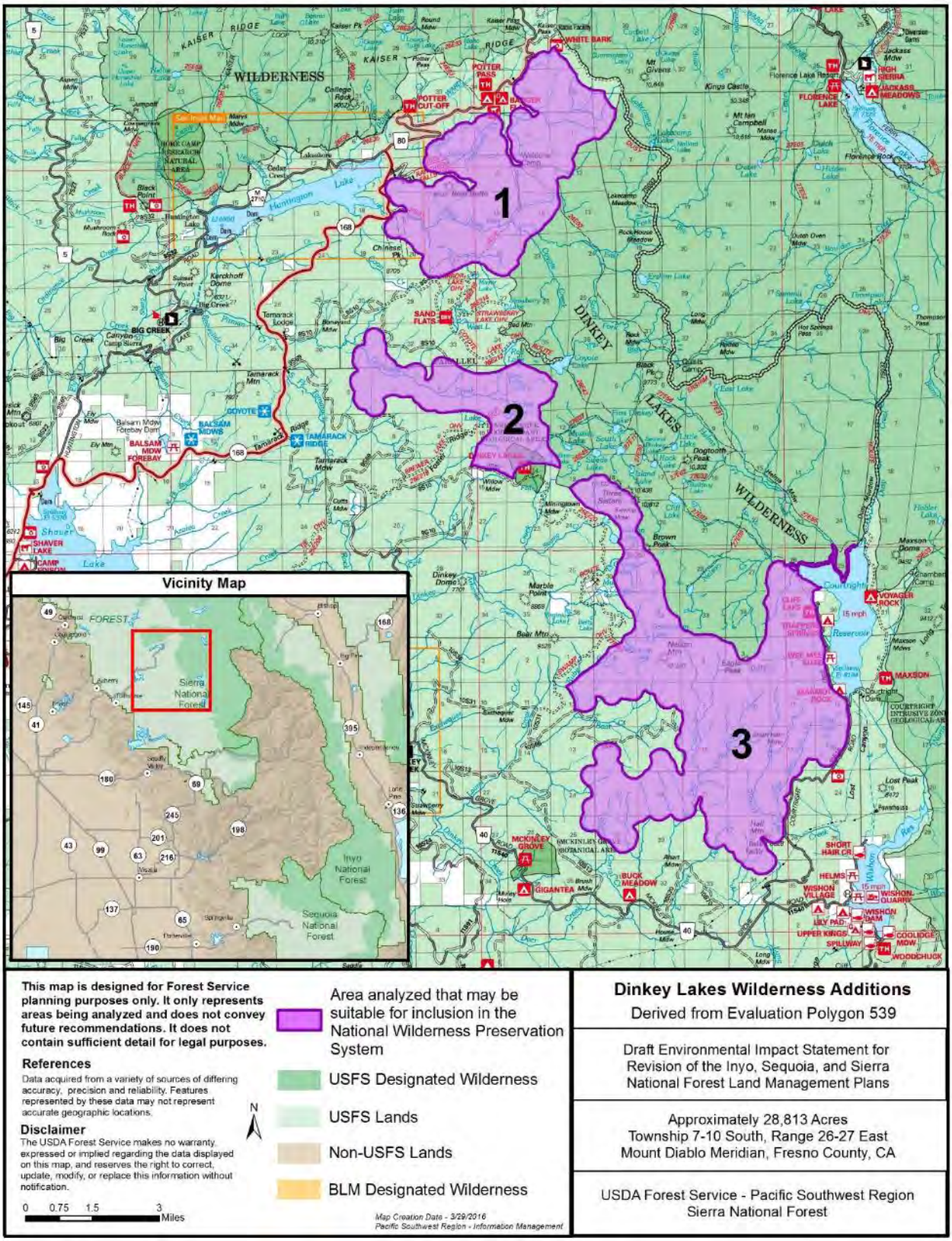

Figure B-66. Map of the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Additions area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Ferguson Ridge, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 772.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 7,800 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ferguson Ridge map (Figure B-67). The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, Highway 140, National Forest System roads, motorized trails, and privately owned property. All adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management or privately owned.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The area is characterized by steep and rugged terrain. The area has an elevation range of 1400 – 4100 feet. Overall vegetation includes brush and wooded slopes rising steeply out of the river canyon with vegetation types including chamise redshank chaparral and oak woodland.

Current Uses

This area is managed as inventoried roadless area. There are known traditional areas used by the South Fork Merced MiWuk people to conduct gathering for basket weaving and tribal burial areas. One of the highest uses in the area is the South Fork of the Merced River. Whitewater rafting guided trips occur on the Merced River. There is a popular foot trail from State Highway 140 to the South Fork of the Merced River. This trail is popular in the spring to view the excellent wildflower displays. A geologic exhibit is in the northern part of the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity, species composition is based on the natural process. Past fire lines continue to be visible and are considered fuel break areas in lower slopes by the Merced River and Highway 140. Fuel breaks on the ridgelines at Felciana, Sweetwater and Ferguson have been constructed to reduce manzanita and chamise growth and continue to be highly visible, as well as the treatments within and outside of the conifer plantations. Due primarily to very rugged terrain, the area retains opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

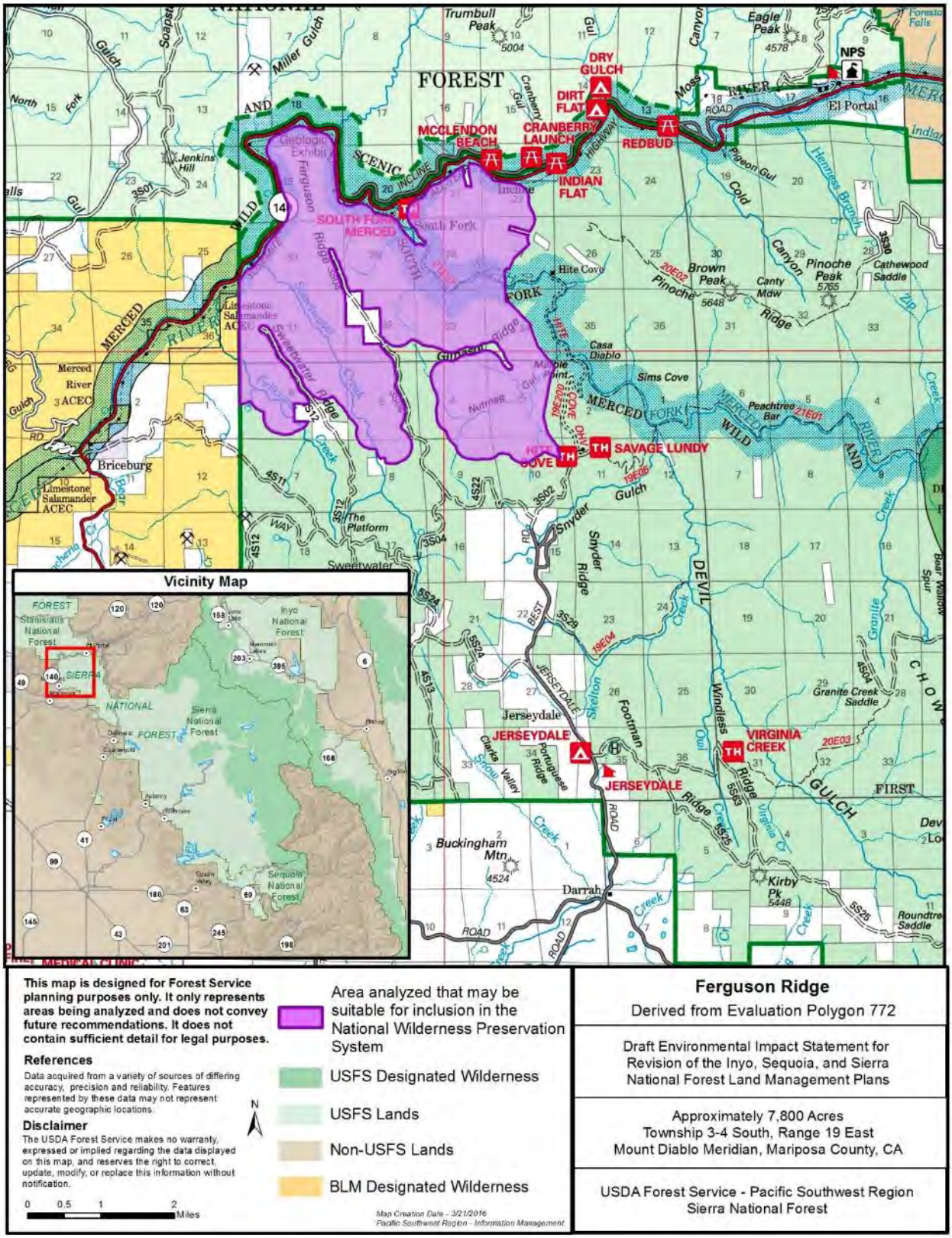

Figure B-67. Map of the Ferguson Ridge area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

John Muir Wilderness Additions – Southwest, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1378.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 3,359 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the John Muir Wilderness Addition – Southwest map (Figure B-68). This eastern boundary of this area is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service. There is one private inholding in the middle of the area.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

Overall vegetation includes steep slopes of brush and wooded slopes, rising steeply out of the river canyons with vegetation transitions from chaparral through oak-confer to mixed conifers and red fir at higher elevations. The area ranges in elevation from 6700 – 9400 feet.

Current Uses

Grazing occurs in the area. Most of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. Much of the area is rarely visited and existing trails are overgrown with brush. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The vegetation communities within the area are within the natural range of variation. The area includes non-native plants in the understory, such as annual grasses and forbs from Europe, especially in open areas. The existing vegetation community across the unit would not appear inappropriate to a casual recreational visitor. Fires in this area have the potential to become large and will likely be aggressively suppressed. A large amount of this area burned in the 2015 Rough Fire with potential remnants from suppression actions including direct and indirect fire line construction, both hand and mechanical. Given the steepness of the topography there is minimal recreational use on the steeper slopes. Potential encounters with other visitors are low.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

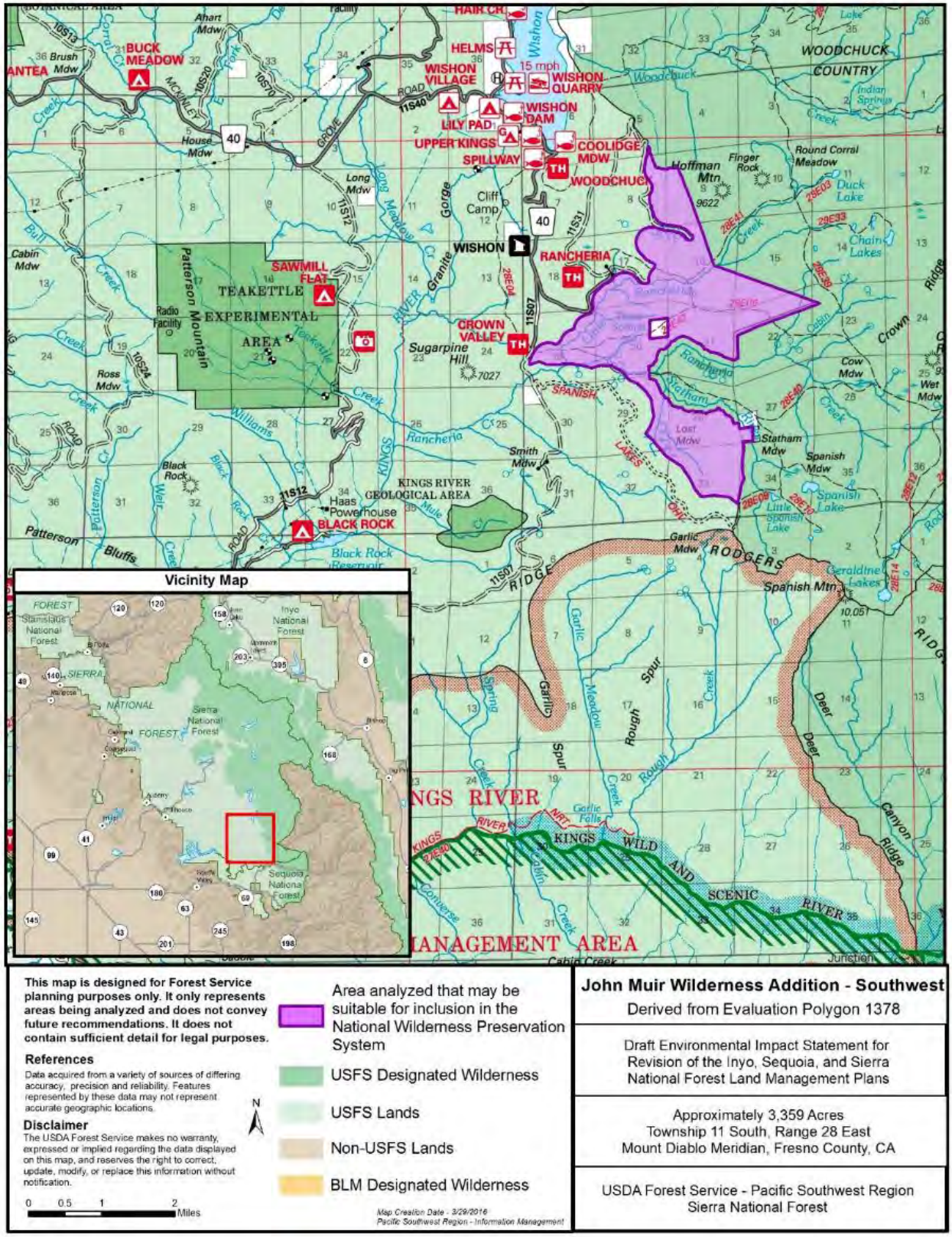

Figure B-68. Map of the John Muir Wilderness Addition – Southwest area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (1), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 797.

Number of Acres

The total of this area is approximately 1,299 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the John Muir Wilderness Additions – West map (Figure B-69). This area is located on the west side of the existing John Muir Wilderness. It is nearly contiguous with John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (2), separated only by the narrow developed Ward Tunnel corridor, a hydroelectric penstock. The southern boundary connects to the John Muir Wilderness. The western, northern, and eastern boundaries are defined by the Ward Tunnel corridor, making it fairly easy to locate on a map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The general topography of the area includes steep forested slopes and granite slabs generally rising southward to the existing John Muir Wilderness boundary. This area ranges in elevation from 7300 – 8900 feet. The main vegetation type in the area is Sierra mixed conifer and red fir.

Current Uses

This area is within a vacant cattle allotment. A part of the area near Portal Forebay is used to hold cattle overnight as they are being driven to the Mono and Cassidy Allotments near Lake Edison. The Corbett Lake trail crosses this area. Most of this area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. This trail receives annual maintenance. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area appears natural and the vegetation community is within the natural range of variation. These areas have endangered species and habitat. Contiguous habitat for other fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. This area is undeveloped with the exception of the Corbett Lake Trail. Adjacent developments, including the Ward Tunnel and gauge stations, have been excluded from the potential recommended wilderness. Motorized traffic is audible and, in some places, visible from this area. However, this area would extend opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation that currently occur in the John Muir Wilderness.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area presents an opportunity to protect habitat for the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (2), Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from the Wilderness Evaluation Polygons 795.

Number of Acres

The total of this area is approximately 1,206 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the John Muir Wilderness Additions – West map (Figure B-69). This area is located on the west side of the existing John Muir Wilderness. It is nearly contiguous with John Muir Wilderness Additions – West (1), separated only by the narrow developed Ward Tunnel corridor, a hydroelectric penstock. The southern boundary connects to the John Muir Wilderness. The western boundary is defined by the Ward Tunnel and the northern and eastern boundaries follow Florence Lake Road, making this area fairly easy to locate on a map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

The general topography of the area includes steep forested slopes and granite slabs generally rising southward to the existing John Muir Wilderness boundary. This area ranges in elevation from 7300 – 8900 feet. The predominant vegetation in the area is Sierra mixed conifer, Jeffrey pine and montane chaparral.

Current Uses

This area was historically grazed as part of the Hot Springs Allotment but is not currently active. Most of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area appears natural and the vegetation community is within the natural range of variation. These areas have endangered species and habitat. Contiguous habitat for other fisheries and wildlife species exists within the area. This area is undeveloped. Adjacent developments, including the Ward Tunnel and gauge stations, have been excluded from the potential recommended wilderness. Motorized traffic is audible and, in some places, visible from this area. However, this area would extend opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation that currently occur in the John Muir Wilderness.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area presents an opportunity to protect habitat for the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

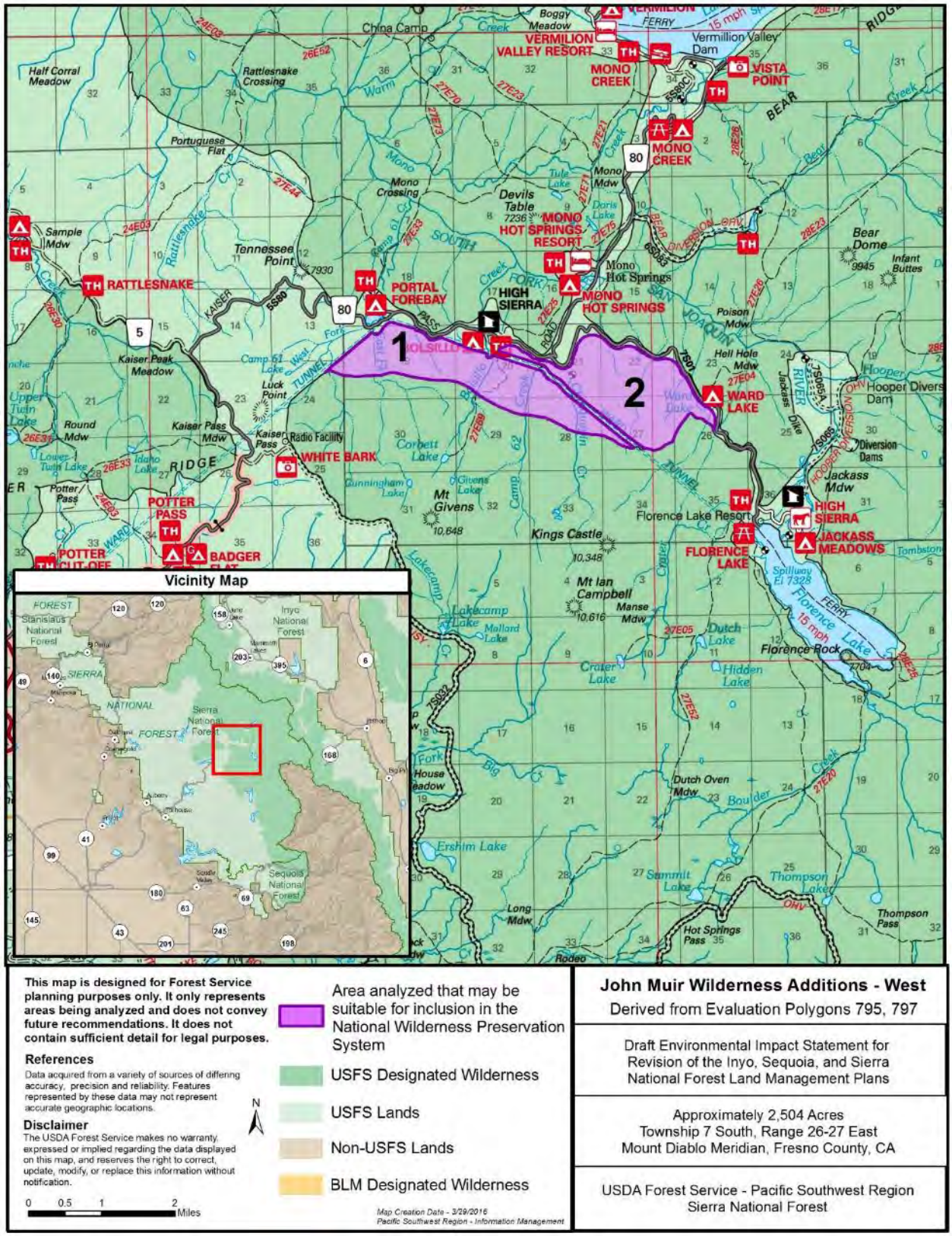

Figure B-69. Map of John Muir Wilderness Additions – West area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Monarch Wilderness Addition – West, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 1378

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 42,512 acres on the Sierra National Forest.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Monarch Wilderness Addition – West map (Figure B-70). The eastern boundary of this large area is contiguous with the Monarch Wilderness. The remaining boundaries follow National Forest System roads, motorized trails, the boundary of the Kings River Special Management Area, and the forest administrative boundary. These features make it fairly easy to locate the area on maps and on the ground, but also create an irregular boundary. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service, aside for a few areas that are private property. The boundary excludes all motorized trails in the western portion of the original parent polygon and the Spanish Lakes OHV trail in the northern portion, supporting management of the area for wilderness, as well as other adjacent uses.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located south of Wishon Reservoir, northwest of Hume Lake, and east of Pine Ridge. Overall vegetation includes steep slopes of brush and wooded slopes, rising steeply out of the river canyons with vegetation transitions from chaparral through oak-confer to mixed conifers at higher elevations. The area generally slopes downward from Rodgers Ridge south to the Kings River. Elevations range from 1,000 feet below Rodgers Crossing to over 10,000 feet at Spanish Mountain on the current boundary of the Monarch Wilderness.

Current Uses

This area is managed as inventoried roadless area. The area contains approximately 14 miles of non-motorized trails lightly used by day hikers, hunters and anglers. The Kings River National Recreation Trail may occasionally be used by mountain bikers. Grazing occurs in the Garlic Meadow area. The area includes the 49,000-acre Kings River Special Management Area, the Kings River Wild and Scenic River, and the northern portion of the Sequoia National Monument from Converse Basin to McKenzie Ridge. There are cultural and historical sites adding to the wilderness characteristics of this area by providing important scientific and cultural values. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area provides connectivity between very low elevations to the west and the high country of the Monarch Wilderness and Kings Canyon National Park to the east. The large elevational gradient facilitates species migration and encompasses a variety of ecological zones that are less common in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The overall character of the area appears natural and has ecological integrity. Hydrologic, soils, riparian, stream and meadow conditions are good. The area is important for habitat connectivity for the Pacific fisher, several species of slender salamander, mountain yellow-legged frogs and the soon to be reintroduced Kern River rainbow trout. Given the steepness of the topography, there is minimal off-trail recreational use. The area has high opportunities for solitude due to its large size, although most public use is focused on the few existing trails and the Kings River. Little non-conforming use and the overall ruggedness of the area increase the feasibility of preserving wilderness qualities. However, the area has the potential for large fires that are likely to be aggressively suppressed due to the proximity to hydropower infrastructure on the North Fork Kings River.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sequoia National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- The area is contiguous with existing designated wilderness.
- Provides connectivity between large elevational gradients that facilitate species migration and encompass a variety of ecological zones that are less common in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

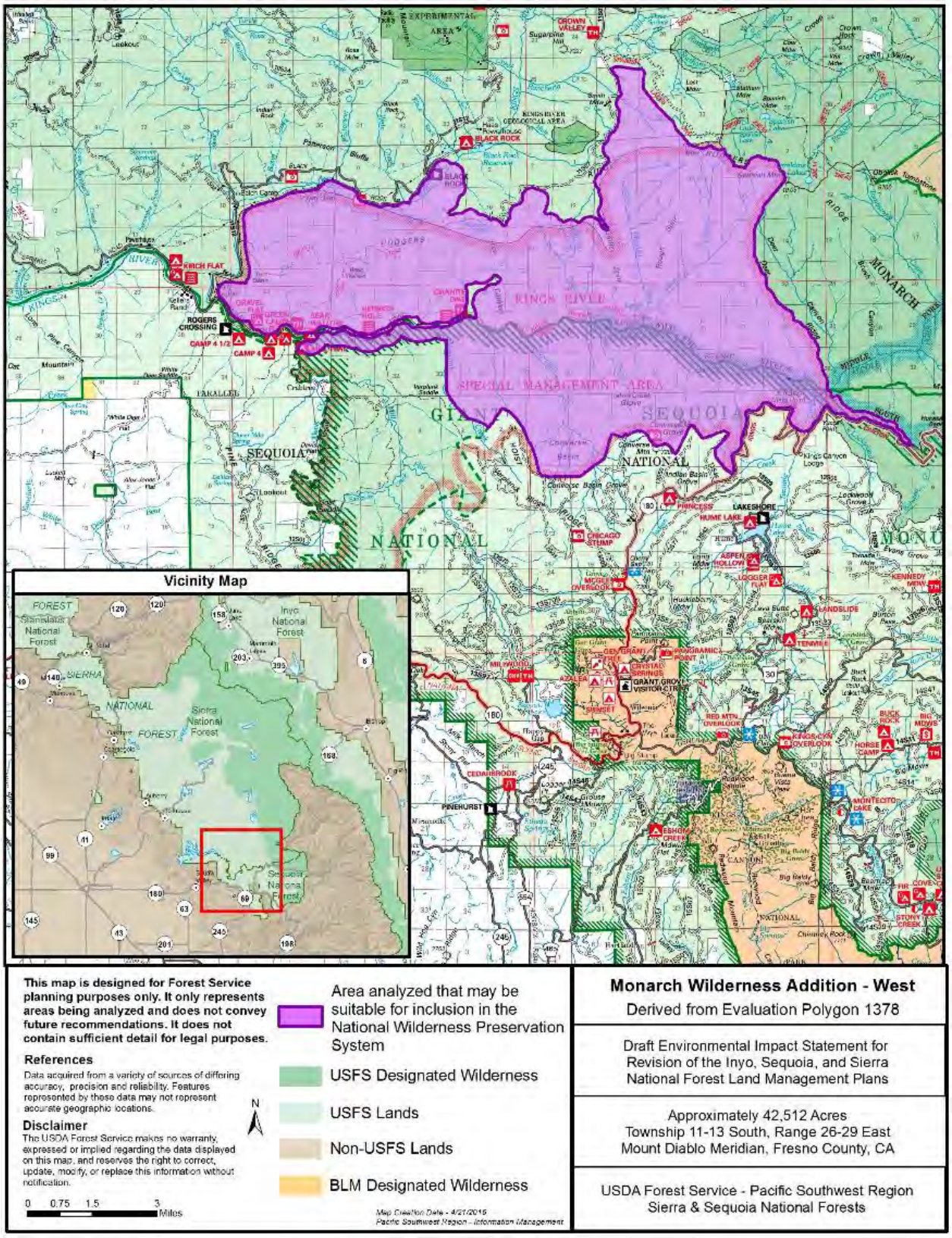

Figure B-70. Map of the Monarch Wilderness Addition – West area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Shuteye, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 646.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 14,418 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Shuteye map (Figure B-71). The boundary generally follows National Forest System roads, motorized trails, and elevation contours, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The adjacent land is managed by the Forest Service. The boundaries were set to exclude portions of the area that would be unmanageable as wilderness due to roads, motorized trails, and other development.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is located along the Chiquito and Whiskey Ridges and is a combination of forested slopes and granite domes. It is east of highway 7, west of Minarets Road, southwest of road 6S01, north of Central Camp Road, and east of 6S59, and east and north of Shuteye Peak Lookout. It includes Little Shuteye Peak and Chilkoot Lake. The main vegetation type in the area is Sierra mixed conifer and red fir forest and montane chaparral with areas of barren ground.

Current Uses

Chilkoot Lake is part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Crane Valley project. A ditch diverts water into Chilkoot Lake and controls lake water levels. Grazing currently occurs in the area. On the northwest shore of Chilkoot Lake there is vehicle access to a popular dispersed camping area that is immediately adjacent to the unit. There are cultural and historical sites throughout the area. Half of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered a special interest area by tribes in the area. One hiking trail 24E08 Shuteye Pass, travels through the lower portion of the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The vegetation within the northern portion of the area is not within natural range of variation. The southern portion was affected by the French Fire of 2014 with potential remnants from suppression actions including direct and indirect fire line construction, both hand and mechanical. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component due to fire suppression. This area contains the prominent ridge line of Whisky Ridge where there could be high potential for use in suppression actions for fire travelling into the conifer portions of the forest from the San Joaquin River and Mammoth Pool area. The area includes old growth red fir forests and is primarily affected by natural processes. There are few meadows in the area. There is unique aquatic and emergent flora around Chilkoot Lake. The area is mostly free of invasive weeds, with probably some bull thistle and woolly mullein present. Recreational opportunities include hiking, rock climbing, fishing, gold panning, hunting and sightseeing.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- The intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

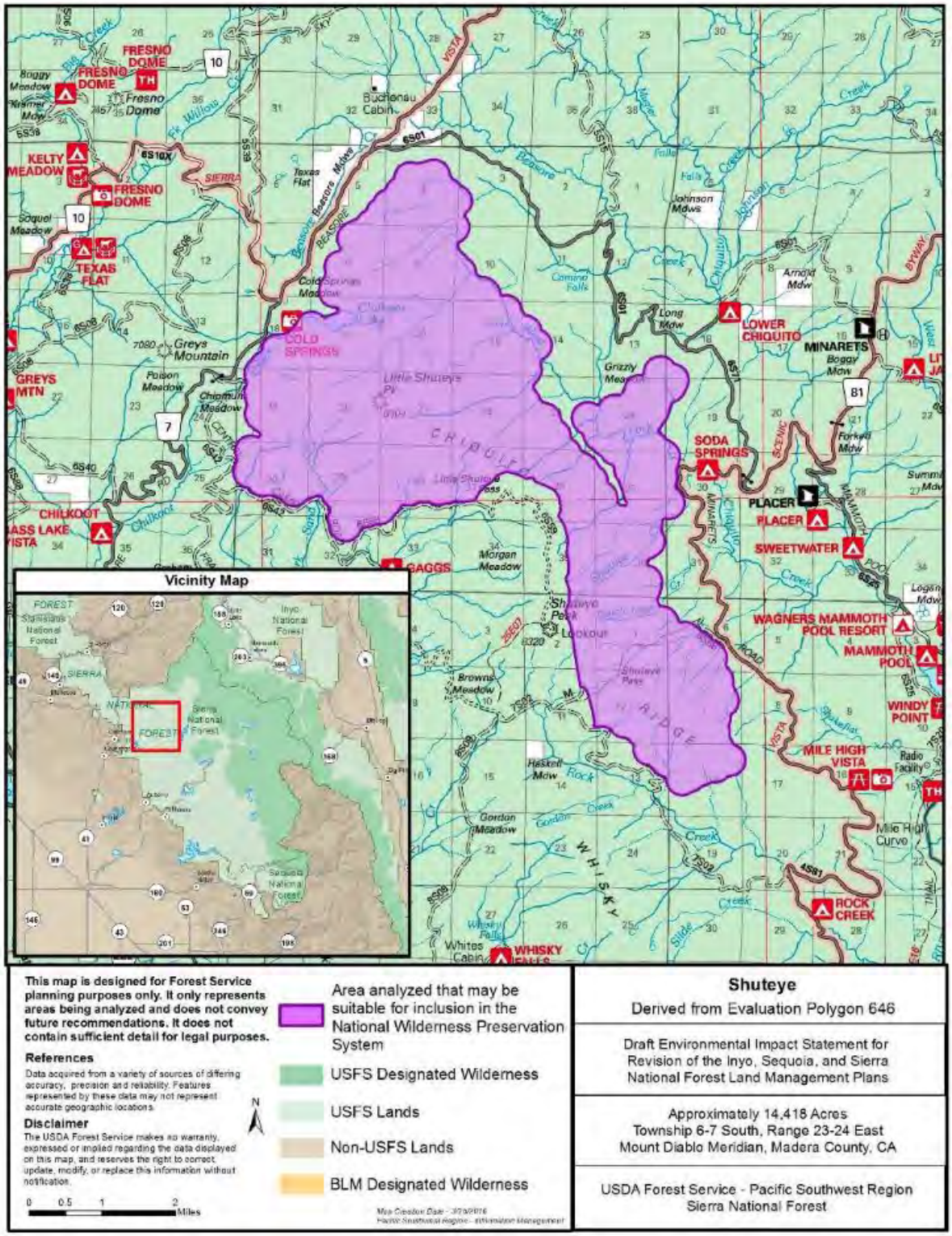

Figure B-71. Map of the Shuteye area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Sycamore Springs, Sierra National Forest

This recommendation was derived from Wilderness Evaluation Polygon 315.

Number of Acres

The area is approximately 17,908 acres.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Sycamore Springs map (Figure B-72). The boundary follows National Forest System roads, motorized trails, and transmission lines, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground, but also creates an irregular shaped boundary. All adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography and Vegetation

This area is primarily mixed conifer forest southwest of Wishon Reservoir. The most prevalent ecosystem types are California Central Valley mixed oak savanna, California lower montane blue oak-foothill pine woodland and savanna, Sierra mixed conifer forest and woodland, and Mediterranean California mixed oak woodland. Numerous waterfalls exist on Dinkey and its tributaries in the area, followed by eroded, deep plunge pools. Black Rock, Patterson Bluffs and Indian Rock are highly scenic granite features. The area includes old-growth ponderosa pine forest. The area ranges in elevation from 1500 to 8100 feet.

Current Uses

The northeastern portion of the area includes the Teakettle Experimental Forest, which has been extensively managed for forest research activities involving thinning and burning of forest plots. Grazing currently occurs in the area. About half of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. Fish stocking may also occur in the area. Recreational activities include whitewater kayaking, canyoneering, hiking, fishing and hunting. There are cultural and historical sites in the area. This area is culturally sensitive and is considered by tribe to be a special interest area. The northern portion of this area is included in the Dinkey Collaborative boundary.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The vegetation in the area is not within the natural range of variation. Fire exclusion has contributed to altering the herbaceous understory in openings at lower elevations. There are areas with a heavy dead and down fuel component. Teakettle Experimental Forest has had extensive treatments completed within it, both mechanical and prescribed fire. The area is surrounded by an extensive network of roads, power lines and other facilities. There are cattle trails and possibly some fencing around meadows. The historic Fence Meadow Lookout would be visible to over 50 percent of the interior of the unit.

Summary of Factors Considered in the Selection of this Area

The Sierra National Forest considered the following factors in selecting this area as part of alternative C:

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

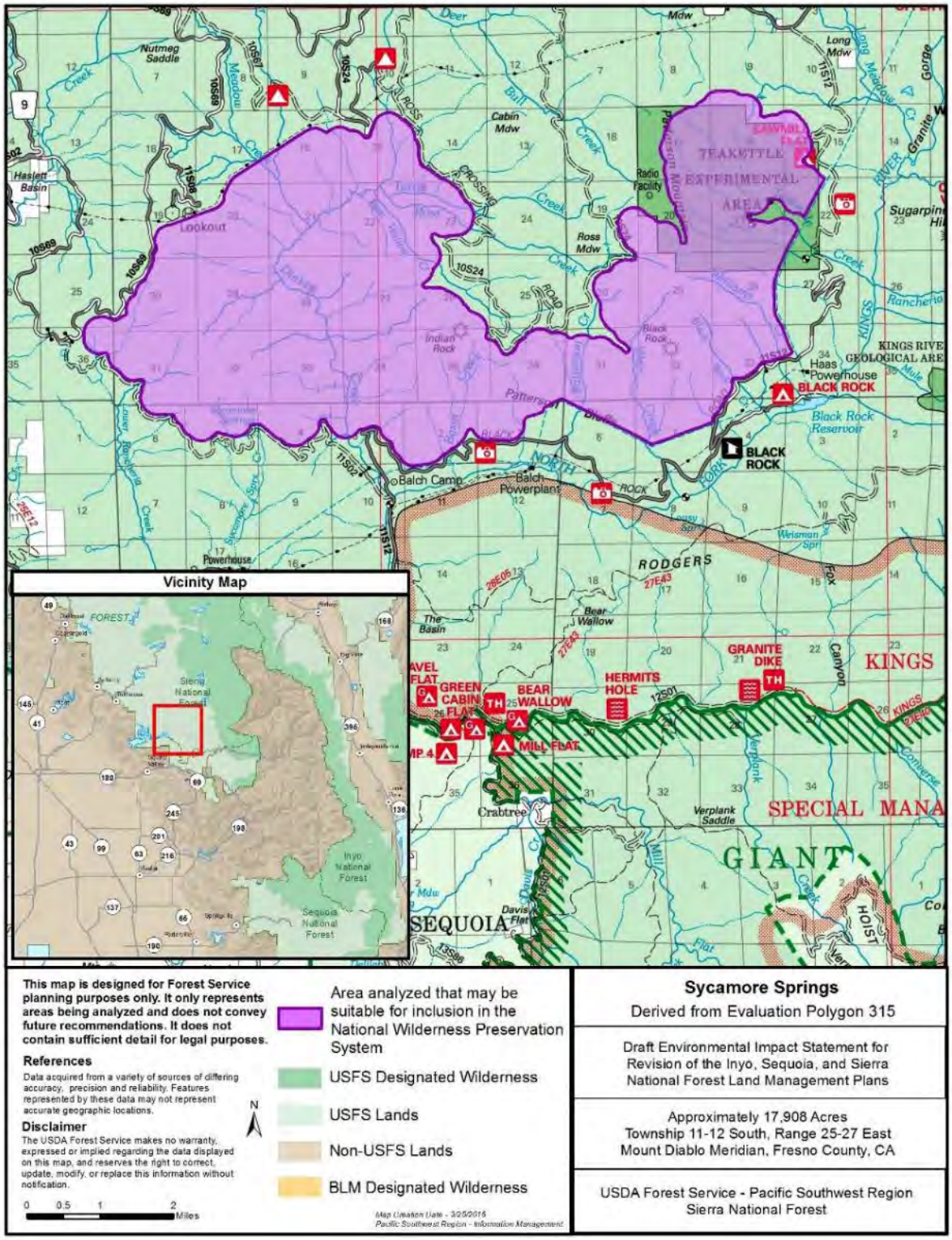

Figure B-72. Map of the Sycamore Springs area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Rationale for Areas Not Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in the Environmental Impact Statement

The following tables provide rationale to support the decision not to analyze a polygon, or portion of a polygon, as an area that may be suitable for recommendation and inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Inyo National Forest

Table B-6. Inyo National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons or subpolygons not analyzed for recommended wilderness

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
944	Watterson Canyon (7,629)	7,629	The opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this polygon due to an authorized motorized trail (Travel Management Record of Decision) that bisects the polygon, north to south, and the high road density surrounding the polygon, including a state highway along the south, west and east borders, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads. Sights and sound from the motorized trails and roads penetrate into most of the polygon. Appearance of naturalness is affected along the northern boundary by a powerline.
995	Kelty Canyon (5,806)	5,806	The opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this polygon due to paved road along the eastern boundary and the extensive network of authorized forest system roads and motorized trails (Travel Management Record of Decision) around the perimeter of the polygon. Sights and sound from roadways and motorized trail penetrates into much of the polygon.
1012	Glass Mountains (40,368)	5,777	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these small subpolygons due to the existence of authorized motorized trails in the units. Sights and sound from motorized trails and the surrounding extensive network of authorized forest system roads penetrate these small subpolygons.
1039	Black Mountain and Sawmill Canyon (11,026)	11,026	Although there are some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the interior, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in other portions of this polygon due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and authorized motorized trails in a large portion of the perimeter. This includes many authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to partially divide the polygon into many small sections. Sights and sound from roadways and motorized trails penetrate into those areas of the polygon. There is some private property within the polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1068	Dexter Canyon (12,311)	3,637	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small subpolygon due to the existence of an authorized motorized trail that bisects it from the parent polygon. Sights and sound from motorized trails and surrounding authorized forest system roads penetrate these small subpolygons.
1072	Mono Craters (7,574)	7,574	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited throughout much of this polygon due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads, including a few authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to partially divide the polygon into smaller sections. There are limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation along the southern boundary due to proximity to a commercial pumice mine. Sights and sound from roadways and the pumice mine penetrate into those areas of the polygon.
1080	Anderson Point (1,137)	1,137	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering and cherry stemming to shape this small polygon. This is a very popular dispersed camping area. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.
1081	Bakeoven Meadows (5,413)	5,413	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited along an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering and cherry stemming to shape this polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate a large portion of this relatively small polygon.
1092	Slide Canyon (4,252)	4,252	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to paved roads along the north and south boundaries, especially where Horseshoe Meadow Road nearly divides the northeastern portion from the rest of the polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate a large portion of this relatively small polygon. There is a hydroelectric power plant adjacent to the southeastern boundary, which degrades the appearance of naturalness and limits opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.
1098	Escarpment from George Creek to Hogback Creek (1,476)	1,476	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to an existing authorized motorized trail within the northern portion of the polygon, and to an authorized forest system road that cherry stems the southern portion of the polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.
1099	Escarpment - Shephard Creek (1,092)	1,092	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter and cherry stemming into this polygon; sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1106	Escarpment - Onion Valley South (1,408)	1,408	This polygon is sort of crescent shaped to follow the perimeter of the John Muir Wilderness south of Onion Valley. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the heavily traveled Onion Valley Road along the northern perimeter, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along most of the southern perimeter, some that cherry stem into the polygon area. The area has high recreation use, including recreation residences, campground and trailheads. Sights and sounds from the roads and recreation activity would likely penetrate most of this small polygon, especially in the northern portion.
1108	Escarpment - Onion Valley North (2,100)	2,100	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the heavily traveled Onion Valley Road along the southern perimeter, another paved road along the northern perimeter, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads to the east and south. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.
1109	Escarpment - Oak Creek (1,318)	1,318	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the heavily traveled paved road along the southern boundary, another paved road along the north, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads to the east and north. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. The appearance of naturalness is impacted by post-fire flooding of Oak Creek, and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation may be affected in areas currently authorized for active restoration treatments involving motorized tools.
1110	Escarpment between Sawmill Creek and Baxter Pass Trailhead (1,650)	1,650	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering or cherry stemming the polygon. One road nearly bisects the polygon. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.
1112	Escarpment between Goodale Creek and Sawmill Creek (4,949)	4,949	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and authorized motorized trails. The polygon is bisected by a forest system road that is maintained by the County; a hydroelectric powerhouse is along this road. Sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.
1115	Escarpment - Tinemaha Creek (3,485)	3,485	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and an authorized forest system road in the perimeter. Their sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1116	Escarpment - McMurry Meadow (2,437)	2,437	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and authorized forest system roads along the perimeter; sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small polygon.
1140	Coyote (75,299)	75,299	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the center polygon; three large authorized forest system roads cherry stem the borders of the polygon in the northern, southern and eastern portions; a high use paved road along the western boundary. The sights and sounds from the authorized motorized trails, forest system roads and paved road likely penetrate much of the polygon.
1147	Pine Creek East (1,351)	1,351	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a paved road along the eastern boundary, and an authorized forest system road and private land road to the south and west of this small polygon. There is substantial departure from appearance of naturalness due to mining activity that is visible from approximately 50 percent of the area, including a patented tungsten mine located to the south and west; with highly visible and intrusive human materials in and adjacent to the polygon, including several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes and equipment, some of which may need costly rehabilitation.
1148	Pine Creek West (1,756)	1,756	There is substantial departure from appearance of naturalness due to mining activity that is visible from approximately 50 percent of this small polygon, including a patented tungsten mine located to the north and east. The sites have highly visible and intrusive human materials in and adjacent to the small polygon, including several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes and equipment, some of which may need costly rehabilitation. The opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is limited due to proximity to roads, Pine Creek Mine and a four wheel drive trail that provides access to patented mining claims (private land) in this small polygon.
1154	Rock Creek East and Sand Canyon (5,243)	5,243	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the presence of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and a paved road with highly developed recreation sites along the western perimeter; sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small polygon. There is a small hydropower development operating under an existing special use permit that includes use of motorized tools and motorized access.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1155	Rock Creek West (3,498)	3,498	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a paved road along the eastern and northern borders with highly developed recreation areas; sights and sounds would likely penetrate this small elongated polygon.
1156	McGee Creek (5,129)	5,129	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to US Highway 395, Crowley Lake residential community, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and highly developed recreation facilities along the perimeter of this polygon; some authorized forest system roads nearly bisect the polygon. Their sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. Currently, there are authorized fuels management activities and a heli-ski competition within this polygon, authorized under special use permit.
1159	Mammoth Escarpment-Lakes Basin, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek and Convict Lake (14,833)	14,833	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited: due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, including those that split the polygon; due to the many authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to nearly split other sections of this polygon; and areas adjacent to highly developed recreation areas, recreation residences, and developed communities. Sights and sounds from roads and highly developed recreation areas would likely penetrate a large portion of the polygon.
1161	Reds Meadow (1,656)	1,656	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a high use paved road and highly developed recreation sites along the perimeter; sights and sounds would likely penetrate most of this small polygon. Mechanical fuels management activities may need to continue within the polygon to protect adjacent high value areas.
1164	Minaret Vista and San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail (1,017)	1,017	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within the polygon, and the concentrated recreation area, paved road and authorized forest system road along the southern boundary. Sight and sounds from all uses may penetrate most of the small polygon.
1195	West of Mono Lake and Highway 395, North of Lee Vining (2,008)	2,008	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to US Highway 395. Sight and sounds may penetrate most of the small polygon. The area is an avalanche control zone for Cal Trans to address safety concerns along the highway.
1208	Saddlebag Lake (2,516)	2,516	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to state highway 120, highly developed authorized recreation sites and Saddlebag Lake dam. Sight and sounds may penetrate most of the small polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1211	Lundy Canyon (1,949)	1,949	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to a paved access road in the southern boundary, and to a highly concentrated, authorized recreation use area. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon.
1232	Willow Springs (3,205)	3,205	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the Betty Jumbo Mine Road, a highly visible motorized trail along the entire eastern boundary. There are authorized forest system roads that cherry stem into a portion of the western boundary area. Sight and sounds of motorized use would likely penetrate most of this small polygon.
1236	West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness (73,128)	24,829	There are several subpolygons not recommended due to limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because there are authorized motorized trails within the subpolygons; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the subpolygons.
1246	North of Eureka Valley Road (43,231)	7,092	There are several small subpolygons not recommended due to limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of authorized motorized trails within the subpolygons; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of these small subpolygons.
1248	Redding Canyon, Black Canyon (38,756)	7,003	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these subpolygons due to extensive network of authorized roads motorized trails; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the subpolygons.
1258	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South (35,248)	1,084	This subpolygon is not recommended as wilderness due to limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation because of an extensive network of authorized motorized trails. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the subpolygon.
1275	North of Silver Canyon (10,435)	10,435	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails in the western portion, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to form the perimeter of the polygon; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the polygon.
1276	Gunter Canyon (1,048)	1,048	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that cherry stem the boundary of this small polygon; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1281	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow (11,210)	881	There are limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to authorized motorized trails within these subpolygons. One of the subpolygons is adjacent to White Mt road (FR 4S01), a high use and speed road. The sight and sounds of motorized trails and high speed road would likely penetrate much of the small polygon.
1295	White Mountain Road, Barcroft Research Station (2,265)	2,265	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to White Mountain Rd; sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of the polygon. There is likely a need for motorized access to maintain a powerline that runs through middle of this polygon.
1297	North of Jeffrey Mine (1,092)	1,092	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter, several cherry stem to form the boundary of this polygon. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of this small polygon. Motorized access may be needed to maintain an existing water system that carries irrigation water to Chalfant Valley.
1301	Leidy Creek South (3,010)	3,010	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited at the northern boundary along an authorized forest system road. The sight and sounds would likely penetrate much of this small polygon.
1311	Chiatovich Creek (11,214)	11,214	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of the polygon. There is a portion of authorized motorized trails in the polygon. Private land developments, authorized forest system roads and motorized trails in the eastern portion nearly bisect the polygon. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate these portions of the polygon.
1312	Boundary Peak (8,133)	8,133	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in some areas due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of the polygon. There are two areas with authorized motorized trails in the polygon. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate these portions of the polygon.
1326	Queen Valley (5,464)	5,464	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter; their sight and sounds would likely penetrate the eastern portion of the polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1332	Pizona South, Northwest of Highway 6 (5,244)	5,244	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the boundary; their sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is substantially affected in areas by historic mining activities and pinyon pine removal by chaining.
1339	Pizona-Truman Meadows (19,826)	64	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within this very small subpolygon; sight and sounds would penetrate throughout the unit.
1342	Montgomery Pass (6,144)	6,144	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within the polygon, and Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter; sight and sounds would likely penetrate most of the polygon.
1376	Watterson Meadow and Benton Range (9,922)	9,922	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter. A few forest system roads are cherry stemmed to form the boundary. Sight and sounds would likely penetrate large portions of the polygon.
1391*	Monache, Blackrock, and South Sierra East (33,247)	620 (Note: this number represents acreage on both the Sequoia and Sierra NFs)	These subpolygons are located on both the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these subpolygons due to authorized motorized trails within the boundaries of these subpolygons; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout the areas.
1550	McBride Flat (12,198)	1,737	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these subpolygons due to authorized motorized trails within the boundaries of these subpolygons; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout the areas.

1. Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the areas not analyzed from the Inyo National Forest.

Sequoia National Forest

Table B-7. Sequoia National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons or portions subpolygons not analyzed for recommended wilderness

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
18	Southern Paiute Mountains (6,337)	6,337	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails and an authorized motorized access to private land within the boundary of the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads bordering the polygon. Sights and sounds from trails and roads would likely affect large portions the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is substantially affected by historic mining activities and developments.
36	Adjacent to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (2,089)	2,089	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads adjacent to the polygon; the area is a high use OHV area and sights and sounds from the roads would likely penetrate through much of this small polygon.
63	Lower Kern River Gorge (5,223)	5,223	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the presence of authorized motorized trails within the polygon. The remaining portion of this polygon is less than 5,000 acres, and configured in such a way that proximity to a highway to the east of the area, a paved County road to the south, and authorized motorized trails and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads to the south and east, directs that sight and sounds from all these sources are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are plantations authorized for treatment in the east corner of the polygon.
66	Saturday Peak-Greenhorn Roadless (8,289)	113	This subpolygon is 100 acres of the original polygon and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an authorized motorized trail and a highly developed recreation area.
73	Lightner Peak - Mill Creek (15,128)	15,128	There are three subpolygons with authorized motorized trails. The non-motorized subpolygons are each less than 5,000 acres in size and with a highway to the north, a paved road to the south, and authorized motorized trails between the subpolygons; sight and sounds from all these sources limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are plantations that need treatment with motorized tools.
99	Sunday Peak (9,386)	9,386	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter. Portions of the area are within two authorized active restoration and fuels reduction treatments that include use of motorized tools.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
120	Lion Ridge Roadless (6,865)	6,865	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads and private roads bordering the entire polygon; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. Approximately 25 percent of the polygon was extensively logged, highly departing from the appearance of naturalness.
160	Slate Mountain (16,126)	122	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized forest system roads that are open to the public within the small subpolygon.
162	North of Black Mountain (15,806)	12	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small area due to an authorized forest system road that is open to the public.
173	South of Wishon (5,307)	5,307	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a highway, two paved county roads, and a network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this small triangular-shaped polygon. Sights and sounds from roads penetrate throughout much of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is affected by many man made developments within this polygon: power lines; flumes; an aqueduct that bisects the western portion; tunnels; a dam; and a water weir. Many of these are FERC licensed facilities for both PG&E and SCE, and require motorized access and maintenance with motorized tools.
227	Oat Mountain (15,358)	15,358	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to forest system roads providing authorized motorized access to a private land inholding and access to power transmission lines; these routes are open to the public, including OHV use. The area is also surrounded by a paved county road to the north, a network of authorized forest system roads to the east and private roads to the south and west. Sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. In the northern portion of the polygon, there are high use recreation facilities along the border, including several developed campgrounds and a rental cabin. Sights and sounds likely penetrate into that portion of the roadless area, limiting the opportunity for solitude. Authorized fuel treatments, including mechanical treatments are occurring in the southern portion of this polygon.
1364	North of Coffee Camp (9,203)	9,203	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to State Highway 190 along the south, and county paved roads to the north and east. Sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. There are substantial developments within the unit, including a water flume, utility lines, and grazing improvements, authorized motorized access for maintenance with motorized tools.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1377	Adjacent to Monarch Wilderness (11,559)	6,087	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public within these subpolygon areas.
1378*	Adjacent to John Muir and Monarch Wildernesses (71,974)	26,103 (Note: this number represents acreage on both the Sequoia and Sierra NFs)	The original polygon is 71,974 acres, occurring on both the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. Portions are included in the John Muir Wilderness Additions – Southwest and others in the Monarch Wilderness Addition – West. There are areas not analyzed for potential recommended wilderness. One area south of Kings River is approximately 10,217 acres in size, part of which is authorized by legislation as the Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA) OHV, administered by the Sierra National Forest. Another area south of the river is 14,525 acres and administered by the Sequoia National Forest. It has an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these areas of authorized motorized trails and authorized forest system roads. There is also an approximately 1,361 acre area north of the river, on the Sierra National Forest, that has authorized motorized trails that limit the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.
1380	Adjacent to Jennie Lakes Wilderness and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (1,316)	1,316	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to a paved highway along the west boundary, a road that cherry stems to nearly bisect the middle of the polygon, and a highly developed recreation area. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout this small polygon.
1381	Beartrap Meadow - adjacent to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (1,317)	1,317	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to two paved roads along the east and west boundary and high recreation use. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout this small polygon.
1384	Cannel Peak (39,629)	12,422	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within these subpolygons, including the Rincon motorcycle trail, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads within this area that are open to the public, and some of the area is bordered by Mountain Highway 99 and high use recreation sites. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate through these subpolygon areas.
1385	Jennie Lakes Roadless – adjacent to Jennie Lakes Wilderness (8,216)	2,954	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these areas due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1387	North Fork Kern-adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness (89,627)	58,166	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails in some areas, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public in other areas. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate through these subpolygon areas.
1390	Osa Meadows-adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness (1,100)	133	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails and an authorized forest system road that is open to the public within this small area. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout this small area.
1391**	Monache, Blackrock, and South Sierra East (17,745)	12,218 (Note: this number represents acreage on both the Sequoia and Inyo NFs)	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these subpolygons due to authorized motorized trails within the boundaries of some these subpolygons, and an authorized forest system road open to the public within another area; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout the areas.
1394	Domeland/Woodpecker Roadless Area, Adjacent to Domeland Wilderness (51,801)	18,318	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these areas due to the extensive networks of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public and authorized motorized trails, all within the boundaries of the polygon. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout these areas.
1395	Clicks Creek - Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness (2,285)	2,285	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that surround and cherry stem the polygon, nearly bisecting it. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout this small polygon. Appearance of naturalness is substantially altered by intensive past timber harvest that covers approximately fifty percent of the area. The area is authorized for OSV, limiting opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the winter.
1397	South of Jordan Peak-adjacent to Moses Recommended Wilderness (3,104)	3,104	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due State Highway 190 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this small polygon. Appearance of naturalness is substantially altered by intensive past timber harvest that covers approximately fifty percent of the area. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds likely penetrate throughout this small area.
1404	Hatchet Peak (6,068)	9	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this area due to an authorized forest system road that is open to the public; sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout the area.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1408	Upper Kern Canyon Escarpment-Baker Peak (48,730)	8,273	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these subpolygons due to several factors: an extensive network of authorized motorized trails; a network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public; and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads on the perimeter, including a couple that cherry stem to form the boundaries of subpolygons. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds likely penetrate throughout these areas.
1410	Deerwood Meadow (8,494)	8,494	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due authorized motorized trails, paved roads, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of this polygon, including a road that is cherry stemmed to form the boundary.
1420	Lumreau Creek (6,983)	6,983	There is substantial departure from appearance of naturalness due to extensive plantations throughout this polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas near the perimeter due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads, including two roads cherry stemming into the polygon. Sights and sounds associated with motorized likely penetrate a large portion of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is affected along eight miles of a double bulldozer line created during fire suppression activities in 2014.
1422	Woodward Peak (8,008)	8,008	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to the extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon. Sights and sounds associated with motorized use likely penetrate the entire polygon. There are active mining claims within this polygon, with permitted motorized road access for maintenance and motorized maintenance activities.
1425	Delonegha Creek (14,675)	14,675	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and Highway 178 along the southern boundary. Motorized use is pervasive and sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.
1426	Adjacent to Bright Star Wilderness (49,918)	49,918	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon; sights and sounds from roads would likely penetrate through large portions of the polygon. The appearance of naturalness is affected in the numerous areas with mining activity. Motorized access may be needed for cleanup under CERCLA.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1427	Clear Creek, Paiute Mountains (6,747)	6,747	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trail that bisects the polygon; sights and sounds from motorized use would likely penetrate the polygon. There are authorized restoration treatments in the southern and eastern portions of the polygon. Industrial mining material activity within the polygon has potential for some hazmat related issues that would require motorized access and motorized tool activity.
1429	Pierce Valley, Adjacent to Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (2,729)	2,729	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and along the southern border with State Road 469. Sights and sounds from motorized use likely penetrate much of the polygon. This area is popular for OHV activities and a new staging area is in the planning phase with a State funded OHV grant.
1431	Woodpecker Roadless-adjacent to Domeland Wilderness (7,234)	3,302	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the subpolygon, an authorized forest system road that is open to the public, and paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter of these areas. Sights and sounds from pervasive motorized use likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.
1432	Blackrock Mountain, Adjacent to Golden Trout Wilderness (1,133)	1,133	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a network of authorized motorized trails within this small polygon; sights and sounds motorized use likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. An authorized forest system road nearly bisects the small polygon.
1434	Agnew Roadless, Adjacent to Monarch Wilderness (3,726)	3,726	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to roads bordering three sides of this small polygon, including Highway 180, Ten Mile Road, and authorized forest system roads. There is a permitted water ditch in the polygon with associated water rights to an adjacent private property owner; the easement was awarded through court order.

* Evaluation Polygon 1378 was evaluated as a whole, but it overlays the boundary between the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests with portions in each forest. The figures here represent all areas not analyzed as explained in the last column.

** Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the areas not analyzed from the Sequoia National Forest.

Sierra National Forest

Table B-8. Sierra National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons or subpolygons not analyzed for recommended wilderness

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
304	Cat's Head Mountain (5,916)	5,916	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this polygon due to the high-use Trimmer Springs Road, motor boats in Pine Flat Reservoir, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the north and east perimeters. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.
330	North Fork Kings River (7,804)	7,804	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited, due to several developments along the northern boundary, including a paved road, Helms power project, a highly developed recreation area, and motorized boating in Wishon Reservoir. Sights and sounds would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. There are also authorized forest system roads that cherry stem to form the boundary near Sugarpine Hill and the Kings River Geological area.
357	Soaproot (5,374)	5,374	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to audible motorized traffic from a paved road to the north that it is visible in many places in the polygon. There is a motorized trail authorized under special use permit within the polygon. Sights and sounds from motorized use would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon.
441	Bald Mountain (6,892)	6,892	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and paved roads and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around most of the perimeter. Sights and sounds from motorized use would likely penetrate throughout much of the polygon. Mechanized fuels management treatments are currently authorized in the southern portion of the polygon.
539	Adjacent to Dinkey Lakes Wilderness (48,312)	10,252	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in these subpolygons are limited due to presence of authorized motorized trails, and 1,895 acres of surface water for Courtright Reservoir that are authorized for low speed motorized boats. The sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate these small polygons.
557	Peckinpah Creek (5,073)	5,073	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. The 2015 Willow Fire burned approximately 90 percent of this polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
577	Adjacent to Kaiser Wilderness (7,127)	7,127	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited on the south side of this polygon as the area is adjacent to paved and authorized forest system roads, highly developed recreation sites, recreation residences, organization camps and resorts. This extremely high use area affects sight and sounds within the polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited along the west and north perimeter by extensive use of authorized forest system roads. Authorized post-fire treatments (2013 Aspen Fire) are within this polygon and will include use of motorized tools.
586	Graham Mountain (5,412)	5,412	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the entire perimeter, and the close proximity to the Bass Lake with motorized boating. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. Due to drought and subsequent bark beetle outbreak, the forest is considering treatments to reduce fuels including treatments with motorized tools.
646	Shuteye (18,013)	3,595	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in areas with authorized motorized trails or along the boundary with the extensive network of authorized forest system roads. An authorized forest system road cherry stems into the polygon area to Shuteye Peak, and on the east side of the unit. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. Continuing fuels treatments in the western portion of this polygon near Central Camp is desirable.
688	Chiquito Creek (6,515)	6,515	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a scenic byway to the south and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the east, north and southwestern perimeters. Road density is high surrounding this area, with the sight and sounds of motorized use regularly present.
772	Devil Gulch (47,747)	2,622	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within these subpolygons; sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon.
781	Adjacent to John Muir Wilderness 1 (2,477)	2,477	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to high recreation use, which includes an authorized motorized area, the Dusy-Ershim OHV route with jeeps and other off-road vehicles frequently seen and heard in the area. There is also the popular Chamberlain Camp recreation site and motorized boat use in the Wishon Reservoir. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
785	Florence Lake (1,254)	1,254	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to high recreation use activities and developments; the Florence Lake Reservoir includes the dam, boat ramps, boats, the Florence Lake store, Jackass Meadows Campground, Florence Lake Road, High Sierra pack station, Jackass administrative site, Hooper Diversion primitive road, trailhead parking areas and day use areas. The lake allows authorized motorized boating and a ferry operates under special use permit, traveling the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon. The area is reduced to 340 acres when the lake acreage is removed. A penstock bisects the area which would reduce the acreage further. The area is operated as part of the FERC license to Southern Cal Edison
815	Edison Lake (3,887)	3,887	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the perimeter. The area also has high recreation use, including developed recreation sites, Vermillion Valley Resort, Lake Edison, High Sierra Pack Station and the authorized Onion Springs Primitive Road that bisects a section of the area. Currently, there is authorized motorized boating and a ferry operates under a special use permit, traveling the length of the lake several times a day taking people who are interested in accessing the John Muir Wilderness. Sights and sounds of motorized use penetrate this small polygon.
819	San Joaquin River-adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness (37,528)	466	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this very small subpolygon due to authorized motorized trails; sights and sounds penetrate this small subpolygon.
820	Piyau Dome, Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness (1,741)	1,741	Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the perimeter of this small polygon. Sights and sounds penetrate this small area.
821	Mount Raymond (13,370)	3,592	The majority of this polygon is included in the Ansel Adams Mount Raymond Wilderness Additions Potential Recommended Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these subpolygons due to presence of authorized motorized trails, and authorized motorized access to private property and mines. Sights and sounds penetrate this small subpolygon.
822	Adjacent to Ansel Adams Wilderness (10,581)	668	This subpolygon is located near Mammoth Trailhead in the eastern portion of the parent polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this subpolygon due to authorized motorized trails. Sights and sounds penetrate this small subpolygon.

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale supporting that polygons or subpolygons are not potentially suitable for inclusion in The National Wilderness Preservation System
1378[1]	Adjacent to John Muir and Monarch Wildernesses (71,974)	26,103 (Note: this number represents acreage on both the Sequoia and Sierra NFs)	The original polygon is 71,974 acres, occurring on both the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. Portions are included in the John Muir Wilderness Additions – Southwest and others in the Monarch Wilderness Addition – West. There are areas not analyzed for potential recommended wilderness. One area south of Kings River is approximately 10,217 acres in size, part of which is authorized by legislation as the Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA) OHV, administered by the Sierra National Forest. Another area south of the river is 14,525 acres and administered by the Sequoia National Forest. It has an extensive network of authorized forest system roads that are open to the public. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in these areas of authorized motorized trails and authorized forest system roads. There is also an approximately 1,361 acre area north of the river, on the Sierra National Forest, that has authorized motorized trails that limit the opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Recommendation

Based on the analysis in the environmental impact statement and public input received, the forest supervisor for each of the three national forests will make a decision on specific areas to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The decision will be included in the final decision document for the plan as a preliminary administrative recommendation. Plan components will provide direction for managing areas recommended for wilderness designation. The areas must be managed to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for their suitability for wilderness recommendation.

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests

Introduction

Relationship to the Forest Plan Revision Process

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act establishing the system is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

The Forest Service 2012 Planning Rule requires the agency to conduct an inventory of rivers and determine wild and scenic river eligibility and classification during land and resource management plan development or revision as outlined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Section 5(d)(1) states:

> In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potential. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved.

The Forest Service 2012 Planning Rule specifically requires that during plan development or revision, river eligibility must be identified unless an inventory has been completed and no changed circumstances or new information warrant further review. The rule also requires the Forest Service to manage those eligible and suitable rivers to protect the values that support their inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System until Congress makes a final determination on their designation.

If the Forest Service has completed a systematic, comprehensive inventory of eligible rivers and classification, or a suitability study, then the agency is not required to conduct additional assessment and study at the time of a proposed plan, plan amendment or plan revision unless changed circumstances or new information warrant additional review of eligibility, or if the responsible official considers the river eligibility review or suitability study incomplete. This process must be documented in an appendix to the environmental impact statement for the forest land and resource management plan.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Requirements

The process used to identify and evaluate rivers for their potential eligibility is found in the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80. This will be referred to as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation Handbook. This chapter of the Forest Service Handbook contains guidance and instruction the agency must use to carry out the direction contained in 36 CFR Section 219.7(vi). Additional guidance can be found in the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council technical paper: The Wild and Scenic River Study Process, December 1999.

The process includes a sequence of four steps, three of which are required during plan revisions. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Handbook directs the forest interdisciplinary team to complete the evaluation of rivers to be studied for eligibility, considering best available scientific information and public input.

1. **Inventory:** Forests must develop a systematic and comprehensive inventory of rivers to consider for their potential eligibility. Unless a previous systematic inventory of study rivers has been completed and eligible rivers identified, the interdisciplinary team shall develop a comprehensive inventory to evaluate to determine which rivers are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. If a systematic inventory of eligible rivers has been completed, the extent of the study process during plan development or revision can be limited to evaluation of any rivers that were not previously evaluated for eligibility and those with changed circumstances (Section 82.4). The Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation Handbook instructs the interdisciplinary team to include all potential wild, scenic and recreational rivers flowing wholly or partially on National Forest System lands as identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and by other sources. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation Handbook instructs that the rivers to be studied for eligibility must include at a minimum the equivalent of all rivers named on a standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map.

2. **Eligibility determination:** Forests must determine stream eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. To be eligible for designation, a river must be free-flowing and possess 1 or more outstandingly remarkable values. Thus, the eligibility analysis consists of an examination of the river's hydrology, including any human-made alterations, and an inventory of its natural, cultural and recreational resources.

   An outstandingly remarkable value must be river-related and determined to be unique, rare or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Potential outstandingly remarkable values may include: scenery, recreation, geology, fish and wildlife populations and habitat, prehistory, history or other river-related values (i.e. paleontological or botanical). While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river-related. They should:

   - Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river);
   - Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
   - Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

3. **Classification:** After the Forest Service determines if a river or portions of a river are eligible, each inventoried segment is then assigned a preliminary classification of "wild", "scenic" or "recreational". Where current levels of access and development vary within an eligible river segment, it may be further segmented and assigned different classifications. Distinct segments may contain differing and non-overlapping classifications. For example, a 100-mile wild and scenic river found to be eligible may be segmented and classified as "wild" for 50 miles, "scenic" for 30 miles, and "recreational" for 20 miles. Classification is based on the level of human development of the shoreline, watercourse and access at the time a river is found eligible. The Wild and Scenic River Act and interagency guidelines describe classifications for eligible rivers as:

   - **Wild rivers:** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

- **Scenic rivers:** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational rivers:** Those rivers, or sections of rivers, that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

4. **Suitability**: The fourth step, suitability, may happen during plan revision but is not required. During suitability, the Forest Service assesses the eligible river's potential for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This study evaluates the potential physical, biological, economic and social effects of adding the river to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A suitability study provides the basis for determining which rivers to recommend to Congress as potential additions to the national system. This analysis and decision-making step will not be completed as part of the current forest plan revision process, but will be completed in a future separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Process to Identify Rivers to be Considered for Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

Inventory

The evaluation of rivers to be studied for eligibility was completed considering best available scientific information and public input. Table C-1 in the next section displays the total number of named rivers or river segments on each forest that were identified for inclusion in the inventory. Creation of the inventory of rivers to consider their potential as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System included the following steps:

- A regional hydrologist used the national hydrological dataset to create a preliminary list of rivers and river segments that were the equivalent of all named rivers on a 7.5 minute quad. This preliminary list was then checked against the standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle maps to ensure that all named rivers were included.
- Any of the named rivers in the dataset that are already designated as wild and scenic rivers were removed from the inventory.
- Any rivers that already have a decision in place to be recommended as an addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through a previous study and NEPA process were removed from the inventory.

Public Input on the Inventory

To ensure that rivers of interest identified by the public were included in the inventory, the following references were reviewed. It was affirmed that all rivers identified by the public as potential wild and scenic rivers were included in the inventory.

Sierra Forest Legacy Conservation Strategy, wild and scenic river appendix:
(http://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/FC_ConservationStrategy/FC_ConservationStrategy2.php)

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI):
(http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/index.html)

Listing of California rivers that are part of the National Rivers Inventory created by the National Park Service:
(http://www.gehwa.org/Wild%20&%20Scenic%20River%20Files/NRI/California%20NRI%20205S-3264M.pdf)

Friends of the River publication "Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers in California – 2001 Inventory:
(http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/site/DocServer/2001PWSRC_Inventory.pdf?docID=222.)

In this last publication, there are 19 rivers identified for the Inyo, 5 for the Sequoia and 7 for the Sierra. On their website they mention:

> Friends of the River is lobbying the Forest Service to ensure that these plan revisions incorporate wild and scenic river studies on more than 311 of eligible or potentially eligible streams and rivers, including segments of the Kings River, lower Kern River, Tule River, and Hot Creek.

Additionally, detailed feedback specific to wild and scenic rivers received during the assessment phase of the forest plan revision process was compiled into a report (Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) – Public Feedback from Assessment Phase, 11/25/13) and reviewed for content related to rivers of interest to include in the inventory. It was affirmed that all rivers of interest were included in the inventory.

Comments on wild and scenic rivers were also received during the public comment period for the proposed action. The comments were also reviewed for content related to rivers of interest to include in the inventory. It was affirmed that all rivers of interest were included in the inventory.

After the final inventory dataset was created, the inventory was divided into rivers or river segments that had been considered in previous eligibility evaluations and those that had not. To determine which portions of the inventory had never been considered in previous evaluations, all historical wild and scenic river eligibility review and suitability study records were examined and segments that had been evaluated in previous efforts were identified. The previous findings for outstandingly remarkable values, classification and eligibility were documented in the dataset.

Results of the Inventory

Table C-1 summarizes the inventory of rivers considered for eligibility on the three national forests which are shown on the following maps (Figure C-73 through Figure C-76).

Table C-1. Inventory of rivers considered for eligibility on the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests

National Forest	Number of GIS Segments	Approximate Miles of River in the Inventory	Approximate Miles of Rivers in the Inventory that Have Been Previously Evaluated	Approximate Miles of Rivers in the Inventory that Have Not Been Previously Evaluated
Inyo	299	1,218.9	245.5	973.4
Sequoia	263	1,052.6	1,045.7	6.9
Sierra	403	1,482.4	0.0	1,482.4
Total	965	3,753.9	1,291.2	2,462.7

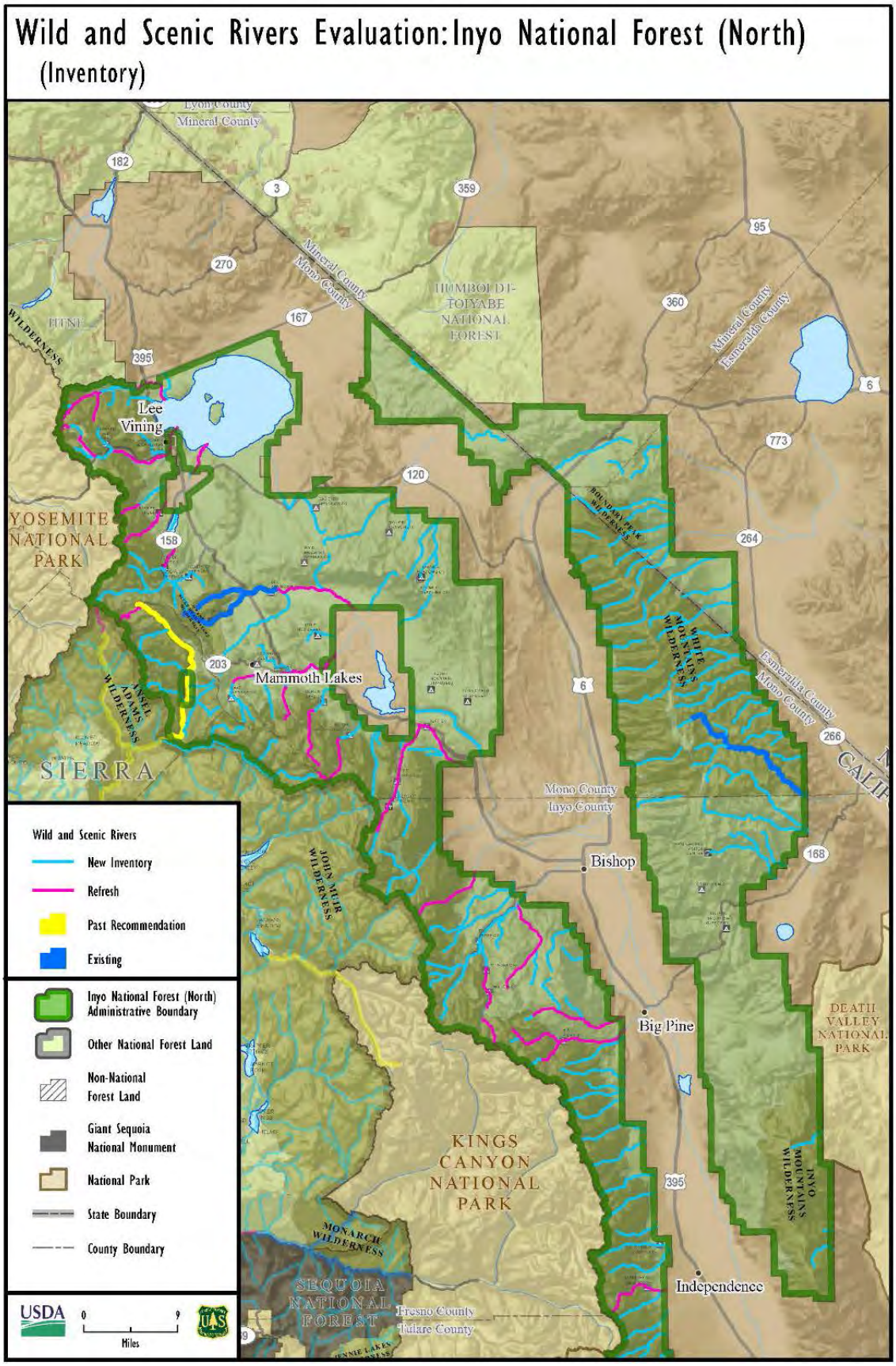

Figure C-73. Inyo National Forest wild and scenic rivers inventory map (north half)

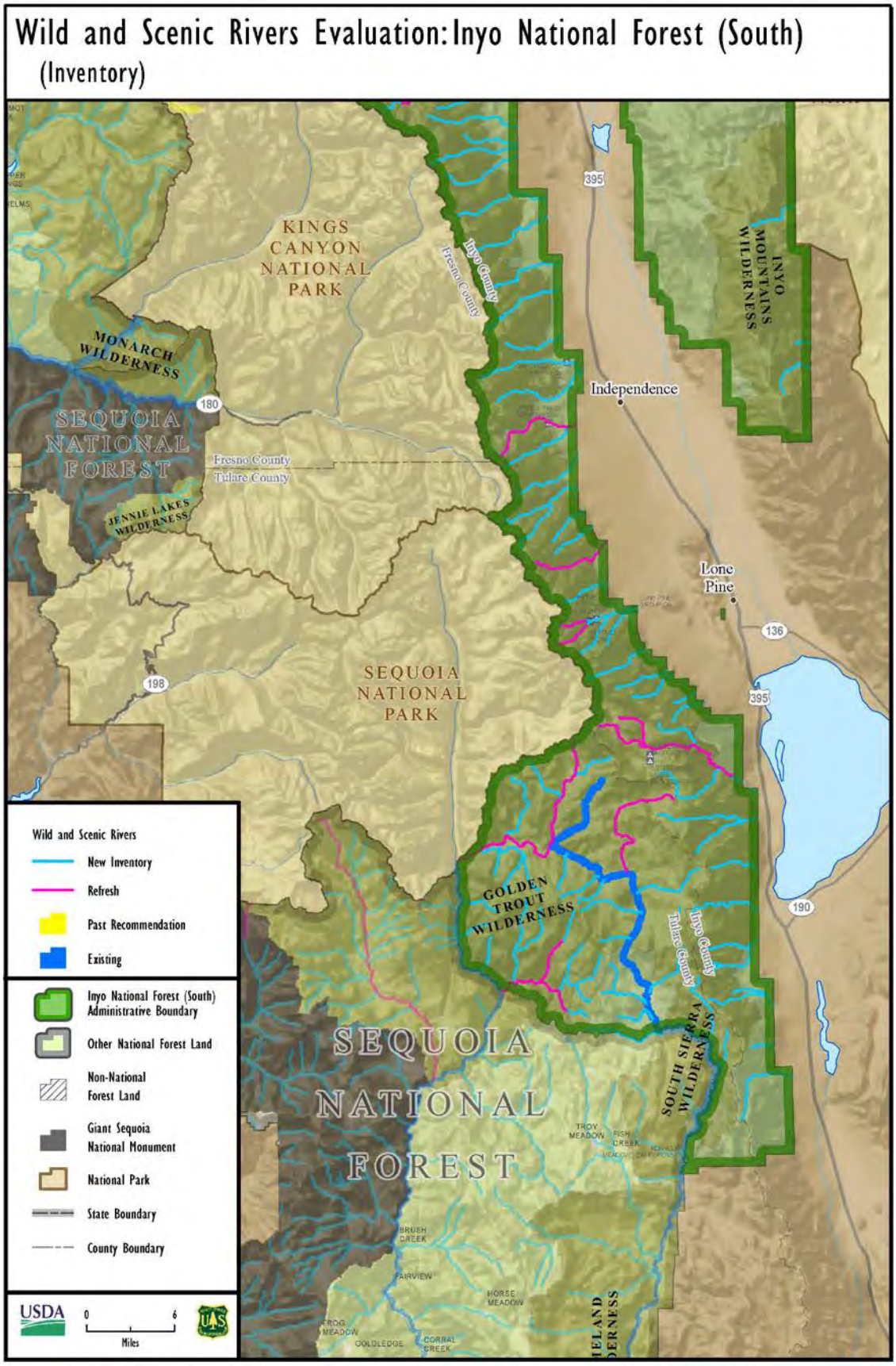

Figure C-74. Inyo National Forest wild and scenic rivers inventory map (south half)

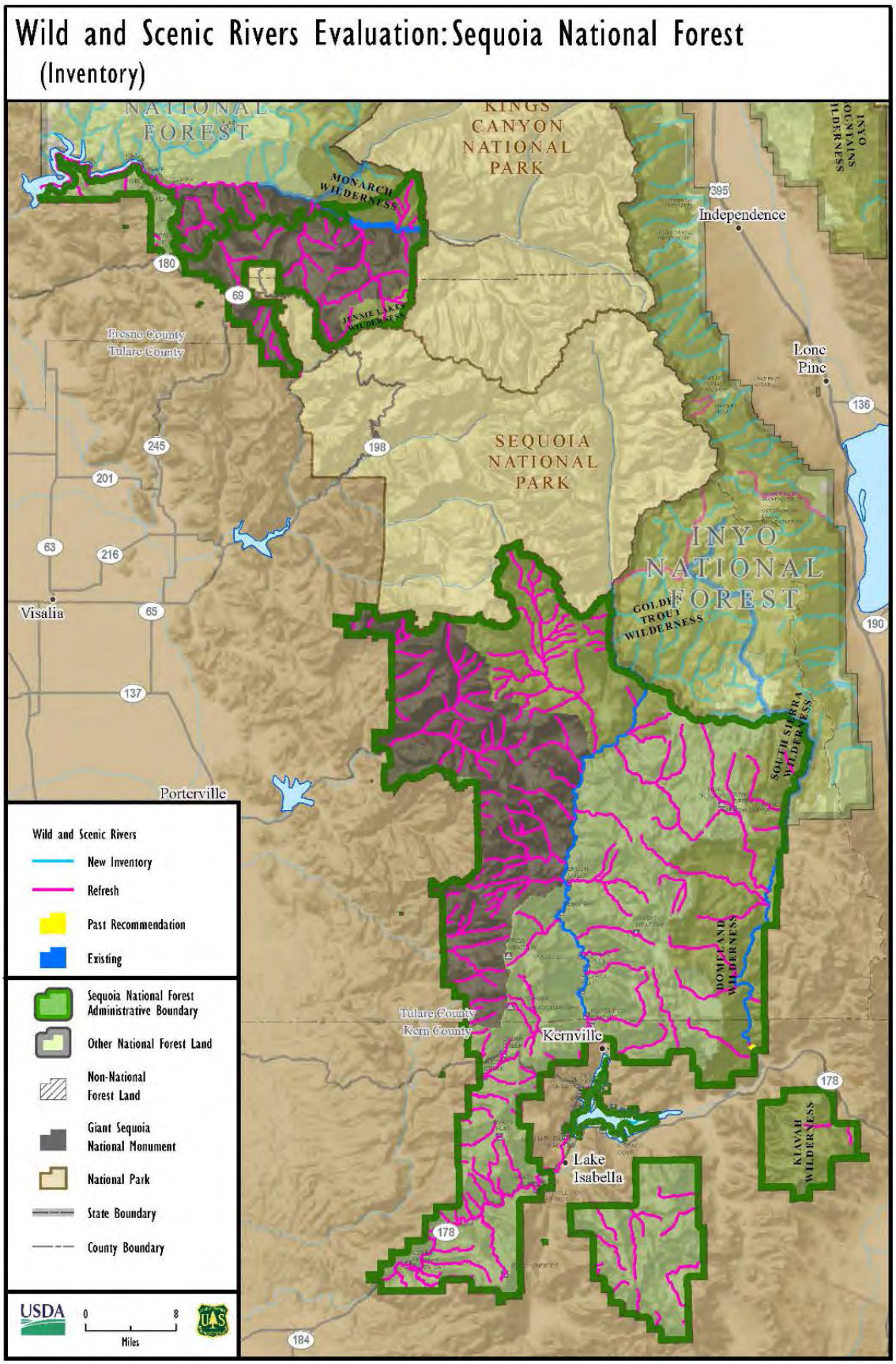

Figure C-75. Sequoia National Forest wild and scenic rivers inventory map

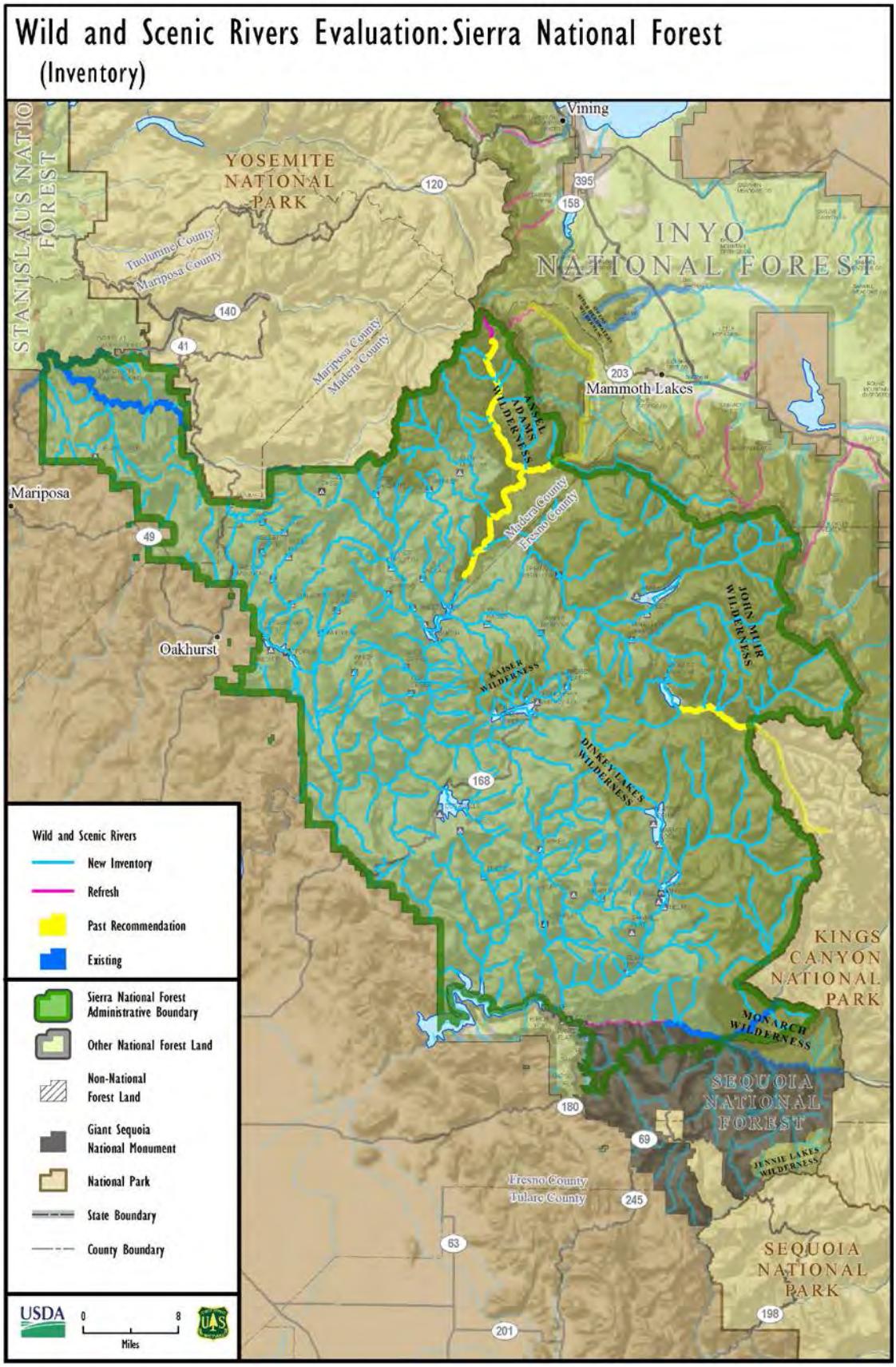

Figure C-76. Sierra National Forest wild and scenic rivers inventory map

Process Used to Evaluate Each River in the Inventory for Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

The primary function of the evaluation step is to assess each river in the inventory to determine if it is eligible to be considered as a potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. To be considered eligible, a river must have free flow and at least one identified outstandingly remarkable value. The process for evaluation is different depending on if a previous evaluation for eligibility occurred. The processes used for review of new inventory that has never been evaluated for eligibility, and inventory that has previously been reviewed for eligibility are described in detail below.

Process for the Review of Inventory Never Evaluated for Eligibility

1. Each national forest interdisciplinary team initially screened the new inventory and identified which rivers might potentially have river-related values for scenery, recreation, geology, fish (population/habitat), wildlife (population/habitat), prehistory, history or other river-related values such as botanical or ecological values. In this step, a determination was not made about the relative significance of the values, but identification was completed of values that could potentially be unique, rare, exemplary or significant at a regional or national scale. If no values were identified for a river, it was eliminated from further consideration. These findings were documented in the dataset.

2. Each interdisciplinary team determined if each river in the new inventory had free flow. If a river did not have free flow, it was eliminated from further consideration. These findings were documented in the dataset. Interdisciplinary teams used the description of "free flowing" as defined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act. Free flowing is defined as:

   > Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification. Low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures may be permitted, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Segments of rivers above or below impoundments can also qualify as free flowing. There is no established minimum size for eligibility, either in length or volume of flow. Flows are considered sufficient for eligibility if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated.

3. If a river was found to have at least one river-related value that could potentially be unique, rare, exemplary or significant at a regional or national scale, and it also had free flow, it was identified for more detailed review by the interdisciplinary team to determine if the values were outstandingly remarkable values. If a river did not have at least one river-related value that could potentially be unique, rare, exemplary or significant at a regional or national scale, it was eliminated from further consideration. These findings were documented in the dataset.

4. Each national forest interdisciplinary team established a region of comparison for evaluating the river-related values. If the regions of comparison from previous eligibility reviews could be found, these were used for consistency. In some previous efforts, this information was not documented.

5. The national forest interdisciplinary teams established criteria to evaluate each identified river-related value. The baseline criteria are described in the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council technical paper "The Wild and Scenic River Study Process." If the interdisciplinary team used additional criterion for any of the outstandingly remarkable values, they are described in the results of the inventory sections of this document for each forest.

6. Using the region of comparison and outstandingly remarkable values criteria, each interdisciplinary team used the best available science and information to evaluate each river. The findings for each river evaluated were documented in the dataset and in narrative descriptions.
7. If a river was determined to be eligible, the interdisciplinary team assigned a classification based on the current condition of each of the following attributes: water resources development, shoreline development, accessibility and water quality.
8. Findings for each river evaluated are documented in a dataset and in the narratives in the new inventory sections for each forest that follows at the end of this appendix. Each narrative includes the following:
    - river/segment geographic information system number
    - river/segment name
    - location
    - county where the river is located
    - beginning point description
    - end point description
    - mileage of the total length studied and the total length found eligible
    - eligibility findings
    - a determination of free flow
    - determination of outstandingly remarkable values including a description and outstandingly remarkable values finding for each value that was examined
    - a summary of eligibility findings
9. Classification: This section was completed only if a river was found to be eligible. The original reach studied may have been broken into multiple segments if necessary for classification. If segments were created, the beginning and end points and mileage for each segment are described along with the current condition of each of the attributes (water resources development, shoreline development, accessibility, and water quality). A preliminary classification of “wild, “scenic” or “recreational” is assigned.

Process for Review of Inventory Previously Evaluated for Eligibility

1. Each national forest interdisciplinary team gathered, reviewed, described and referenced documentation of any previous wild and scenic river evaluation(s) that were completed on the forest and summarized the previous evaluation(s).
2. Each interdisciplinary team, using the best available science, information and public comments, determined if there were any changed conditions or new information since the previous evaluation(s). The review included looking at any previously evaluated rivers that were found to have river-related values, both those previously found eligible and those that were not. If new information or changed conditions were identified, these were described in the evaluation narrative documentation.
3. If new information or changed conditions were present, each forest interdisciplinary team then determined if the new information affected the previous findings for eligibility and preliminary classification for previously evaluated rivers or river segments.

4. If new information or changed conditions resulted in changes in the previous finding for free flow, outstandingly remarkable values, or classification, the interdisciplinary team provided an updated discussion of findings for each river or river segment using the same format as described in item 8 in the new inventory process. The region of comparison and outstandingly remarkable values criteria were the same used for the review of the new inventory.
5. For all previously evaluated rivers reaffirmed as eligible with no changes based on the interdisciplinary review, the record was checked to make sure that good narrative information existed. If the record was lacking the equivalent level of information and description as was completed for the new inventory, the interdisciplinary team completed an updated narrative.

Summary of Public Input on Wild and Scenic Rivers

The public provided input on the wild and scenic rivers within the three national forests through two avenues: input during the November 2013 Assessment phase on the Assessment Topic Papers for Designated Areas prepared by each national forest; and through comments provided on the notice of intent and proposed action. In general, the comments provided input on four topics:

1. comprehensive river management plans for existing wild and scenic rivers;
2. the wild and scenic river study process the three national forests should undertake during forest plan revision;
3. outstandingly remarkable values of rivers and streams within the three national forests that are not designated wild and scenic rivers; and
4. plan components for wild and scenic rivers that should be included in forest plan revision.

There were also a limited number of comments expressing support for or against additional wild and scenic river designations on the three national forests. The following is a summary of these comments:

Comments addressing forest plan revision and comprehensive river management plans for designated rivers:

- The forest plan revision should include a process and timeline to update the existing comprehensive river management plans for the North and South Forks of the Kern River, Kings River, and Merced Rivers because of changed circumstances, including potential impacts to outstandingly remarkable values and increases in the nonboating recreation use, particularly on the North Fork of the Kern River.
- The forest plan revision should include a process and timeline to complete comprehensive river management plans for the Upper Owens River Headwaters and Cottonwood Creek.
- The Forest Service should adopt interim measures to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of wild and scenic rivers until comprehensive river management plans are updated or completed.
- The comprehensive river management plan for the Upper Owens River Headwaters should identify the outstandingly remarkable recreational, geological, wildlife, and botanical-ecological values of upper Deadman Creek.

Comments addressing the study process and eligibility or suitability determinations during forest plan revision:

- The Forest Service should complete a new study process for wild and scenic rivers during forest plan revision, including a comprehensive inventory of potentially eligible streams, and suitability studies for eligible streams. For previously inventoried rivers, new information or changed conditions should trigger updates to the inventory.
- Suitability determinations are not necessary during forest plan revision, and should be deferred until triggered by either a conservation or development proposal.
- During forest plan revision, the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests should complete suitability determinations for streams that have been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National System because each national forest made this commitment through settlement agreements on their current land and resource management plans during the early 1990s.
- During forest plan revision, the Sierra National Forest should conduct a study process for rivers that were not included in the National River Inventory because of commitments it made in its 1992 record of decision for its land and resource management plan.
- The Forest Service should complete suitability studies during forest plan revision because if they don't complete these studies a separate National Environmental Policy Act environmental analysis would be required, which would presumably mean additional staff costs. Also, individual suitability evaluations limit the context of river decisions presented to the public.
- The Forest Service should retain the suitability determination of several rivers it has previously recommended for inclusion in the National System.

Comments on the Inyo National Forest study process:

- The Forest Service should coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to complete a suitability determination for eligible segments of Rock Creek and Hot Creek, and complete the study process for Big Pine, Lone Pine, George, and Independence Creeks.
- There are changed circumstances on the streams entering Mono Lake that warrant a new study process for these streams, which include Rush Creek, Lee Vining Creek, and Parker Creek.
- The study process should include Dexter Canyon, Wet Canyon, Black Canyon, Marble Canyon, and Birch Creek.
- The study process should reexamine streams identified as eligible by the Inyo National Forest in 1993 in order to identify any additional outstandingly remarkable values.

Comments on the Sequoia National Forest study process:

- The Forest Service should coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management on the suitability study of the lower Kern River because the Bureau of Land Management administers the upper 3.2 miles of the river segment.
- The Forest Service should determine the suitability of the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Tule River to fulfill its commitment made in the 1990 appeal settlement agreement.
- The Forest Service should determine the suitability of the unprotected segments of the Kings River during forest plan revision.

Comments on the Sierra National Forest study process:

- The Forest Service should retain the recommendation for designation of the upper San Joaquin, North Fork San Joaquin, and Middle Fork San Joaquin Rivers it made in the 1992 Record of Decision for the Land and Resource Management Plan. In addition, the changed circumstances on the South Fork San Joaquin, which now has partially restored flows, should be evaluated during the study process.
- The Forest Service should amend its wild and scenic river recommendation for the main stem San Joaquin to include the lower two miles of the main stem because there are no plans for expansion of the Mammoth Pool Reservoir.
- The Forest Service should include Dinkey Creek in the study process because it is free-flowing and possesses outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, geological, botanical, fisheries, and wildlife values.
- The Forest Service should include reaches on the following streams in its study process because they are free-flowing and off outstanding whitewater recreation and scenic values: Big Creek, North Fork Willow Creek, Big Creek (tributary of San Joaquin River), Big Creek (tributary of Kings River), North Fork Kings River, Helms Creek, Mono Creek, Bear Creek, and Granite Creek.

Input on outstandingly remarkable values

- Hot Creek (Inyo National Forest) provides outstanding Class II whitewater opportunities.
- The San Joaquin River (Sierra National Forest) has outstandingly remarkable geological values due to its glacially carved canyons.
- The South Fork Merced River (Sierra National Forest) has outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating opportunities.
- The North and South Fork of the Kern River and the Kings and South Fork Kings Rivers have outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating opportunities.

Input on plan components

- The desired conditions for wild and scenic rivers should include maintaining and enhancing river flow conditions for recreation.
- The desired condition statement for wild and scenic rivers should be more extensive, such as the statement contained in the Sierra Nevada Framework document.
- Guidelines for wild and scenic rivers should include the protection of in-stream flows for recreational values.
- To organize the wild and scenic river components, the plan's management areas should include one or more geographic areas for wild and scenic rivers.
- The Forest Service should not include any plan elements that limit fish stocking or limit angling on wild and scenic rivers.
- Any potential contribution of timber from designated wild and scenic rivers to the timber sale program needs to be described in the plan components.

Input in general support of additional wild and scenic rivers

- Wild and scenic rivers are places where wildlife can live and thrive relatively undisturbed.

Input that did not support additional Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Additional wild and scenic river designations would limit the agency's ability to make the forest more fire resilient.
- The South Fork Kings River upstream from its confluence with the North Fork Kings and Pinkey (sic) Creek should be excluded from consideration because of they are potential sites for hydroelectric projects.

Results of the Evaluation

Inyo National Forest

New Inventory

Step 1: Review of the new inventory to determine if each river (or portion of river) has free flow and at least one river-related value that could potentially be regional or nationally significant.

How the Inyo National Forest interdisciplinary team initially screened the new inventory and identified which rivers have free flow.

The Inyo interdisciplinary team used the description of "free flowing" as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. All segments not in the previous inventory and all currently eligible rivers and streams were evaluated using this definition. Free flowing is defined as "existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification. . . Low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures may be permitted, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Segments of rivers above or below impoundments can also qualify as free flowing. There is no established minimum size for eligibility, either in length or volume of flow. Flows are considered sufficient for eligibility if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated."

Free flow was determined based on information in the Inyo National Forest files including the special uses database and anecdotal references from employees involved in land management decision making processes. Using the definition of free flowing as described above, the Inyo determined that the creeks within this study are free flowing. Although not all are georeferenced, the staff at the Inyo has knowledge of impoundments of creeks by Southern California Edison, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Recreation Special uses permit holders, and other permit holders with water rights on the creeks within the Inyo National Forest.

The following rivers were analyzed and determined to be free-flowing:

Adobe Creek
Alger Creek
Ash Creek
Bairs Creek
Baker Creek
Barigan Stringer
Beartrack Creek
Beer Creek
Birch Creek
Bishop Creek
Boundary Creek
Braley Creek
Brownie Creek
Busher Creek
Cabin Creek
Carroll Creek
Cartago Creek
Chiatovich Creek
Cold Creek
Cold Water Creek
Convict Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Cow Creek
Crater Creek
Crest Creek
Crooked Creek
Davis Creek
Dechambeau Creek
Deer Creek
Dexter Creek
Diaz Creek
Division Creek
Dry Creek
East Fork Coyote Creek
East Fork Rock Creek
Egypt Creek
Falls Creek
Fern Creek
Fish Creek
Freeman Creek
Fuller Creek
Furnace Creek
Gable Creek
Goodale Creek
Gunter Creek
Haiwee Creek
Hell for Sure Creek
Hells Hole Creek
Hilton Creek
Hogback Creek
Honeybee Creek
Hot Creek
Huntoon Creek
Hutchinson Creek
Indian Creek
Indian Garden Creek
Inyo Creek
Iron Creek
Johnson Creek
Kern Peak Stringer
King Creek
Kingfisher Stringer
Lamarck Creek
Laurel Creek
Lee Vining Creek
Left Stringer
Leidy Creek
Lewis Stringer
Little Cottonwood Creek
Little Hot Creek
Little Pine Creek
Loco Creek
Lone Pine Creek
Lone Tree Creek

Long Canyon Creek
Long Stringer
Lost Trout Creek
Malpais Creek
Mammoth Creek
Marble Creek
McAfee Creek
McGee Creek
McLaughlin Creek
Meysan Creek
Middle Creek
Middle Fork Bishop Creek
Mill Creek
Millner Creek
Minaret Creek
Mine Creek
Monache Creek
Montgomery Creek
Morgan Creek
Morris Creek
Movie Stinger
Ninemile Creek
N. Fork Bairs Creek
N. Fork Big Pine Creek
N. Fork Birch Creek
N. Fork Bishop Creek
N. Fork Chiatovich Creek
N. Fork Crooked Creek
N. Fork Lamarck Creek
N. Fork Lone Pine Creek
N. Fork Lubken Creek
N. Fork McAfee Creek
N. Fork Oak Creek
N. Fork Perry Aiken Creek
N. Fork Willow Creek
O'Harrel Canyon Creek
Oak Creek
Olancha Creek
Onion Creek
Owens River
Pelisier Creek
Perry Aiken Creek
Pinchot Creek
Pine Creek
Pinyon Creek
Piute Creek
Pizona Creek
Poison Creek
Purple Creek
Rawson Creek
Red Mountain Creek
Redrock Creek
Reds Creek
Reversed Creek
Right Stringer
Rock Creek
Rough Creek
Round Mountain Stringer
Rush Creek
Sawmill Creek
Schaeffer Stringer
Shadow Creek
Shepherd Creek
Sherwin Creek
Snake Creek
Soda Creek
S. Fork Ash Creek
S. Fork Big Pine Creek
S. Fork Birch Creek
S. Fork Chiatovich Creek
S. Fork Cottonwood Creek
S. Fork Kern River
S. Fork Lubken Creek
S. Fork McAfee Creek
S. Fork Oak Creek
S. Fork Perry Aiken Creek
S. Fork Willow Creek
Stokes Stringer
Strawberry Creek
Summit Creek
Symmes Creek
Taboose Creek
Thibaut Creek
Tinemaha Creek
Toler Creek
Trail Creek
Tres Plumas Creek
Tuttle Creek
Unnamed Perennial
Volcanic Creek
Walker Creek
Warren Fork
Waucoba Wash
West Stringer
Wet Creek
Whisky Creek
Wildhorse Creek
Wilfred Creek
Williamson Creek
Willow Creek
Wilson Creek
Witcher Creek
Wyman Creek
Yost Creek

How the Inyo National Forest interdisciplinary team initially screened the new inventory and identified which rivers might potentially have river-related values

The Inyo interdisciplinary team reviewed the comprehensive inventory (developed during the fall, 2014), which includes all named streams on the USGS 7.5 minute quads. The inventory included approximately 969 miles of river that had never previously been assessed for eligibility. On all of these rivers, the interdisciplinary team identified if any scenery, recreation, geology, history, prehistory, fish, wildlife, ecological or botanical river-related values were present that could potentially be an outstandingly remarkable value. The intent of this assessment was to identify those rivers with values, and the specific types of values on those rivers, that had the potential to be outstandingly remarkable. The criteria, as the interdisciplinary team applied it to the Inyo National Forest, is summarized below.

Scenery – The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. The interdisciplinary team identified streams that had features, such as cascades, waterfalls, and aspen stands. Scenic landscapes are common within the region of comparison and attract visitors from outside the region; however, the interdisciplinary team identified streams with potential values for scenery based on the presence of the river. In many cases, scenery was identified where unique geologic features are present.

Recreation – Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Recreation opportunities within the region of comparison are diverse and attract visitors from outside the region. Common recreation activities include developed and dispersed camping, picnicking and day use, hiking, mountain biking, off-highway vehicles, fishing, sightseeing, and general forest exploration. Unique or rare recreation opportunities within the region of comparison would include unique fishing opportunities for golden trout or wild trout populations, boating, and sightseeing and photography related to outstanding scenery values.

Geology – The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. Potential outstanding values for geology included glacial features, volcanic features, and unique rock formations.

Fisheries – The presence of wild stocks, or federal or state-listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or the river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for these fisheries. Streams with threatened, endangered or sensitive amphibian species were also considered. Within the region of comparison, streams with Sierra and mountain yellow-legged frog, Owens tui-chub, golden trout, or a wild trout fishery were identified as having potentially outstanding values.

Wildlife – The presence of wildlife species considered to be unique and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or provide exceptionally high quality habitat for these species. Yosemite toad is a federally listed species identified as a potentially outstandingly remarkable value within the region of comparison.

Prehistory and History – Sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans that have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest values(s) or site(s) or features associated with a significant historical event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Most of the cultural sites on the Inyo National Forest have not been formally researched or evaluated to determine its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Streams with prehistoric or historic associations or apparent cultural site concentrations that have the potential to be found unique, rare or of exceptional human interest were identified as having potentially outstanding values.

Other (Ecological and Botanical Values) – Unique and rare plants, vegetation types, and ecosystems were identified using the Inyo's Potential Natural Vegetation (2012 TEUI) data set. Vegetation types, such as aspen, cottonwood, oaks, dry forb, alkali flat and other features that support unique ecosystems, such as glaciers, rock glaciers, cinder cones, mafic metamorphics, and carbonates were identified.

Table C-2. Results of the initial review of the inventory for river-related values and free flow on the Inyo National Forest

Inventory Measurement	Total	New Inventory Determined to Have Free Flow	New Inventory with Potentially Significant River-Related Values
Number of GIS Segments	227	227	37
Number of Miles	969	969	191

Step 2: Completion of an eligibility assessment on the rivers in the new inventory that have been determined to have free flow and at least one potentially regionally or nationally significant river-related value.

The 37 segments (191 miles) of rivers that were determined in the previous step to have both free flow and river-related values that could potentially be outstandingly remarkable were studied in more detail by the interdisciplinary team. Using the criteria outlined in "The Wild and Scenic River Study Process" technical paper (IWSRCC, December 1999) the interdisciplinary team identified rivers that had outstandingly remarkable values. In addition the following criteria were used by the team:

Ecological and botanical outstandingly remarkable values are identified under "Other." Unique and rare plants, vegetation types, and ecosystems were selected from the following criteria:

1. Vegetation types – aspen, cottonwood, oaks, dry forb, alkali flat, using the Inyo National Forest Potential Natural Vegetation (2012 TEUI) dataset. These types are sometimes, though not always, river-related.
2. Geomorphology – glaciers, rock glaciers, cinder cones (all support unique ecosystems); from TEUI dataset.
3. Geology – mafic metamorphics, carbonates (also support unique ecosystems); from TEUI.
4. Rare plants – NRIS/corporate data.

Region of Comparison Used for the Eligibility Assessment

The Inyo National Forest interdisciplinary team used the southeastern subregions of the assessment area identified in the final Bioregional Assessment Report (USDA Forest Service 2012) for the region of comparison for evaluating scenery, recreation, geology, fisheries, wildlife, and "other" outstandingly remarkable values. This area includes the southern Sierra Nevada and Great Basin and Desert areas of eastern California, approximately from the Bodie Hills in the north, to Owens Lake in the southeast, and including portions of the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests.

History and Prehistory Region of Comparison: Heritage resources constitute a broad array of site types associated with many different themes of human occupation and use of the landscape from prehistory to history. The region of comparison for assessing individual sites is likewise variable. The relative importance, significance and uniqueness of a cultural property at a local, state, regional or national level is considered when research is conducted to determine its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A majority of documented cultural sites on the Inyo National Forest have not been formally researched or evaluated; as a result, the region of comparison at which they may be found significant is not known. For the purposes of evaluating outstandingly remarkable values within the wild and scenic river region of comparison, historic features that have, or have the potential to have, remarkable or outstanding qualities, although largely undocumented in an eligibility study from the perspective of heritage resource, were noted as affecting and providing a unique recreation experience. Outstandingly remarkable values must:

1. be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river);
2. contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
3. owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

Results of the Eligibility Review of New Inventory:
Rivers Determined to be All or Partially Eligible

Fish Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.053)

Location:

- County: Madera and Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Confluence with Middle Fork San Joaquin River

Mileage:

- Studied: 20.4
- Eligible: 20.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic river corridor including waterfalls, granite cascades, and soda springs.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Popular hiking trail within the Ansel Adams Wilderness.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Description: Includes granite features, like rounded boulders that add to the uniqueness of the scenery.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries**:
  - Description: Planted rainbow and brook trout fishery, no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **History**:
  - Description: No known historic or prehistoric sites within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Fish Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification:

Located within Ansel Adams Wilderness, Fish Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Results of the Eligibility Review of New Inventory: Rivers Determined to be All or Partially Eligible

Fish Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.053)

Location:

- County: Madera and Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Confluence with Middle Fork San Joaquin River

Mileage:

- Studied: 20.4
- Eligible: 20.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic river corridor including waterfalls, granite cascades, and soda springs.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Popular hiking trail within the Ansel Adams Wilderness.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Description: Includes granite features, like rounded boulders that add to the uniqueness of the scenery.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries**:
  - Description: Planted rainbow and brook trout fishery, no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **History**:
  - Description: No known historic or prehistoric sites within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Fish Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification:

Located within Ansel Adams Wilderness, Fish Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Results of the Eligibility Review of New Inventory: Rivers Determined to be Not Eligible

The interdisciplinary team applied the criteria for the region of comparison and the criteria for outstandingly remarkable values to all of the stream segments identified in the initial inventory as having free flow and at least one river-related value. The following streams are a subset of the streams that were identified as potentially having river-related values and were studied in more detail by the interdisciplinary team to determine of any of those values were outstandingly remarkable values. However, after further review by the Inyo interdisciplinary team, it was determined that these streams did not have any outstandingly remarkable values and are not eligible.

- Alger Creek
- Ash Creek
- Beartrack Creek
- Bishop Creek
- Crater Creek
- Crest Creek
- Deer Creek
- Dexter Creek
- Diaz Creek
- Division Creek
- Dry Creek
- Egypt Creek
- Little Hot Creek
- Mine Creek
- Mammoth Creek
- Morgan Creek
- North Fork Crooked Creek
- O'Harrel Canyon Creek
- Pine Creek
- Reds Creek
- Reversed Creek
- Sherwin Creek
- South Fork Birch Creek

The following are the factors for each type of value that was examined by the team and led to the determination that the values present were not outstandingly remarkable:

Scenery: Does not contain notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions.

Recreation: Does not provide recreation opportunities that would be considered unique or rare. There are no unique recreational fishing opportunities, boating, or other recreation opportunities that would be considered unique when considered within the region of comparison.

Geology: Does not contain geologic features or process that would be considered unique or rare.

Fisheries: Does not contain populations of wild stocks and/or federally listed species nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species. The Sierra and mountain yellow-legged frog are federally listed species and some populations occur within stream channels between lakes. Frogs typically reside in lakes and ponds, and very stream dwelling populations have all but disappeared throughout the Inyo National Forest. The Owens tui chub, a native fish that historically occupied every very slow-water area of the Owens River, is now relegated to four known locations within Long Valley. Although this fish would be considered an outstandingly remarkable value due to its rarity and federal endangered status, in absence of a barrier to exclude other larger nonnative, predatory fish, these areas of historical habitat can no longer support the tui chub. This fish now can only exist in and above impounded reservoirs that exclude other larger fish. There habitat would not meet the criteria for wild and scenic river status.

Wildlife: Several of these creeks were identified as having Yosemite toad populations occurring within the ¼ mile corridor. However, it was determined that the presence of Yosemite toad is these areas is not unique within the region of comparison. Yosemite toad populations are found throughout the high elevation mountain meadow systems in this region. In addition, Yosemite toads are dependent upon meadow and upland systems that may be found adjacent to flowing water systems, but they are not dependent upon them. Small pools of low flowing water provide breeding areas, while meadows and upland habitat provide for the majority of Yosemite toads life cycle.

Prehistory and History: Many of these creeks were identified as having cultural values within the ¼ mile river corridor; however, no cultural properties are known to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A majority of the documented cultural resources have not been investigated, researched or formally evaluated against National Register criteria to assess their potential significance at local, regional and national levels. It is not known if any qualify as unique, rare or of exceptional human interest in order to support the identification of an ORV for these streams at this time.

Review of Previously Evaluated Inventory

Description of Previous Studies Completed

The Inyo National Forest completed an eligibility study of 326 miles of river segments found on 28 streams on the forest, which is documented in a series of memos between 1990 and 1993. From this study, the staff determined that 169 miles of river segments on 19 streams met the eligibility criteria. Another 157 miles of river segments on 9 streams did not meet the eligibility criteria, along with a few segments of streams with eligible segments. The 9 streams determined as not eligible include the following: Baker Creek, Coyote Creek, George Creek, Horton Creek, Independence Creek, Mulkey Creek, Ninemile Creek, Redrock Creek, and Rush Creek.

Additionally, the portions of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin on the Inyo National Forest had been determined eligible and found suitable as part of the 1986 Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan DEIS, Appendix E as shown in Table C-3. In 1992 the four segments of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River were found as suitable and are currently being managed as a recommended wild and scenic river.

Table C-3. Middle Fork San Joaquin River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the Sierra National Forest DEIS and determined Suitable in the 1991 Sierra National Forest LRMP

Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3*	Segment 4
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Scenery Recreation Geology Fish	Scenery Recreation Geology	Scenery Recreation Geology	Scenery Recreation Geology
Beginning and Ending Points	Headwaters at Thousand Island Lake to Agnew Meadows (6.0 miles)	Agnew Meadows to Soda Springs footbridge (4.5 miles)	Soda Springs footbridge to Rainbow Falls (2.5 miles)	Rainbow Falls to confluence with North Fork San Joaquin (9.0 miles)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	Yes	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No	No
Classification	Wild	Recreational	Scenic	Wild

*Note: Segments 1 and Segment 2 are on the Inyo National Forest. Segment 3 is on both the Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument. Segment 4 is on the Inyo and Sierra National Forests.

Process the Inyo National Forest Interdisciplinary Team Used to Determine if There Are Any Changed Conditions or New Information since the Previous Evaluation(s)

To determine if there were any changed conditions or new information since these evaluations, the interdisciplinary team considered: newly federal listed species; changes to management within previously eligible streams; historical records; and any changes to the outstandingly remarkable values identified for these rivers. The team determined that all the previously eligible rivers should be brought forward as eligible in this review. This was due to two factors: 1) the previous studies were conducted prior to the availability of "The Wild and Scenic River Study Process," which outlines the steps, definitions, and criteria used in evaluation, and 2) the 1990s study record does not give a clear indication of what made the outstandingly remarkable values a unique, rare, or exemplary feature at a regional or national scale. In addition to these factors, the majority of these streams were identified as eligible as part of a settlement agreement and a decision was made that they should continue to be considered eligible because of this status.

Eligibility was reaffirmed on all previously eligible rivers. None of the rivers that were previously found to be not eligible were found eligible in this review. On the reaffirmed eligible rivers, outstandingly remarkable values were reviewed and were updated based on the new information or changed conditions resulting in some changes to the specific values identified for each river.

Results of the Eligibility Review for Previously Evaluated Rivers
Previous Eligibility Reaffirmed

Convict Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.03)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Convict Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 7.0 miles
- Eligible: 7.0 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs): The 1991 documentation (3/22/91 memo) determined ORVs for scenery and geology. The 2015 review noted high quality aspen and cottonwood stands, largely maintained by strong water flow with frequent flooding regime. The interdisciplinary team determined that Convict Creek has ORVs for scenery, geology, and "other."

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Scenic creek canyon with numerous lakes and outstanding geologic features, and the Sierra Crest as a backdrop.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for nonnative trout species, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: No known historic or prehistoric sites within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology:**
  - Description: widely varied geologic formations providing visible evidence of geologic processes spanning 150 million years: Mount Morrison roof pendant; Sevenhall cliff; Bright Dot formation; Mount Baldwin Marble; Mildred Lake Hornfelds; highly visible from trail.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Botanical
  - Riparian corridor supports numerous rare plants, including moonworts, snow willow, Rolland's bulrush, Bellardi bog sedge, shortfruit willow, and kinnikinnik; Outstanding carbonate and metamorphic formations (roof pendant), with unique plant communities and rare species.
  - ORV Finding: Vegetation is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Convict Creek from the Headwaters to Convict Lake is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, geology and other - botanical are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Located within John Muir Wilderness, Convict Creek, segment 1 has been given a classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cottonwood Creek (Sierra), Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.104.1)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02 (Horseshoe Meadows Road)

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.7 miles
- Eligible: 4.7 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1991 documentation (3/22/91 memo) noted that Cottonwood Creek has ORVs for scenery, recreation, and fisheries.

- **Scenery**
  - Scenic forested creek corridor with breaks with vistas of nearby Sierra Crest, transects large, open Horseshoe Meadows.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout species, and camping occur along the creek. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Large, high elevation meadow with little evidence of glaciation is unique in the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Habitat) and (Fish Population):**
  - Description: Pristine environment for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout. Only stream population of golden trout in the area.
  - ORV Finding: Fish is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cottonwood Creek from the Headwaters to NFS Road 16S02 (Horseshoe Meadows Road) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, fish (habitat) and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Based on the current condition of developments and shoreline access, Segment 1 from the Headwaters to the wilderness boundary (2.0 miles) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild." Segment 2 from the wilderness boundary to NFS Road 16S02 (2.7 miles) has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic." Note: The 1991 evaluation assigned the preliminary classification as "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Upper section is essentially primitive, with little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Segment 1: Upper section is generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Segment 1: Unknown.

Cottonwood Creek, Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.04.2)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02
- End Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) land east of the Old Cottonwood Sawmill site.

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.4 miles
- Eligible: 1.4 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Little information was noted from the 1990s study for Cottonwood Creek. The 3/22/91 memo noted campsites along the road on Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) land and it was determined to have ORVs for recreation.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Largely forested area, with occasional openings and views of Trail peak. Along the roaded portion of the creek, stock corrals and fences, and a snow survey cabin are visible from the creek.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout species, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.

- ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: Geologic formations nearby include trail peak and Owens point, no unique features within the corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population):**
  - Description: Unique fishing experience for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout in an area easily accessed by road.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cottonwood Creek from Forest Road 16S02 to LADWP land is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

This segment has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment
- Shoreline Development: Evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cottonwood Creek, Segment 3 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.04.3)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) land east of the Old Cottonwood Sawmill site.
- End Point Description: Golden Trout Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.9 miles
- Eligible: 3.9 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Little information was noted from the 1990s study for Cottonwood Creek.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Largely forested area, with openings and views of Owens dry lake and the Owens Valley.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and (very little) camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. This segment of Cottonwood Creek is remote, overgrown, access to the creek is limited due to the steep canyon walls, and does not draw visitation from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: No unique features within the creek corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: The 3/22/91 memo noted historic sawmill (cut for charcoal for Cerro Gordo mines) and it was determined to have ORV for historic. The 1/21/15 interdisciplinary team review noted that the significance of cultural sites has not been assessed.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population)**
  - Description: Unique fishing experience for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout in an area easily accessed by road.
  - ORV Finding: Fish is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cottonwood Creek from LADWP to wilderness boundary is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

This segment has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Minimal historic impoundments associated with the Cottonwood Creek power plant downstream, and the Sawmill operations upstream.
- Shoreline Development: little evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Accessible by road at both termini.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cottonwood Creek, Segment 4 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.04.4)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Golden Trout Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Intake in Section 27 just east of Forest Service Road 17S01

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.1 miles

- Eligible: 2.1 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Little information was noted from the 1990s study for this segment of Cottonwood Creek.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Largely forested area, with openings and views of Owens dry lake and the Owens Valley
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. Likely not attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. This segment of Cottonwood Creek is in close proximity to NFS Road 17S01.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: No unique features within the creek corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: No known historic sites
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population):**
  - Description: Unique fishing experience for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout in an area easily accessed by road.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cottonwood Creek from the Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to the intake in Section 27 is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

This segment has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Impoundments associated with the Cottonwood Creek power plant.
- Shoreline Development: Cottonwood power plant and associated buildings visible from the creek, established dispersed camping along the creek and adjacent to the road.
- Accessibility: Accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Golden Trout Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.07)

Location:

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning Point: Headwaters above Big Whitney Meadows
- End Point Description: Confluence with the Kern River

Mileage:

- Studied: 19 miles
- Eligible: 19 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1991 documentation (3/22/91 memo) noted, Volcano Falls (about 100 feet high), natural rock bridge, volcanic domes, lava flows, vegetative diversity (from alpine meadows to chinquapin, manzanita), tunnel feud in 1880s (water diversion to serve for irrigation for farmers in what is the area covered by Lake Isabella) golden trout fishery and determined ORVs for scenery, geology, and fisheries. The 2015 interdisciplinary team review noted, least compromised golden trout populations. The findings were consistent with the 1991 documentation.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic creek corridor, with vegetative diversity from alpine meadows to chinquapin and manzanita, with Sierra Crest as back drop, woodlands and unique geological formations.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. These are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison, but not to the same degree as other creeks within the region of comparison. Golden Trout Creek was the home of one of California's earliest water wars at Tunnel Meadows, where it has been reported that a clandestine tunnel was built to transfer water from the Owens Valley watershed to the Kern River Watershed.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Evidence of unique volcanic activity including 100 foot-high Volcano Falls natural rock bridge, volcanic domes, and lava flows.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Creek corridor was the home of one of California's earliest water wars at Tunnel Meadows, where it has been reported that a clandestine tunnel was built to transfer water from the Owens Valley watershed to the Kern River Watershed.

- ORV Findings: Potential significance of historic resources has not been adequately assessed to determine whether it is there is a historic ORV. History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Fisheries (Population):**
  - Description: Least compromised population of Golden Trout occurs here; this population is significant to the species ability to thrive in the future.
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Golden Trout Creek from the Headwaters to the Kern River is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, geology and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Located within Golden Trout Wilderness, Golden Trout Creek, Segment 1 has been given a classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Hot Creek, Segment 3 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.109.2)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Fish Hatchery
- End Point Description: Forest boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.9 miles
- Eligible: 2.9 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Highly Scenic creek corridor with dramatic views of the Sierra Crest, Scenic geologic formations.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Primarily a day hiking and fishing destination, world class fishery and views of the remnants of the Long Valley Caldera provide a unique recreation setting.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Remnants of the Long Valley Caldera are evident in the form of unique geological features including thermal pools, surface thermal flow and fumarols.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population):**
  - Wild Trout Fishery offers a world-class Blue Ribbon Fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Hot Creek from the fish hatchery to the Forest boundary is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, geology and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Hot Creek, Segment 3 has been given a classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Some development.
- Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Laurel Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.11)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) property

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.8 miles
- Eligible: 3.8 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, geology, and fisheries.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon with distinctive riparian vegetation
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare

within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.

- ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: Visible unique geologic features in canyon walls including very visible evidence of glaciation.
  - ORV Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Historic mining activity however, potential significance of historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORV.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population/Habitat):**
  - Description: Golden trout are found within Laurel Lake, but not downstream in this stream segment nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population/habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Laurel Creek from the wilderness boundary to LADWP property is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Laurel Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally accessible by 4-wheel-drive road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lee Vining Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.12.1)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters tributaries
- End Point Description: Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area (RNA) boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.5 miles
- Eligible: 1.5 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Lee Vining Creek, segment 1was determined to have ORVs for scenery in the 1990s.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon with views of several towering peaks and granitic walls
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated Alpine Peaks, with Conness Glacier at the headwaters
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lee Vining Creek from the Headwaters to the RNA boundary is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Lee Vining Creek, Segment 1 has been given a classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lee Vining Creek, (Upper Lee Vining Creek), Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.12.2)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area (RNA) boundary
- End Point Description : Greenstone Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 0.2 miles
- Eligible: 0.2 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 3/22/91 memo noted campgrounds, planted rainbow and brook trout, and trail to historic site. The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, geology, and historic sites.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic meadow systems below granite peaks.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Hiking opportunities to Bennettville mining center within proximity of the creek are a unique recreation opportunity.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Highly visible glacial feature (Conness Glacier).
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Historic mining activity however, Potential significance of historic resources (sawmill and trail to) have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries:**
  - Description: Planted rainbow and brook trout fishery, no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lee Vining Creek (Segment 2) from Saddlebag Lake to Highway 120 is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Upper Lee Vining Creek (Segment 2) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally accessible by 4-wheel-drive road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lee Vining Creek (Lower Lee Vining Creek), Segment 3 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.12.3)

Location:

- County: Mono County

- Beginning Point Description: Saddlebag Lake
- End Point Description: Highway 120

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.0 miles
- Eligible: 3.0 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Controlled at the dam at Saddlebag Lake; free-flowing until inlet at Ellery Lake and Highway 120.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, and geology.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon with distinctive riparian vegetation.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Although Bighorn sheep are not in the river corridor, the potential to view them from the river corridor is a unique recreation opportunity.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Highly visible glacial feature (Conness Glacier).
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: The potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist; heritage surveys have not been completed or evaluated for this segment.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lee Vining Creek from Saddlebag Lake to Highway 120 is eligible. It is free-flowing. Scenery, recreation and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Upper Lee Vining Creek (Segment 3) has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Some evidence of human occupation, parallels NFS Road 1N04 to the junction at Highway 120.
- Accessibility: Generally accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lee Vining Creek (Lower Lee Vining Creek), Segment 4 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.12.4)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Southern California Edison (SCE) Powerhouse
- End Pint Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) holding pond

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.0 miles
- Eligible: 6.0 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Controlled at SCE's powerhouse; diverted by LADWP for irrigation purposes downstream; diversion for the Lee Vining Public Utility for domestic water use; diversion at lower end for power purposes. Generally free flowing in between.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, and geology.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon with distinctive riparian vegetation.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Although bighorn sheep are not in the river corridor, the potential to view them from the river corridor is a unique recreation opportunity.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Visible geologic features within canyon, including Conness Glacier
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: The potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist; heritage surveys have not been completed or evaluated for this segment.

- ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lee Vining Creek (Section 4) from SCE powerhouse to LADWP diversion pond is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Lee Vining Creek (Segment 4) has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Some evidence of human occupation, nearby highway 395, the SCE powerhouse,
- Accessibility: Generally accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lone Pine Creek/North Fork Lone Pine Creek Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.13, 1.23)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: North Fork and South Fork Headwaters
- End Point Description: John Muir Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.7 miles
- Eligible: 4.7 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 3/22/91 memo noted extremely popular recreation area and determined ORVs for scenery and recreation. The 1/21/15 interdisciplinary team review noted recreation opportunity and use is tied to Mt. Whitney and designated wilderness, which is not necessarily river related.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon with views of several towering peaks and granitic walls.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.

Hiking opportunities to Mt. Whitney, within proximity of the creek are a unique recreation opportunity.

- ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: there are no unique geologic features relative to what is found throughout the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: The potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lone Pine Creek (Segment 1) from North Fork and South Fork headwaters to the John Muir Wilderness boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Lone Pine Creek (segment 1) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lone Pine Creek Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.087)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: John Muir Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Forest boundary near Lone Pine Campground

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.9 miles
- Eligible: 3.9 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 3/22/91 memo noted extremely popular recreation area and determined ORVs for scenery and recreation. The 1/21/15

interdisciplinary team review noted recreation opportunity and use is tied to Mt. Whitney and designated wilderness, which is not necessarily river related.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon with views of several towering peaks and granitic walls.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Hiking opportunities to Mt. Whitney, within proximity of the creek are a unique recreation opportunity. National Scenic Recreation Trail along creek.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: there are no unique geologic features relative to what is found throughout the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: The potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lone Pine Creek (segment 2) from John Muir Wilderness boundary to the forest boundary near Lone Pine Campground is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and Recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Lone Pine creek segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Developed along areas where trail is located and within campgrounds.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

McGee Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.16)

Location:

- County: Mono County

- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.7 miles
- Eligible: 6.7 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery and geology.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon. The diversity of vegetation and watercourse, and unique geology, including different striations of minerals within the canyon walls, is easily identifiable from trail.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping. Very popular hiking trail. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: No unique geologic features relative to what is found throughout the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: McGee Creek from Headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

McGee Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Middle Fork San Joaquin River (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.17)

Location:

- Ranger District: Mammoth
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters are from an unnamed lake southwest of Thousand Island Lake
- End Description: Middle Fork San Joaquin River at the northeast end of Thousand Island Lake
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness on the Inyo National Forest

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.5
- Eligible: 3.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Recreation**
  - Description: fishing for unique fish, natural occurring lakes, areas of rock climbing near headwaters, accessed by Pacific Crest Trail / John Muir Trail
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: This segment of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Middle Fork San Joaquin River has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Mill Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.18.1, 1.18.2)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters

- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.0 miles
- Eligible: 4.0 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery and geology.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon. Extremely scenic due to the diversity both in the watercourse and in the surrounding terrain and vegetation. The watercourse ranges from lakes to steep-dropping waterfalls, fast-moving cascades, and braided meadows. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping. Very popular hiking trail. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries:**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Mill Creek (segment 1) from headwaters to wilderness is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Located within the John Muir Wilderness, it has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Mill Creek (Segment 2) (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.18.3)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Private Property

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.4 miles
- Eligible: 1.4 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, geology, and historical.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping and picnicking along the creek. Very popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of Hess and Parrott Mine sites.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: The potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**

- Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
- ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Mill Creek (segment 2) from the wilderness boundary to private property is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

- Mill Creek (segment 2) has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:
- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Mill Creek (Segment 3) (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.18.4)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Private Property
- End Point Description: Lundy Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 0.8 miles
- Eligible: 0.8 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery and history. The 1/21/15 interdisciplinary team review noted 1880s Hess and Parrott Mine, mining activities.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic canyon. Aspen stands provide shade and fall colors. There are a few scenic overlooks of Lundy Canyon and Lundy Lake as a significant scenic spot.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping and picnicking along the creek. Popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of historic mining sites.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fisheries is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Mill Creek (Segment 3) from private property to Lundy Lake property is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Mill Creek (segment 3) it has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

North Fork Big Pine Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.22.1-1.22.2)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.5 miles
- Eligible: 5.5 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for nonnative trout species, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of

the region of comparison. Lon Chaney Cabin was designed by Paul Revere Williams, the first African American inducted in the American Association of Architects. The cabin is believed to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to its architectural distinction and associations with architect Paul Revere Williams and actor Lon Chaney. Although not registered, visiting this cabin is a unique recreation experience.

  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: Palisades Glacier in the headwaters which is a unique glacial feature.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: While a national register nomination has been drafted for the Lon Chaney Cabin, it has not been submitted and so a determination of the historic significance has not been completed.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - This creek does not contain populations of wild stocks and/or federally listed species nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species.
  - ORV Finding: Fish population and fish habitat are not outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Big Pine Creek from the Headwaters to the Wilderness boundary is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation and Geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Located within John Muir Wilderness, Big Pine Creek, segment 1 has been given a classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

North Fork Big Pine Creek/Big Pine Creek, Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Numbers: 1.02.2, 1.22.3, 1.22.4)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Private Property
- (Includes portions of the North Fork Big Pine Creek)

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.6 miles
- Eligible: 3.6 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Largely forested area, with occasional openings and views of spectacular geologic formations, traversed by Big Pine Creek trail. Along the roaded portion of the creek, recreation cabins, five campgrounds, pack station, resort and picnic area are visible from the creek.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for nonnative trout species, and camping occur along the creek; these recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Unique geology, Palisades Glacier in the headwaters is visible from openings in the trail and along the road.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries:**
  - Description: This creek does not contain populations of wild stocks and/or federally listed species nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species.
  - ORV Finding: Neither fish (population) nor fish (habitat) are an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Big Pine Creek, segment 2, from the wilderness boundary to private property is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

This segment has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Minimum impoundment associated with a small hydro-electric project at the Glacier lodge.
- Shoreline Development: Evidence of human activity: cabins, campgrounds, recreation residences, resort, paved road.

- Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Parker Creek (Segment 1) (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.25.1)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.5 miles
- Eligible: 4.5 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified an ORV for scenery.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: High country vistas and scenery, interesting geologic features of folds, waterfalls and cascades over the headwall.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing. Popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Parker Creek from Headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Parker Creek (segment 1) is within the Ansel Adams wilderness and has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rock Creek Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.27.1, 1.27.2)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Mack Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.2 miles
- Eligible: 1.2 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery and geology.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing. Popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **History**
  - Description: Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rock Creek (segment 1) from headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Located in the John Muir Wilderness, Rock Creek (segment 1) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rock Creek Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.27.3)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Highway 395 Bridge near Tom's Place

Mileage:

- Studied: 12.0 miles
- Eligible: 12.0 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, and fisheries.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing, boating on the lakes, horseback riding. Popular recreation canyon. These recreation

opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.

- ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rock Creek (segment 2) from Mack Lake to Highway 395 Bridge near Tom's Place is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Rock Creek (segment 2) has been has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Several campgrounds, paved roads and parking lots, two resorts and one pack station, 3 recreation residence tracts within the creek corridor.
- Accessibility: accessible paved road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rock Creek - Lower Segment 3 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.14.1, 1.14.2)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Highway 395 Bridge near Tom's Place
- End Point Description: Forest boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.9 miles
- Eligible: 6.9 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, and fisheries.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: A series of cascades. Dense and excellent quality riparian vegetation with old growth Jeffrey pine trees.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, driving for pleasure, fishing, bicycling. Popular recreation canyon. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lower Rock Creek (Segment 3) from Highway 395 Bridge near Tom's Place to the Forest boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Lower Rock Creek (segment 3) has been has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Paved roads and parking lots, nearby highway 395 visible in some spots.
- Accessibility: accessible paved road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Bishop Creek, Segment 1 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.30.1)

Location:

- County: Inyo County

- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Inlet at South Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.6 miles
- Eligible: None

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery and "other".

- **Scenery**
  - Description: High country vistas and scenery, many lakes and tributary streams, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing. Popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Heavily-visited recreation canyon.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and/or Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and/or habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other - Minerals**
  - Description: A rare mineral, cobalt, was described to occur within this area of the Bishop Creek drainage.

- ♦ ORV Finding: Other – Although the rare mineral cobalt is found within this watershed, it does not occur within the river corridor and its presence is not due to the river. Other - Minerals is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Bishop Creek from the Headwaters to the inlet at South Lake is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Located in the John Muir Wilderness, South Fork Bishop Creek (segment 1) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Bishop Creek, Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.30.2)

Location:

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Dam outlet at South Lake
- End Point Description: Habeggers RV Park

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.2 miles
- Eligible: 5.2 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for recreation.

- **Scenery**
  - ♦ Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic Aspen stands and riparian vegetation stand in contrast to the steep, open canyon walls. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - ♦ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing, boating on South Lake, horseback riding. Popular recreation canyon. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and/or habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Bishop Creek (segment 2) from the outlet at South Lake to Habeggers RV Park is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

South Fork Bishop Creek (segment 2) has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Several campgrounds, picnic areas trailheads and other paved parking areas, two resorts and one pack station within the creek corridor.
- Accessibility: accessible paved road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Mill Creek, Segment 1(River/Segment GIS Number: 1.32.1)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Dore Pass Lake
- End Point Description: Crystal Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.1 miles
- Eligible: 1.1 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 3/21/91 memo notes historic resources (historic mining activity) and rainbow and brook trout. The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, geology, and history.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing for nonnative brook and rainbow trout. Popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of historic mining sites.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology**
  - Description: While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: 1880s Lundy and Tioga world's highest telephone line, historic trail associated with Tioga Mining District, historic mining road. Potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and/or Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and/or habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Mill Creek (Segment 1) from Dore Pass Lake to Crystal Lake is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

It is within the Hoover Wilderness, and has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown.

South Fork Mill Creek, Segment 2 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.32.2)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Crystal Lake
- End Point Description: Hoover Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.6 miles
- Eligible: 1.6 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, geology, and history.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Highly scenic forested area including a section that traverses a very steep gorge within one mile of Mill Creek.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping and picnicking along the creek. Popular hiking trail. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of historic mining sites, Lundy and Tioga world's highest telephone line, historic trail associated with Tioga Mining District, and the historic mining road provide an outstandingly remarkable recreation experience.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: While adding to the recreation opportunity of the canyon, potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and/or Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery

- ♦ ORV Finding: Fish (population and/or habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Mill Creek (segment 2) from Crystal Lake to the Hoover Wilderness boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

South Fork Mill Creek (segment 2) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Mill Creek, Segment 3 (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.32.3)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Hoover Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Confluence with Main Fork of Mill Creek

Mileage:

- Studied: 0.3 miles
- Eligible: 0.3 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 3/21/91 memo notes historic resources (historic mining activity). The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, geology, and history.

- **Scenery**
  - ♦ Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - ♦ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing for nonnative brook and rainbow trout. Popular hiking trail.
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology**

- Description: While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor
- ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **History**
  - Description: 1880s Lundy and Tioga world's highest telephone line, historic trail associated with Tioga Mining District, historic mining road. Potential significance of historic resources has not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Mill Creek (Segment 3) from Hoover Wilderness boundary to the confluence with the Main Fork of Mill Creek is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are the outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

South Fork Mill Creek (segment 3) has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown.

Walker Creek, Segment 1 – Bloody Canyon (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.33)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwater tributaries
- End Point Description: Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.6 miles
- Eligible: 2.6 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, geology, and history.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Diverse watercourse beginning at the headwaters where the water is characterized by small snow tarns and pocket meadows, transitioning through steep sections with waterfalls and fissures, and cascades. Vegetation is scenic and varied, glacial polish and grooves on bedrock add to the scenic quality
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique recreation opportunities are associated with visiting remnants of historic cabins and historic mining route, and potential to view Bighorn sheep from the river corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
- **Fisheries (Population and/or Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and/or habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Walker Creek from the Headwater tributaries to Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary is eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Walker Creek (segment 1 - Bloody Canyon) located within the Ansel Adams Wilderness and has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown.

Walker Creek, Segment 2 – Bloody Canyon (River/Segment GIS Number: 1.33)

Location:

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Walker Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 0.4 miles
- Eligible: 0.4 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The 1990s study identified ORVs for scenery, recreation, geology, and history.

- **Scenery**
  - Description: At inlet to Walker Lake scenery includes views of lake and Bloody Canyon area, but it is not unique within the region of comparison.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping and fishing. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique recreation opportunities are associated with visiting remnants of historic cabins and historic mining route, and potential to view Bighorn sheep from the river corridor.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Geology is highly scenic. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, this is not unique within the region of comparison. No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corrido
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Description: Potential historic resources have not been assessed to determine whether historic ORVs exist.
  - ORV Finding: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fisheries (Population and/or Habitat):**
  - Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population and/or habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Walker Creek (Segment 2 – Bloody Canyon) from the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary to Walker Lake is eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Walker Creek (Segment 2 - Bloody Canyon) has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Hiking and user trails for access to waterways.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown.

Sequoia National Forest

New Inventory

Step 1: Review of new inventory to determine if each river (or portion of river) has free flow and at least one river-related value that could potentially be regionally or nationally significant

The Sequoia National Forest completed an extensive river and stream inventory and evaluation process for wild and scenic rivers beginning in 1991 and ending in 1995. This is detailed in the review of "Previously Evaluated Inventory" (see page 441). The interdisciplinary team reviewed the original work (1991-1995) for accuracy and completeness. Next they compared the initial 1991 inventory comprised of 726 rivers, streams and drainages to the required inventory for forest plan revision, which includes all named streams on the USGS 7.5 minute quads (approximately 250 streams and rivers). The interdisciplinary team determined that for the most part, the original 1991 inventory was more comprehensive than the current required inventory. Only two named sections of river were not included in the 1991 inventory. The two small sections that were not in the original 1991 inventory were then screened to determine if they had free flow and any river-related values that could be potentially regionally or nationally significant. These two small sections of river were previously under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and located in the Isabella Reservoir flood plain. When analyzed for "free flowing" character, they were determined to be not eligible because of the impacts of the impoundment on the appearance of the river channel and adjacent landscape.

The interdisciplinary team used the description of "free flowing" as defined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act. All segments not in the previous inventory and all currently eligible rivers and streams were evaluated using this definition.

Table C-4. Results of the initial review of the new inventory for river-related values and free flow on the Sequoia National Forest

Total number of rivers/segments	Total number of rivers with free flow	Total number of rivers with river-related values
2	0	None evaluated for values since free flow was not present

Step 2: Completed an eligibility assessment on the rivers in the new inventory that have been determined to have free flow and at least one potential regionally or nationally significant river-related value.

Region of Comparison used for the Eligibility Assessment

The Sequoia National Forest interdisciplinary team used the following regions of comparison for each value reviewed in the inventory:

- Scenery values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Province
- Recreation values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Province
- Geology values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Province
- Fish values, population and habitat were evaluated across the State of California
- Wildlife values, population and habitat, were evaluated across the State of California

- Prehistory values were evaluated across the State of California
- History values were evaluated across the State of California
- Ecological values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Province
- Cultural values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Province
- Science/Education values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Province
- Botanical values were evaluated across the State of California

The criteria described in the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council technical paper "The Wild and Scenic River Study Process" was used to determine outstandingly remarkable values.

Results of the Eligibility Review of New Inventory

Kern River/Segment GIS Number: (River/Segment GIS Number: 2.100

Location:

- County: Kern County
- Beginning point description: National Forest boundary and town of Kernville where the North Fork of the Kern River enters the flood plain of the Isabella dam.
- End point description: At the Isabella Main Dam.

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.8 miles
- Eligible: None

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of free flow: This segment of the river and its corridor is strongly influenced by the Isabella Dam and is not free flowing. Most of this segment is under water backed up from the Isabella Dam during most or all of the year.

Summary of eligibility findings: This segment the Kern River is not free flowing and is not eligible.

South Fork of the Kern River (River/Segment GIS Number: 2.101

Location:

- County: Kern County
- Beginning point description: National forest boundary and private property near the small community of Bella Vista.
- End point description: Under the lake bed of Isabella Reservoir.

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.1 miles
- Eligible: None

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of free flow: This segment of the river and its corridor is strongly influenced by the Isabella Dam and is not free flowing. Most of this segment is under water during most or all of the year.

Summary of eligibility findings: This segment of the South Fork of the Kern River is not free flowing and is not eligible.

Review of Previously Evaluated Inventory

In January 1982, the National Rivers Inventory identified three rivers on the Sequoia National Forest which may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: South Fork Kern River, Kings River and South Fork Kings River.

The 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix E provides a detailed discussion of the eligibility analysis and evaluation of the Kern River (Lower), South Fork Kern River, Kern River, Kings River and the South Fork Kings River.

Table C- 5. Kern River (lower) findings of the 1988 Sequoia National Forest LRMP FEIS, Appendix E of the FEIS

Kern River	Segment 1*	Segment 2	Segment 3*
Outstandingly remarkable values	Scenery Recreation Wildlife	Scenery Recreation Wildlife	Scenery Recreation Wildlife
Free flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	Yes	Yes	Yes
Diversions	Yes	No	Yes
Classification	Not eligible-hydro power diversions dry up river segment	Scenic	Not eligible-hydro power diversions dry up river segment

* Segment 1 and Segment 3 evaluations appealed

Table C-6. South Fork Kern River Findings of the 1988 Sequoia National Forest LRMP FEIS, Appendix E

South Fork Kern River	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4	Segment 5	Segment 5a	Segment 6
Outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife Vegetation Cultural-Historical	Scenery Recreation Cultural-Historical Geology	Cultural-Historical	Scenery Recreation Cultural-Historical	Scenery Recreation Fish Vegetation Cultural/Historical Geology	Scenery Recreation Fish Vegetation Geology	Scenery Recreation Fish Vegetation Geology
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Diversions	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Classification	Rec	Wild	Rec	Wild	Scenic	Wild	Wild

Table C-7. Kings River Findings of the 1988 Sequoia National Forest LRMP FEIS, Appendix E

Kings River	Segment 1 - Pine Flat Reservoir to Garlic Meadow Creek	Segment 2 – Garlic Meadow to Confluence of Middle and South Fork Kings
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Deferred*	Scenic Recreation Fish Cultural/Historic Geology
Free Flowing	Unknown	Yes
Impoundments	Potential dam at Rodgers Crossing	No
Diversions	Unknown	No
Classification	Deferred*	Wild

* The lower Kings River was not analyzed in the Sequoia Land and Resource Management Plan because of ongoing controversy and discussions about raising the dam.

Table C-8. South Fork Kings River Findings of the 1988 Sequoia National Forest LRMP FEIS, Appendix E

South Fork Kings River	Segment 1	Segment 1A	Segment 2	Segment 3
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Scenery Geology	Scenery Geology	Scenery Recreation Geology	Scenery Recreation Geology
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No	No
Classification	Wild	Rec	Rec	Wild

During the course of preparing the 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and its accompanying environmental impact statement, a considerable amount of legislative action took place. In November 1987, legislation designated all or portions of each river under the Wild and Scenic River Act, negating the need for further consideration. Legislation included:

- South Fork Kern River – 72.5 miles, from headwaters in Golden Trout Wilderness, Inyo National Forest, to the southern boundary of Domeland Wilderness, Sequoia National Forest (Segments 2 through 6). Segment 1 is “suitable” (1991) and recommended to be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- North Fork Kern River – 60.7 miles from headwaters in Sequoia National Park through the Sequoia National Forest to Kern-Tulare County Line (Segments 1 through 4).
- South Fork Kings River – 40.5 miles from the headwaters in Kings Canyon National Park through the Sequoia National Forest to confluence with Middle Fork and Main Kings Rivers (Segments 1 through 3).
- Kings River – 5.0 miles from confluence of Middle Fork and South Fork Kings Rivers to Garlic Meadow Creek (Segment 2).

In addition, a 48,000-acre special management area consisting of the Kings River was designated. The lower Kings River, a stretch of river above the high water line of Pine Flat Reservoir and below Garlic Meadow Creek was not analyzed in the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan because of ongoing controversy and discussions about raising the dam resulting in the flooding of this stretch of river. This would be appealed and in part of the eventual settlement, the Kings River original segment 1 would be evaluated as segments 3, 4 and 5 in the Kings River Special Management Area Implementation Plan (1991, appendix B).

Table C-9. Findings of the Kings River Special Management Area Implementation Plan 1991, Appendix B

Kings River (the previous Segment 1)	Segment 3 – Elevation 1595 to Garnet Dike	Segment 4 – Garnet Dike to boundary of Kings River Special Management Area	Segment 5 – Kings River Special Management Area boundary to high water mark for Pine Flat Reservoir
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Scenery Recreation Geology Botanical Wildlife/Fish Cultural/Historic Science/Educational	Scenery Recreation Geology Wildlife/Fish Cultural/Historic Science/Education	Scenery Recreation Wildlife/Fish Cultural/Historic
Free flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	None	None	None
Diversions	None	None	None
Classification	Wild	Scenic	Recreational

There is one existing river that has been recommended for wild and scenic river designation through a suitability study in addition to the existing designated wild and scenic rivers. Segment 1 of the South Fork Kern River was determined eligible in the 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Congress only addressed the portion of river in the Domeland Wilderness when designating the South Fork Kern River in 1987 due to a lack of information on the small “cherry stem” outside of the wilderness boundary. A suitability study was completed in 1991 and the segment was recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System with a “wild” classification. It’s outstandingly remarkable values were determined to be scenery, ecological, and cultural/historical. This study is documented in the Wild and Scenic River Study Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement on the South Fork of the Kern River 1991. This will continued be managed as a recommended wild and scenic river.

Congress placed portions of the North and South Forks of the Kern Rivers into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1987. However, segments of the Kern River (Lower) that were not designated in 1987 would be reevaluated in 1994 because of a forest plan appeal settlement. The North Fork Kern River was studied in the North and South Forks Kern Wild and Scenic River Final Environmental Impact Statement 1994. These segments were found eligible and the eligibility was documented in a letter to the Regional Forester dated April 21, 1994.

The appeals settlement to the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan 1988 (Settlements 2402 and 2407, April 11, 1988) required the Forest Service to conduct a comprehensive screening of streams and rivers on the forest and to identify the five streams and

rivers with the highest apparent potential for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, including the Tule and White Rivers. The inventory developed for the initial screening included 726 rivers, streams and drainages. The screening process on the rivers began in 1991.

Table C-10. Findings of the North and South Forks Kern Wild and Scenic River Final Environmental Impact Statement 1994

North Fork Kern River	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Scenery Recreation Fish Vegetation Heritage Geology	Scenery Recreation Wildlife	Scenery Recreation Wildlife
Free flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	None	None	None
Diversions	None	None	Yes
Classification	Wild	Wild	Recreation

1991 Screening Process

In 1991, a forestwide initial screening process of all rivers on the forest was initiated. The purpose of this process was to eliminate those rivers that did not possess any potentially significant river-related values and to review more closely those with river-related values that could potentially be outstandingly remarkable. The first step was to develop an inventory of all rivers. This inventory included a total of 726 rivers and would have met the current Forest Service Handbook 1909.9 Chapter 80 requirements for comprehensiveness, the equivalent of all named rivers on a 7.5 minute quad. The inventory also included many unnamed streams (1991 Stream Inventory).

At the direction of the Forest Supervisor on September 6, 1991, the inventory of all steams was sorted by ranger district and then evaluated by ranger district interdisciplinary experts for potential river-related resource values (letter from the Forest Supervisor to the District Rangers September 6, 1991). The results of this step were documented in a spreadsheet (District Screening of Inventory September 23-25, 1991). Out of the 726 rivers or portions of rivers in the inventory, the ranger district staffs identified 122 with the potential of at least one resource value for further study as a potential outstandingly remarkable value.

A ranking matrix was developed on January 6, 1992 to measure the relative quality of the potential outstandingly remarkable values, along with the list of streams identified in September 1991. The potential values of the rivers identified above were reviewed more closely as to their relative significance within the Sierra Nevada province. The rivers were ranked based on the strength and relative quality within the Sierra Nevada province of the potential outstandingly remarkable values. A composite score for each river was developed based on the quality ratings and the number of values for each river. This step resulted in a list of 105 rivers that were ranked using the composite scores.

A task force completed a second evaluation and determination of rivers most likely to have outstandingly remarkable values and the highest potential for wild and scenic river designation. The task force evaluated the 105 ranked rivers identified by the ranger districts and narrowed the list for further study down to 19 by reviewing the ratings and eliminating those whose values

were not unique to the province. The White and Tule River were exceptions and were given further study. These findings are documented in a report dated May, 1992.

The task force then evaluated the remaining 19 streams, discussing each identified potential outstandingly remarkable values in detail and potential for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Through discussion and evaluation of specific values, seven rivers emerged that possessed values that when compared to others in the province could be considered as outstandingly remarkable. The eligibility screening results are documented in a report, Eligibility Screening Results dated May 15, 1992.

Site visits and field documentation were conducted between 1993 and 1995 for the seven rivers found potentially eligible to confirm the presence or lack of outstandingly remarkable resource values. The results of these site visits were documented in Eligibility Analysis Field Reports.

When the eligibility studies were over in 1995, the following rivers and streams were determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System:

- North Fork Tule River
- North Fork Middle Fork Tule River
- Little Kern River, Upper and Lower segments
- Kern River, Lower Kern River
- Kings River (Segments 3, 4, and 5)

Most of the Tule River and the White River were found to be not eligible.

Table C-11. Summary of eligible rivers identified in past wild and scenic river evaluations on the Sequoia National Forest

Eligible Rivers	Little Kern (Seg. 1)	Little Kern (Seg. 2)	North Fork Tule	North Fork Middle Fork Tule	Kings (Seg. 3)	Kings (Seg. 4)	Kings (Seg. 4)	Kern (Seg. 1)	Kern (Seg. 2)	Kern (Seg. 3)
Classification	Wild	Wild	Wild	Wild	Wild	Scenic	Recrea -tional	Recrea -tional	Scenic	Recrea -tional
Scenery					X	X	X	X	X	X
Recreation	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
Geology					X	X				
History					X	X	X			
Prehistory										
Botanic					X					
Fish Population	X	X			X	X	X			
Fish Habitat					X	X	X			
Wildlife Population					X	X	X		X	X
Wildlife Habitat					X	X	X			
Ecology				X						
Science/ Education					X	X				

Process that the Sequoia National Forest Interdisciplinary Team Used to Determine if there are any Changed Conditions or New Information since the Previous Evaluation(s)

First the files from the wild and scenic river studies that began in 1991 were reviewed and a summary of the past eligibility work was drafted. Hard copy documents and forms from the previous studies were scanned into an electronic format and made available to forest and ranger district specialists. These documents included the initial 1991 stream inventory, correspondence, district-level screening inventory 1991, Eligibility Screening Report 1991, potential values ranking forms, eligibility screen results 1992, and Eligibility Results Field Reports 1992-1995.

Next the forest interdisciplinary team met with resource specialists and district personnel through phone calls and meetings to determine if the historic documentation of eligibility was still accurate. They were asked to identify if there were any changed conditions in the intervening period since the past eligibility studies, or if new information was available that could potentially change previous eligibility findings. No changes in eligibility were brought forward by the reviewers and only minor edits were made to some of the narrative information based on new information. Minor adjustments and updates were made to several elements of previously eligible river reports. However, these minor changes did not change the original eligibility or classification for any of the previously inventoried or evaluated rivers and stream segments.

Results of the Eligibility Review for Previously Evaluated Rivers

The eligibility of the following rivers was reaffirmed and is documented as follows:

North Fork Tule River:

- For the original eligibility documentation, see Field Review Eligibility Reports 1995.
- For the current effort to review past eligibility, ranger district specialists prepared an updated evaluation narrative (see below).

North Fork Middle Fork Tule River:

- For the original eligibility documentation, see Field Review Eligibility Reports 1995.
- For the current effort to review past eligibility, District specialists prepared an updated evaluation narrative (see below).

Little Kern River (Upper and Lower segments):

- For the original eligibility documentation, see Field Review Eligibility Reports 1995.
- For the current effort to review past eligibility ranger district specialists prepared an updated evaluation narrative (see below).

Kern River (All 3 sections of the Lower Kern River):

- For the original eligibility documentation see Appendix E, Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement 1988, pp. E-27-31, and Reply to the Regional Forester April 21, 1994.
- No changes or updates resulted from the current review.

Kings River (Segments 3, 4, and 5):

- For the original eligibility documentation see Implementation Plan Kings River Special Management Area, 1991, appendix B.
- No changes or updates resulted from the current review.

Little Kern River – Upper Segment (River/Segment GIS Number: 2.118)

Location:

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning point description: The headwaters portion of this segment of the Little Kern River is located at the Sequoia National Forest boundary just south of Sequoia National Park. The beginning point starts at its headwaters near Farewell Gap (T. 17 S, R. 31 E., Section 35) and extends south to approximately Table Meadow Creek (T. 20 S., R. 31 E., Section 28). The Little Kern River flows through diverse vegetation communities (alpine fell-fields of perennial herbs through subalpine and mixed conifer forests) reflective of the wide range in elevation noted from 10,600 feet to approximately 6,200 feet at Table Meadow Creek.
- End point description: Table Meadow Creek, (T. 20 S., R. 31 E., Section 28). Vegetation conditions include mainly mixed conifer forest interspersed with occasional mountain meadow habitat. This portion of the Little Kern River is typical for landforms, vegetation pattern, rock form, and water feature of the physiographic area.

Mileage:

- Studied: 12.4 miles
- Eligible: 12.4 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Description of Free Flow: This river segment is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness with no known barriers to free flow.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

- **Scenery**
  - Description: The headwaters of the Little Kern River presents the visitor with a view of Farewell Gap and the surrounding peaks shaped by the southernmost extent of the last glacial period combined with the diverse vegetation types from alpine fell-fields at higher elevations to meadows and conifer forest at the lower reaches. Outstandingly remarkable value is provided through this unusual setting of glacier formed land in combination with the attractive vegetation patterns.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: There is an exceptional opportunity for solitude, viewing scenery and opportunity to fish for the Little Kern golden trout. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's multi-decade recovery program provides anglers with the opportunity to fish for the Little Kern golden trout.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: From the headwaters of the Little Kern River to Rifle Creek is the farthest southward advance of glaciers. The documented southern extent of glaciation and lateral moraines located in the vicinity of Shotgun Creek provide a geologic land feature unique for the physiographic area and an outstandingly remarkable value.

- ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Fish**
  - Description: The Little Kern River is the home habitat of the Little Kern golden trout, the California State fish, and a federally-listed threatened species. Upon completion of the recovery efforts, the Little Kern watershed will be populated with only pure strains of the Little Kern golden trout. As the home habitat for this species, the Little Kern River represents an outstandingly remarkable value. Upon completion of the Little Kern Golden Trout Program the Little Kern River will be fully stocked with this subspecies of the California State fish. Population is the Little Kern Golden Trout. The entire segment of the Little Kern River has been designated as critical habitat for the Little Kern golden trout by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population) and fish (habitat) are outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Wildlife**
  - Description: The mountain yellow-legged frog has been extirpated throughout much of its historic range in the Sierra Nevada. The Forest Service conducted bio-regional monitoring for the mountain yellow-legged frog on National Forest System lands within the species' range in the Sierra Nevada as part of their Sierra Nevada Amphibian Monitoring Program. This monitoring effort provided scientifically-based estimates for statistical comparisons of occupancy and relative abundance across 5-year monitoring cycles based on a sample of 208 watersheds. The results of this monitoring, from 2002-2009, found mountain yellow-legged frog breeding activity in 4 percent of watersheds range-wide, and that the species has declined in both distribution and abundance. Evidence of breeding was found in only 47 percent of watersheds where the animal had been found relatively recently (1990-2001), and in only 2 percent of watersheds where the species had last been observed prior to 1990. Moreover, relative abundances were low; only an estimated 9 percent of occupied watersheds were large, numbering more than 100 frogs or 500 tadpoles, and more than half of the watershed (57 percent) had fewer than 20 animals (more than 10 tadpoles and more than 10 adults or subadults). The existence of this now very rare species in the upper reaches of the Little Kern River Basin serves as an outstandingly remarkable value for its potential to aid in the recovery of the species, scientific study opportunity and recreation viewing standpoints.

    For population, many species of wildlife typical and unique to the region have been documented in the Little Kern corridor, including mule deer, cougar, black bear, bobcat, wolverine, coyote, fisher, marten, grouse, and a variety of owl, raptor, woodpecker, and passerine species. The mountain yellow-legged frog was recently listed as an endangered species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This species exists in the upper headwater areas surrounding this river segment. These include populations near Bouillon Flat and Bullfrog Lakes and are recognized as a part of the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog.

    Wildlife habitat within this segment of the Little Kern River corridor is varied, ranging from high-elevation alpine fell fields and forests to mid elevation mixed conifer forests. Critical habitat for the mountain yellow-legged frog has been proposed (Blossom Lake, Unit 5, subunit 5a) for this species by the United States

Fish and Wildlife Service which overlaps with the upper reaches of the Little Kern River segment.

- ORV Finding: Wildlife (population) and wildlife (habitat) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: This segment of the Little Kern continues to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This segment meets the Wild and Scenic River Act's definition of free flowing and has outstandingly remarkable values for scenery, recreation, geology, fish (population), fish (habitat) and wildlife. The interdisciplinary team, forest leadership team and resource specialists reaffirm the previous determination of outstandingly remarkable values and added an additional one for wildlife.

Classification Findings:

This eligible segment was not previously classified. The Little Kern River (Upper Segment) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water resources development: None
- Shoreline development: None
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trail
- Water quality: Unimpaired

Little Kern River (Lower Segment) (River/Segment GIS Number2.119)

Location:

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning point description: the beginning of this segment of the Little Kern River starts at its confluence with Table Meadow Creek (T. 20 S., R. 31 E., Section 28) and extends to the south until its confluence with the Kern River (T. 20 S., R. 32 E., Section 6). The Little Kern River flows through typical vegetative communities (mixed conifer forests with interspersed mountain meadows, and shrubs) reflective of its elevation gradient of 6,200 feet at it confluence with Table Meadow Creek to approximately 4,700 feet at its confluence with the Kern River.
- End point description: The Little Kern River segment ends at its confluence with the Kern River (T. 20 S., R. 32 E., Section 6). Vegetation description provided above.

Mileage:

- Studied: 12.0 miles
- Eligible: 12.0 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Description of free flow: This river segment is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness with no known barriers to flow.

Description of outstandingly remarkable values:

- **Recreation**
  - Description: There is an exceptionally fine opportunity for solitude and the opportunity to fish for the recovered Little Kern golden trout. The California

Department of Fish and Wildlife's multi-decade recovery program provides anglers with the opportunity to fish for the Little Kern golden trout.

- ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Fish**
  - Description: The Little Kern River is the home habitat of the Little Kern golden trout, the California state fish, and a federally listed threatened species. Upon completion of the recovery efforts, the Little Kern watershed will be populated with only pure strains of the Little Kern golden trout. As the home habitat for this species, the Little Kern River represents an outstandingly remarkable value. Upon completion of the Little Kern Golden Trout Program the Little Kern River will be fully stocked with this subspecies of the California State fish. Populations – Little Kern Golden Trout. Habitat - Much of the Little Kern River in this segment has been designated as critical habitat for the Little Kern golden trout by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  - ORV Finding: Fish (population) and fish (habitat) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: This segment of the Little Kern continues to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. This segment meets the Wild and Scenic River Act's definition of free flowing and has outstandingly remarkable values for recreation, fish (population), and fish (habitat). The interdisciplinary team, forest leadership team and resource specialists affirm the previous determination of outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification:

This eligible segment was not previously classified. The Little Kern River (Lower Segment) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: None
- Shoreline Development: None
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail
- Water Quality: Unimpaired

North Fork Tule River (River/Segment GIS Number 2.160

Location:

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning point description: The North Fork Tule River originates in the Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest (T. 19 S, R. 30 E. Section 2) at approximately 9,300 feet elevation and flows west, through National Park Service land and National Forest System land for approximately 6 miles to the forest boundary.
- End point description: The end point of this segment is located at Sequoia National Forest boundary (T. 19 S. R. 30 E. Section 18) just south of the junction of Forest Service Road 19S09 with Mountain Road 276. At this point the river flows through private land until it reaches the confluence of the Middle Fork of Tule River.

Mileage:

- Studied: 6 miles.
- Eligible: 6 miles

Eligibility Findings:

Description of free flow: The North Fork of the Tule River is free flowing without any known diversions or obstructions.

Description of outstandingly remarkable values:

- **Recreation**
  - Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulates the North Fork Tule River as fly fishing only by designation of its Commission. The designation is in effect from the North Fork confluence with Pine Creek east to its headwaters. Jack Flat is a dispersed occupancy spot located adjacent to Forest Service Road 19S09 just west of Jenny Creek. It is frequented by visitors during summer weekends and holidays. Along with the fishing stated above, hunting, hiking and horseback riding also occurs within the vicinity. As the single fly fishing-only recreation opportunity in the southern Sierra Nevada physiographic area, this designation represents an outstandingly remarkable value for recreation.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife**
  - Description: Population - Many species of wildlife typical and unique to the region have been documented in this segment of the North Fork Tule River corridor. They include species such as mule deer, cougar, black bear, bobcat, gray fox, coyote, turkey, band- tailed pigeon, peregrine falcon, along with a variety of owl, raptor, woodpecker and passerine species. The endangered California condor makes sporadic transitory flights over this area as it travels toward Blue Ridge, a historic roosting area. At present this species' occurrence on the forest remains rare.

    Habitat - The North Fork Tule River corridor contains giant sequoia/mixed conifer mix in Dillionwood Grove located on National Park Land at the head waters, blending to a mixed conifer and hardwood forest at mid to lower elevations of the drainage. Streamside zones contain a variety of riparian species such as willows and alders intermixed with conifers.
  - ORV Finding: While a variety of wildlife is present in the area, including some rare species, their presence is not directly related to the river. Wildlife (population) and wildlife (habitat) are not outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Eligibility Findings:

- The North Fork of the Tule River continues to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. This segment meets the Wild and Scenic River Act's definition of free flowing and has 1 outstandingly remarkable value for recreation. The interdisciplinary team, forest leadership team and resource specialists affirm the previous determination of 1 outstandingly remarkable value.

- In the original eligibility report, an outstandingly remarkable value for a heritage interpretive opportunity was also mentioned as a potential future outstandingly remarkable value if the Dillionwood Grove (then private land) became part of the Sequoia National Forest. Since the last eligibility report, the privately owned parcel known as the Dillionwood Grove was deeded to the Sequoia National Park.

Classification:

This eligible segment was not previously classified. The North Fork Tule River has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: None
- Shoreline Development: None
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trail
- Water Quality: Unimpaired

North Fork of Middle Fork Tule River (River/Segment GIS Numbers: 1.159.1, 1.159.2)

Location:

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning point description: The Middle Fork Tule River has 2 principal branches. The first of which is the North Fork Middle Fork Tule River, sometimes referred to locally as the Wishon Fork. This river segment originates in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks at approximately 9,600 feet in elevation (T. 18 S., R. 31 E. Section 32). The headwaters flow from the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks through the west edge of the Sequoia National Forest's Golden Trout Wilderness. After leaving the wilderness, the North Fork Middle Fork River alternately flows through state, national forest and private lands to its confluence with the South Fork Middle Fork Tule River.
- End point description: The North Fork Middle Fork River segment ends at its confluence with the South Fork Middle Fork Tule River (T. 20 S., R. 30 E., Section 26) at approximately 2,400 feet elevation.

Mileage:

- Studied: 13.5 miles
- Eligible: Approximately 2.8 miles, from the headwaters to the State Forest.

Eligibility Findings:

Description of free flow: The headwaters are undisturbed as they flow through wilderness and the Moses Mountain Research Natural Area. Then there are alternating levels of modifications as the river flows through recreation developments in the Mountain Home State Forest, unaltered and modestly developed stretches of National Forest System land, and the small subdivision of private properties known as Doyle Springs. There is also a water diversion; however, the river appears natural and riverine.

Description of outstandingly remarkable values:

- **Other (ecological)**
  - Description: The wilderness segment of the North Fork Middle Fork Tule River flows through the Moses Giant Sequoia Grove. This grove is the Moses Mountain Research Natural Area for giant sequoia. A research natural area by definition possesses natural conditions that have special unique characteristics of scientific interest that provide an opportunity for nonmanipulative research. The North Fork Middle Fork Tule River also flows through the Silver Creek and Tule Giant Sequoia Groves. Management direction for all groves was set by the Giant Sequoia National Monument Plan (USDA 2012). The Moses Mountain Research Natural Area

represents the Giant Sequoia element of the natural research area established in the Pacific Southwest Region and provides an outstandingly remarkable value for scientific study.

- ORV Finding: Ecological is an outstandingly remarkable value, but is limited to the upper reaches of the river that flows through the Moses Mountain Research Natural Area.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: The entire stretch of the river is free flowing however the ecological outstandingly remarkable value is limited to the upper reaches of the river that flows through the Moses Mountain Research Natural Area. The interdisciplinary team, forest leadership team and resource specialists reaffirmed the previous eligibility determination and outstandingly remarkable values. The upper 4 miles from the Headwaters to the State Forest is eligible. The remaining 10 miles are not eligible.

Classification:

The 4-mile eligible segment of the North Fork of the Middle Fork Tule River was not previously classified. The North Fork Tule River has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: No water resource development appears in the upper reaches in the Moses Mountain (4 miles) Research Natural Area. A water diversion begins at the lower boundary of the Doyle Springs Subdivision ending at the power plant at the confluence of the North Fork and the South Fork of the Middle Forks Tule River. No other water developments are known at this time.
- Shoreline Development: There are some developed recreation facilities along the river in the Mountain Home State Park and 1 developed campground in the Sequoia National Forest along the river.
- Accessibility: Roads provide access to the river in the State Park, at the developed campground on National Forest System land, within the Doyle Springs Subdivision, and at the confluence of the North Fork and South Fork Middle Fork Tule River. A trail provides access to the river between the State Park and the national forest campground.
- Water Quality: Unimpaired

Table C-12. Updated summary of eligible rivers identified in past wild and scenic river evaluations on the Sequoia National Forest, including additional outstandingly remarkable values identified by the team during the refreshed look at the past eligibility

Eligible Rivers	Little Kern (Seg. 1)	Little Kern (Seg. 2)	North Fork Tule	North Fork Middle Fork Tule	Kings (Seg. 3)	Kings (Seg. 4)	Kings (Seg. 4)	Kern (Seg. 1)	Kern (Seg. 2)	Kern (Seg. 3)
Classifica-tion	Wild	Wild	Wild	Wild	Wild	Scenic	Recrea -tional	Recrea -tional	Scenic	Recrea -tional
Scenery	X*				X	X	X	X	X	X
Recreatio n	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
Geology	X*				X	X				
History					X	X	X			
Prehistory										
Botanical					X					
Fish Population	X	X			X	X	X			
Fish Habitat	X*	X*			X	X	X			
Wildlife Population	X*	X*			X	X	X		X	X
Wildlife Habitat	X*				X	X	X			
Ecology				X						
Science/ Education					X	X				

*New outstandingly remarkable values identified in addition to those identified in past eligibility reviews.

Sierra National Forest

New Inventory

Step 1: Review of the new inventory to determine if each river (or portion of river) has free flow and at least one river-related value that could potentially be regional or nationally significant.

How the Sierra National Forest interdisciplinary team initially screened the new inventory and identified which rivers have free flow.

The Forest used the description of "free flowing" as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. All river segments in the inventory were evaluated using this definition. "Free flowing" is defined as "existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification." "Low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures may be permitted, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Segments of rivers above or below impoundments can also qualify as free flowing. There is no established minimum size for eligibility, either in length or volume of flow. Flows are considered sufficient for eligibility if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated. "It was determined all rivers, creeks and streams were free flowing except for a few instances where the waterway was under a lake due to an impoundment.

How the Sierra National Forest interdisciplinary team initially screened the new inventory and identified which rivers might potentially have river-related values.

The Sierra National Forest interdisciplinary team reviewed the comprehensive inventory (developed during the fall of 2014), which includes all named streams on the USGS 7.5 minute quads. The inventory included approximately 1,480 miles of river that had never previously been assessed for eligibility. Using the criteria outlined in the "The Wild and Scenic River Study Process" technical paper (IWSRCC 1999), the team identified streams that potentially had outstandingly remarkable values. Each of these streams were assessed by a team of specialists including each district ranger to determine if it contained scenery, recreational, botanical, geological, fish and wildlife (populations and habitat), historical, or cultural values that could potentially be outstandingly remarkable values. Each specialist reviewed all available information, including GIS layers for their specialty. For example, aquatics specialist queried all streams where threatened, endangered and sensitive species were located and found two different fish populations on 4 streams and two different amphibian populations on 12 streams.

Table C-13. Results of the initial review of the inventory for river-related values and free flow on the Sierra National Forest

Inventory Measurement	Total	New Inventory Determined to Have Free Flow	New Inventory with Potentially Significant River-Related Values
Number of GIS Segments	390	385	124
Approximate Number of Miles	1,480	1,458	640

Step 2: Complete an eligibility assessment on the rivers in the new inventory that have been determined to have free flow and at least one potentially regionally or nationally significant river-related value.

Region of Comparison used for the Eligibility Assessment

The Sierra National Forest interdisciplinary team used the following regions of comparison for each value reviewed in the inventory:

- **Scenery** – Scenery values were evaluated across the Sierra National Forest.
- **Recreation** – Recreation values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Bioregion.
- **Geology** – Values were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Bioregion.
- **Fish** – Fish values, population and habitat were evaluated across the Sierra Nevada Bioregion.
- **Wildlife** – Wildlife values, population and habitat were evaluated across Sierra Nevada Bioregion.
- **Cultural/Prehistory** – Cultural/Prehistory values were evaluated across the Sierra National Forest.
- **History** – History values were evaluated across the State of California.
- **Botanical** – Botanical values were evaluated across Sierra Nevada Bioregion.

Criteria Used for Determining Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The criteria described in the "The Wild and Scenic River Study Process" (WSRCC 1999) technical paper were used to determine outstandingly remarkable values. "In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Dictionary definitions of the words "unique" and "rare" indicate such a value would be one that is a conspicuous example from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary." All values should be directly river-related. That is, they should:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

Outstandingly remarkable values for scenery, recreation, geology, wildlife, fisheries, cultural/historic utilized the criteria in the technical guide. Botanical outstandingly remarkable value is based upon unique and rare plants, and vegetation types.

Results of the Eligibility Review for the Sierra National Forest

Alder Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.1)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
  - Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Mount Hooper
  - End Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
  - Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.7
- Eligible: 3.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Alder Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Alder Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Anderson Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters are east of Long Top; west of Corral Mountain
- End Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.3
- Eligible: 2.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Anderson Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Anderson Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Aspen Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.4)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra

- County: Fresno
  - Beginning Point Description: Headwaters near Horsethief Lake
  - End Point Description: Confluence with San Joaquin River
  - Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.6
- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP aboriginal hamlet associated with meadow and creek
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Aspen Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Aspen Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, bridges.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bald Mill Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.7)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters near Bald Mountain near Meadow Lakes - private property
- End Point Description: San Joaquin River - crosses private land
- Special Area: Backbone Creek Research Natural Area

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.6
- Eligible: 5.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible aboriginal Poshgisha Mono Hamlet associated with creek
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Botany:**
  - Description: Abundant Carpenteria (*Carpenteria californica*) a species only found in the Sierra NF (and some adjacent / nearby private lands); beautiful pools, fairly accessible, diverse chaparral distinctive of Sierra NF San Joaquin River watershed.
  - ORV Finding: Botany is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Bald Mill Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory and Botany are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Bald Mill Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Balsam Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.8)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northeast of Balsam Meadow
- End Point Description: Big Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.9
- Eligible: 3.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible Middle Archaic to Transitional Periods aboriginal hamlets associated with creek

- ♦ ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Balsam Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Balsam Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, powerlines
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bear Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.10)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning point Description: Headwaters near Nelson Mountain.
- End Point Description: Dinkey Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 8.7
- Eligible: 8.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - ♦ Description: Glaciated landscape
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - ♦ Description: NRHP eligible aboriginal hamlets associated with creek.
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Bear Creek (Segment 3.10) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Bear Creek (Segment 3.10) has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Only development relates to roads: bridges and culverts; dispersed camping along creek.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bear Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.11)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning point Description: Confluence of Bear Creek and East Fork Bear Creek, west of Upper Bear Creek Meadow.
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 11.4
- Eligible: 11.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Variety Class A (Distinctive). Barren granite-walled canyons on the Sierra Crest interspersed with patches of forested areas. Consists of views of Bear Dam Diversion, Twin Falls, and several nice crystal-clear and emerald-green pools near Bear Creek Trail.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Variety of granitic bedrock bodies and metamorphic rocks; glaciated valley with glacial erosional and depositional landforms (moraines).
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Bear Creek (segment 3.11) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Bear Creek (segment 3.11) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Low developed wilderness trailhead.

- Accessibility: Except for access to trailhead, nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bear Meadow Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.14.1)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters southwest Dinkey Mountain in Bear Meadow
- End Point Description: Oak Flat Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.4
- Eligible: 5.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible aboriginal hamlets and NHRP eligible Middle Archaic occupation.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Bear Meadow Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Bear Meadow Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads; dispersed camping along creek
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bench Canyon (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.17)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Blue Lake
- End Description: North Fork San Joaquin River

- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.4
- Eligible: 3.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Bench Canyon is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Bench Canyon has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Big Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.18.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of unnamed stream at 10S18, 0.7 miles upstream (north) of the Bretz Mill site
- End Point Description: Pine Flat Reservoir
- Special Area: Research Natural Area

Mileage:

- Studied: 13.4
- Eligible: 13.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**

- Description: Contains a NRHP eligible Middle Archaic through Late Prehistoric period prehistoric trail system, as well as NRHP eligible Late Prehistoric through early 20th century villages, hamlets and Indian allotments associated with the Poshgisha and Holkoma Mono peoples.
- ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Big Creek (segment 3.18.2) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Big Creek (segment 3.18.2) has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Only development relates to roads: bridges and culverts; dispersed camping along creek.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Big Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.19.3)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning point Description: South side of Huntington Lake at the Gaging Station near Dam.
- End Point Description: San Joaquin River east of Chawanakee Flats
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 9.9
- Eligible: 9.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **History**
  - Description: NRHP eligible Big Creek Hydro System Historic District
  - ORV Finding: History is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible Mono cultural property. Mono peoples are only found on the Sierra NF
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Big Creek (segment 3.19.3) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. History and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Big Creek (segment 3.19.3) has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Only development relates to roads: bridges and culverts; dispersed camping along creek.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Big Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.20.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera and Mariposa
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence with White Chief Branch
- End Point Description: Forest boundary with Yosemite National Park, north of Summerdale Campground
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.0
- Eligible: 6.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible aboriginal hamlets associated with creek
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Big Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Big Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreation" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Big Sandy and Fresno Dome campgrounds, roads
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Billy Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.23)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters east of Home Camp Research Natural Area
- End Point Description: Huntington Lake
- Special Area: 0.9 miles in Kaiser Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.4
- Eligible: 1.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible aboriginal hamlets associated with creek
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Billy Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistoric is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Billy Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No shoreline development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bishop Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.24)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Mariposa
- Beginning Point Description: Forest boundary Yosemite National Park
- End Point Description: South Fork Merced River
- Special Area: Yosemite National Park

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.7
- Eligible: 1.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible Early Archaic occupation. A notable change in the archaeological record for this period is a dramatic increase in the number of ground stone tools, suggesting an increased dependence on plant resources. Archaic period dart points have been discovered on sites across the forest.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Bishop Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistoric is an outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Bishop Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads; dispersed camping along creek
- Accessibility: Roads and lake-based activities.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Black Rock Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.26)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters east Black Rock
- End Point Description: Kings River
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.9
- Eligible: 1.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NHRP eligible aboriginal hamlets associated with creek
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Black Rock Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Black Rock Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads and transmission lines
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Bounder Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.28)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of Dutch Meadow
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River at Florence Lake
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.6
- Eligible: 5.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Boulder Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Boulder Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Burnt Corral Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.32)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Thompson Pass
- End Point Description: Post Corral Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.0
- Eligible: 6.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Burnt Corral Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Burnt Corral Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cabin Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.33)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Chain Lakes
- End Point Description: Rancheria Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.6

- Eligible: 1.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cabin Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Cabin Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

California Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.34.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Northeast boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area
- End Point Description: Southern boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area
- Special Area: Nelder Grove Historic Area

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.8
- Eligible: 1.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Variety Class A. Within the Nelder Grove Historic Area. The Giant Sequoias are the notable and exemplary visual features.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**

- Description: The Nelder Grove area contains trails through unique visual landscape as well as interpretation and camping. Unique landscape for viewing nature and hiking.
- ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: California Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and Recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

California Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Development consists of a small campground and hiking trails
- Accessibility: Roads and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cargyle Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.41)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Straube Lake
- End Point Description: Middle Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.1
- Eligible: 5.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cargyle Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Cargyle Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Chetwood Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.43)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Sadler Peak
- End Point Description: North Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.3
- Eligible: 2.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Chetwood Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Chetwood Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Chiquito Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.47.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Confluence of West Fork Chiquito Creek near the Upper Chiquito campground.

- End Point Description: Mammoth Pool Reservoir

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.0
- Eligible: 2.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - The Logan Meadow area along Chiquito Creek contains a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible Late Prehistoric period trail hub and an NRHP eligible 19th to 20th century Nim cultural property. Two miles of the creek between Logan Meadow and Mammoth Pool. Significant cultural meeting area
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: This section of Chiquito Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

This section Chiquito Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Developed campground
- Accessibility: Road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cirque Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.49)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Cirque Lake
- End Point Description: Bear Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.2
- Eligible: 3.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cirque Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Cirque Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Clearwater Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.50)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters east of Source Point
- End Point Description: Ross Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.2
- Eligible: 2.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible traditional and cultural site of importance. Significant and unique traditional and cultural site.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Clearwater Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Clearwater Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: Clearwater barracks are near the creek
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cold Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.53)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of Silver Pass Lake
- End Point Description: Thomas A. Edison Lake –John Muir Wilderness boundary
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 9.6
- Eligible: 9.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape; spectacular lateral glacial moraines, Graveyard Meadow Glacial lake lacustrine deposits. Significant and unique geology as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cold Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Cold Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cora Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.55)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Cora Lakes
- End Point Description: North Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.7
- Eligible: 3.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cora Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Cora Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Cow Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.57)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at north of Willow Meadow south of Forest Road 9S62
- End Point Description: Dinkey Creek
- Special Area: none

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Fish (Population):**

- Description: Lahontan cutthroat trout population is one of 14 recognized subspecies of cutthroat trout in western United States. The species is managed under the recovery plan and is monitored annually for population abundance.
- ORV Finding: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Cow Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Cow Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, culverts and bridges
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Crown Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.61)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters east of Crown Basin; west of Kettle Ridge
- End Description: Forest boundary with Kings Canyon National Park
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 10.5
- Eligible: 10.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Crown Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Crown Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development

- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Dike Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.67)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters unnamed lake in the Ritter Range
- End Point Description: North Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.6
- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Dike Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Dike Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Dinkey Creek (River/Segment GIS Number(s): 3.68.1; 3.68.2; 3.68.3; 3.68.4)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Island Lake
- End Point Description: Upper waterfalls north of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area
- Special Area: 3.5 miles of this segment is located in the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 4.0
- Eligible: 4.0

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Upper waterfalls north of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area
- End Point Description: Waterfalls south of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area
- Special Area: Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 0.7
- Eligible: 0.7

Location (Segment 3):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Waterfalls south of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area
- End Point Description: Confluence Rock Creek
- Special Area: 0.25 miles in Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area

Mileage (Segment 3):

- Studied: 6.9
- Eligible: 6.9

Location (Segment 4):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence Rock Creek
- End Point Description: South of the gauging station and north of Strawberry Meadow
- Special Area: 0.25 miles in Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area

Mileage (Segment 4):

- Studied: 4.0
- Eligible: 4.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The 4 study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Spectacular views of granite domes and lakes.
    - Segment 2: Granite-walled river canyons interspersed with patches of forested areas and views of lakes and domes, including Dinkey Dome, are visual features. One segment is 4.95 miles and the other segment is .55 miles within Variety Class A.
    - Segment 3: includes 3.22 miles within Variety Class A (Distinctive). Barren granite-walled river canyons. Includes Dinkey Dome
    - Segment 4: 1.85 miles within Variety Class A. Views of granite domes and lakes and historical structures.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 3: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 4: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Recreation**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Popular hiking trail utilized by moderate population of visitors for a day hike. Trail from trailhead to Island Lake the trail follows the creek. There is six miles of trails providing a loop experience to visiting up to four lakes in the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness.
    - Segment 2: The creek is crossed by Swamp Motorized Trail. Just east of the creek crossing is an excellent example of the Dinkey Creek Roof Pendant Geological Area where the rocks are folded back upon themselves. Unique geological viewing along existing trails - access by roads and motorized trails
    - Segment 3: Hiking cross country by small population of visitors to visit unique geological formations along the creek.
    - Segment 4: Dinkey creek is a popular recreation destination that offers recreational activities such as camping, picnicking, fishing, water play, horseback riding, organization camps, rental cabins and recreation residence.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 4: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description:

- Segment 1: Glaciated landscape; The Dinkey Creek Roof Pendant is a series of rocks having been folded three different ways. The Pendant includes schist, quartzite, hornfelds, calc-silicate rocks, and marble. These rocks are thought to have been originally deposited sometime between the Paleozoic (visit link) and the Cretaceous Period (visit link) of the Mesozoic (visit link) in a shallow marine area. The age range would be anywhere between 524 to 146 million years ago.
- Segment 2: Glaciated landscape; The Dinkey Creek Roof Pendant is a series of rocks having been folded three different ways. The Pendant includes schist, quartzite, hornfelds, calc-silicate rocks, and marble. These rocks are thought to have been originally deposited sometime between the Paleozoic (visit link) and the Cretaceous Period (visit link) of the Mesozoic (visit link) in a shallow marine area. The age range would be anywhere between 524 to 146 million years ago.
- Segment 3: Glaciated scoured valley down to Arkansas Creek.
- Segment 4: Upper reach glaciated down to Glen Meadow Creek Quaternary Glaciated Deposits, lateral moraines. Dinkey Dome is 0.13 miles from Dinkey Creek.

♦ ORV Finding:

- Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Segment 2: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Segment 3: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Segment 4: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **History**

♦ Description:

- Segment 1: No known historic attributes to this area
- Segment 2: No known historic attributes to this area
- Segment 3: No known historic attributes to this area
- Segment 4: NRHP listed significant Dinkey Creek Bridge.

♦ ORV Finding:

- Segment 1: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Segment 2: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Segment 3: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- Segment 4: History is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Prehistory:**

♦ Description:

- Segment 1: No known cultural/prehistoric attributes to this area
- Segment 2: No known cultural/prehistoric attributes to this area
- Segment 3: No known cultural/prehistoric attributes to this area
- Segment 4 NRHP eligible Archaic and Late Prehistoric period prehistoric and ethnographic Mono Indian trails, and villages.

- ORV Finding:
  - Segment 1: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 2: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 3: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 4: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: All four segments of Dinkey Creek are determined to be eligible. Each segment is free flowing. Segment 1 and Segment 3 have Scenery and Geology as outstandingly remarkable values; Segment 2 has Recreation and Geology as outstanding remarkable values; Segment 4 has Scenery, History and Prehistory as outstanding remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Motorized and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 3 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 4 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Yes
- Accessibility: Roads and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Dusy Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.73)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra

- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Thompson Lake
- End Point Description: Courtright Reservoir
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.8
- Eligible: 5.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Recreation**
  - Description: Parallels the Dusy Ershim primitive road for entire length. This unique motorized trail is known and visited from a national perspective. Camping, fishing with access by OHVs. Significant historical trail and camping.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **History**
  - Description: The Dusy Ershim primitive road is a significant historical trail, unique in its offerings
  - ORV Finding: History is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory:**
  - Description: Clovis Culture has been discovered in this area with documentation they hunted the wooly mammoth. This is significant prehistory that changed knowledge of the area.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Dusy Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation, History and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Dusy Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development.
- Accessibility: Motorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

East Fork Bear Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.76)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Black Bear Lake
- End Point Description: Bear Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.6
- Eligible: 4.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description: The lakes, granitic walls, and waterfalls are the exemplary visual features.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: East Fork Bear Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and Geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

East Fork Bear Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

East Fork Big Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.77.1, 3.77.2)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of Dutch Oven Meadow

- End Point Description: Confluence unnamed stream northeast Rock House Meadow
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 1.8
- Eligible: 1.8

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence unnamed stream northeast Rock House Meadow
- End Point Description: Confluence of Big Creek and South Fork Big Creek
- Special Area: John Muir and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 3.0
- Eligible: 3.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Both study reaches are found to be free-flowing

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park. It is a unique diversity in landscapes
    - Segment 2: Glaciated Landscape, geology is neither significant nor unique.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Hiking and equestrian use in primitive environment
    - Segment 2: Dusy Ershim, a primitive road; a nationally known for motorized recreation
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Wildlife (Population)**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Above 6,000 feet and therefore has habitat for listed amphibians
    - Segment 2: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest. On the Sierra NF, this is the most southern habitat where the Yosemite toad has been found.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Wildlife (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: East Fork Big Creek segments 1 and 2 are determined to be eligible. Each segment is free flowing. Segment 1 Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value; Segment 2 Recreation and Wildlife (Population) are outstanding remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

East Fork Big Creek segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: nonmotorized cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

East Fork Big Creek segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Primitive road, nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

East Fork Cargyle Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.79)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Iron Lake
- End Point Description: Cargyle Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: East Fork Cargyle Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

East Fork Cargyle Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

East Fork Granite Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.83)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters north of McClure and Sadler Lakes
- End Point Description: Confluence of Granite Creek and West Fork Granite Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 11.3
- Eligible: 11.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: East Fork Granite Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

East Fork Granite Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

East Pinnacles Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.85)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Aweetasal Lake
- End Point Description: Piute Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.2
- Eligible: 3.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: East Pinnacles Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

East Pinnacles Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Cross country travel
- Water Quality: Unknown

Fall Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.90)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Mount Hutton
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.1
- Eligible: 5.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Fall Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Fall Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails
- Water Quality: Unknown

Fernandez Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.92)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters unnamed lake north of Ruth Lake
- End Point Description: West Fork Granite Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.4
- Eligible: 1.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Fernandez Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Fernandez Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Fish Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.96.1, 3.96.2)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Red and White Lake on the Sierra managed by the Inyo
- End Point Description: Confluence with Minnow Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 8.6
- Eligible: 8.6

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence with Minnow Creek
- End Point Description: Middle Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 11.8
- Eligible: 11.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Both study reaches are found to be free-flowing

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 2: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Fish Creek segments 1 and 2 are determined to be eligible. Each segment is free flowing. Segment 1 and 2 have Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value;

Classification Findings:

Fish Creek segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: nonmotorized cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Fish Creek segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Fleming Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.97.1, 3.97.2)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Fleming Lake
- End Point Description: Confluence unnamed creek, west of Devils Punch Bowl

- Special Area: John Muir Wildernesses

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.6
- Eligible: 4.6

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence unnamed creek, west of Devils Punch Bowl
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: John Muir Wildernesses

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 3.6
- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Both study reaches are found to be free-flowing

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 2: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 2: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Fleming Creek segments 1 and 2 are determined to be eligible. Each segment is free flowing. Segment 1 and 2 have Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Fleming Creek segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails

- Water Quality: Unknown

Fish Creek segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

French Canyon (River/Segment GIS Number: 3. 101)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters French Lake
- End Description: Piute Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.0
- Eligible: 5.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: French Canyon is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

French Canyon has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Glen Meadow Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.104.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra

- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description:, 0.1 miles east of the Glen Meadow work center
- End Point Description: Dinkey Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.2
- Eligible: None

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **History**
  - Description: NRHP eligible historic vernacular landscape associated with early 20th century Forest Service use. Historic buildings constructed and used by the Forest Service (Pine Logging Camp and Dinkey Ranger Station complex).
  - ORV Finding: History is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory:**
  - Description: NRHP eligible prehistoric archaeological district
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Glen Meadow Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. History and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Glen Meadow Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Development relates to roads and bridges; buildings.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Golden Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.105)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Summit Lake
- End Point Description: Mono Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.1

- Eligible: 3.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural property. This is a significant cultural landscape
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Golden Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and cultural and prehistoric attributes are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Golden Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Granite Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.107.1, 3.107.2, 3.107.3)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Confluence of the East Fork Granite Creek and West Fork Granite Creek near the Granite Creek campground
- End Point Description: Confluence of the San Joaquin River, 0.8 miles northeast of Balloon Dome
- Special Area: From the confluence with Miller Creek to the San Joaquin River, Granite Creek is in the Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 7.2
- Eligible: 2.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape; Bedrock controlled coming into San Joaquin River
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: The mid-reach of Granite Creek contains a NRHP eligible Late Archaic period prehistoric trans-Sierra economic exchange corridor. This is a unique trans-Sierra economic exchange corridor
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value, but not for the entire length studied. The ORV is present beginning west of Cattle Mountain/east of 5S84A termination point and ends at the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Granite Creek is determined to be eligible for the portion that is west of Cattle Mountain/east of 5S84A termination point and ends at the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary. It is free flowing. Geology and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Granite Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Developed campground.
- Accessibility: Road.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Helms Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.112.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Downstream of the dam for Courtright Reservoir
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.6
- Eligible: 2.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**

- Description: Variety Class A (Distinctive). Steep, barren granite-walled canyons with knife-edged ridges, a unique granite-walled canyon.
- ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**
  - Description: The creek drops through a glacier carved canyon. Outstanding nature viewing. Access is a trail and stairway near the dam that provides access to the gauging station. Unique hiking in the canyon. It is considered a class V for normal flows of 40 CFS and a unique kayaking experience.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, geology is neither significant nor unique.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Helms Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values; geology is not.

Classification Findings:

Helms Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Hilgard Branch (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.114)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Lake Italy
- End Point Description: Bear Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 7.1
- Eligible: 7.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.

- ♦ ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Hilgard Branch is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Hilgard Branch has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Hooper Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.118)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northwest of Mount Hooper
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - ♦ Description: Glaciated landscape; glacial moraines, glacial lakes (tarns); high alpine glaciated valley including cirque basin; significant and unique geology as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Hooper Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Hooper Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Hopkins Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.119)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Upper Hopkins Lakes
- End Point Description: Mono Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.8
- Eligible: 3.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural property and a significant cultural landscape
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Hopkins Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Hopkins Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Horse Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.120)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning point Description: Headwaters north of Woodchuck Pass
- End Point Description: Crown Creek

- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.3
- Eligible: 6.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is the outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Horse Creek (segment 3.12) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is the outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Horse Creek (segment 3.12) has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Iron Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.126.1; 3.126.2)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Iron Lakes
- End Point Description: Confluence of unnamed creek from Hoggen Lake
- Special Area: none

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 2.1
- Eligible: 2.1

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of unnamed creek from Hoggen Lake
- End Point Description: South Fork Merced River

- Special Area: none

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 2.0
- Eligible: 2.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Both study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Connects to Iron Lakes, Junction Lake, Bare Island, and Hoggem Lake. These water forms and the sheer granitic walls are the exemplary visual features and is a unique diversity in landscapes.
    - Segment 2: A similar landform and vegetation characteristic found on South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic River; but branches off South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic River and connects to Iron Creek segment that leads to Iron Lakes. It is a unique diversity in landscapes.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Iron Creek segments 1 and 2 are determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Iron Creek segment 3.126.1 has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Motorized trail and dispersed camping
- Accessibility: Motorized trail, cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Iron Creek segment 3.126.2 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Iron Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.128)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Iron Lake west of Iron Mountain east of Sierra NF boundary with Inyo NF
- End Point Description: North Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.4
- Eligible: 3.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Iron Creek (segment 3.128) is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Iron Creek segment 3.128 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Jackass Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.130.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Jackass Meadow
- End Point Description: Mammoth Pool
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 13.6
- Eligible: 13.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible Intermediate Period prehistoric trail; now called the French Trail. Confluence of West Fork Jackass Creek and Mammoth Pool. This is a significant prehistoric trail.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Jackass Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Jackass Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Primitive campground.
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Jose Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.133.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of Jose Creek and Musick Creek
- End Point Description: Confluence of the San Joaquin River and Jose Creek at Powerhouse 3
- Special Area: Critical Aquatic Refuge

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.7
- Eligible: 4.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Nonwilderness creek, no unique or significant geology
  - ORV Finding: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible unique ethnographic landscape for the Nim and Poshgisha Mono people
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Jose Creek basin supports the only known population of foothill yellow-legged frogs in the Sierra National Forest, and is one of only a handful of populations in the Province area. Foothill yellow-legged frogs are listed as sensitive by the US Forest Service. The frog population is within 1/4 mile of Jose Creek, and owes its existence to Jose Creek. Unique population of foothill yellow-legged frog.
  - ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Jose Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory and Wildlife (Population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Jose Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Kaiser Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.134.1)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Lower Twin Lakes
- End Description: Kaiser Creek at trail 26E30
- Special Area: less than 0.5 miles in Kaiser Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.6
- Eligible: 2.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**:
  - Description: Significant carbonate and glaciated landscape.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Kaiser Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Kaiser Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lakecamp Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.135)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Mt. Givens, East of Dusy-Ershim
- End Point Description: Big Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.8
- Eligible: 3.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest.
  - ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lakecamp Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Lakecamp Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Laurel Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.137)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of Finch Lake
- End Point Description: Mono Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Significant glaciated landscape; high alpine glacial landforms including tarns as spectacular as anything in Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural property, a significant cultural landscape.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Laurel Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Laurel Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development.
- Accessibility: Cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Lewis Fork Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.139.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake

- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Forest boundary at Sugar Pine private property
- End Point Description: Forest boundary at Cedar Valley private property
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.5
- Eligible: 4.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Recreation**
  - The Lewis Creek Trail National Recreational Trail is a high use trail for hiking. It is a unique opportunity with waterfalls.
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
  - Lewis Fork Creek contains an NRHP eligible Chukchansi cultural property associated with the mid to late 19th century diaspora of Native Californians
  - ORV Finding: ORV - This is a unique cultural property.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Lewis Fork Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation and History are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Lewis Fork Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Developed.
- Accessibility: State Highway; Highly developed nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Little Fine Gold Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.141)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters are east of Teaford Saddle
- End Point Description: Forest boundary, 1.27 miles southwest of Goat Mountain Fire Lookout
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.3
- Eligible: 3.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: Ethnographic Mono Hamlet
  - ORV Finding: ORV - Significant cultural landscape

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Little Fine Gold Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Little Fine Gold Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development.
- Accessibility: Roads
- Water Quality: Unknown

Long Canyon (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.145)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Scarab Lake
- End Description: Fish Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.7
- Eligible: 3.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Long Canyon is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Long Canyon has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Long Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.146)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Rockbound Lake
- End Point Description: North Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.9
- Eligible: 4.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Long Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Long Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Madera Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.154)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Madera Lakes
- End Point Description: West Fork Granite Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.6
- Eligible: 4.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Madera Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Madera Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Meadow Brook (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.157)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Cold Springs
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.6

- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Meadow Brook is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Meadow Brook has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Mills Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.164)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Upper Mills Creek Lake
- End Point Description: Mono Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.0
- Eligible: 6.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**

- Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural property and a significant cultural landscape
- ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest.
  - ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Mills Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology, Prehistory and Wildlife (Population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Mills Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Minnow Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.165)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Minnie Lake
- End Point Description: Fish Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.0
- Eligible: 5.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Minnow Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Minnow Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Mono Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.166.1; 3.166.2; 3.166.3; 3.166.4)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Pioneer Basin Lakes
- End Point Description: 0.5 miles north of Mono Rock; 0.5 miles from the confluence of Golden and Fourth Recess Lakes
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 2.4
- Eligible: 2.4

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: 0.5 miles north of Mono Rock; 0.5 miles from the confluence of Golden and Fourth Recess Lakes
- End Point Description: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 9.9
- Eligible: 9.9

Location (Segment 3):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
- End Point Description: 0.66 miles southwest of Vermillion Valley Dam on Lake Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
- Special Area: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir

Mileage (Segment 3):

- Studied: 5.2
- Eligible: None

Location (Segment 4):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: 0.66 miles southwest of Vermillion Valley Dam on Lake Thomas A. Edison
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 4):

- Studied: 6.2
- Eligible: 6.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: All study reaches except segment 3 are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Mono Recesses/peaks and granite-walled river canyons are unique visual features of the Sierra Crest.
    - Segment 2: Mono Recesses/peaks and granite-walled river canyons are unique visual features of the Sierra Crest.
    - Segment 3: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
    - Segment 4: Common
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 3: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 4: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Recreation**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: There are many lakes in the Pioneer Basin Lakes providing excellent camping opportunities in the John Muir Wilderness
    - Segment 2: The area includes deep glacial hanging valleys, granite domes, and extensive riparian areas with large aspen stands.

    - Segment 3: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
    - Segment 4: Trails in the Ansel Adams Wilderness access the Mono Creek in this segment.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 4: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated landscape; glacial moraines, glacial lakes. Significant and unique geology as spectacular as Yosemite National Park
    - Segment 2: Glaciated landscape; above Edison Lake; glacial moraines, u-shaped valley; hanging valleys; unique and significant geology as spectacular as Yosemite National Park
    - Segment 3: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
    - Segment 4: Glaciated landscape; glacially scoured bedrock; not significant or unique geology.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: ORV - Significant and unique geology.
    - Segment 2: ORV - Significant and unique geology with hanging valleys.
    - Segment 3: Not an ORV
    - Segment 4: Not an ORV
- **Prehistory**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: NRHP eligible Mono Trail Traditional Cultural Property. Unique to the Sierra NF Mono Traditional Cultural Property following the Mono Trail from Mammoth area on the Inyo to the Mono Hot Springs Area.
    - Segment 2: NRHP eligible Mono Trail Traditional Cultural Property. Unique to the Sierra NF Mono Traditional Cultural Property following the Mono Trail from Mammoth area on the Inyo to the Mono Hot Springs Area.
    - Segment 3: NRHP eligible Mono Trail Traditional Cultural Property. : If the reservoir had not been built there would be an ORV due to the unique to the Sierra NF Mono Traditional Cultural Property following the Mono Trail from Mammoth area on the Inyo to the Mono Hot Springs Area. The current day Mono's have routed a trail around the reservoir.
    - Segment 4: NRHP eligible Mono Trail Traditional Cultural Property. Unique to the Sierra NF Mono Traditional Cultural Property following the Mono Trail from Mammoth area on the Inyo to the Mono Hot Springs Area.

- ORV Finding:
  - Segment 1: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 2: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 3: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 4: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest. On the Sierra NF, this is the most southern habitat where the Yosemite toad has been found
    - Segment 2: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest. On the Sierra NF, this is the most southern habitat where the Yosemite toad has been found.
    - Segment 3: Thomas A. Edison Reservoir
    - Segment 4: Common wildlife
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Wildlife (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 4: Wildlife (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Mono Creek is determined to be eligible. Three of the four segments are free flowing. Segment 1 has Scenery, Geology, Prehistory and Wildlife as outstandingly remarkable values; Segment 2 has Scenery, Recreation, Geology, and Prehistory as outstandingly remarkable values; Segment 4 has Prehistory as an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Motorized and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 3 was not found to be eligible and therefore no preliminary classification has been assigned.

Segment 4 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Yes
- Accessibility: Roads and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Mule Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.169)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters east side of the Kings River Geological Area
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.1
- Eligible: 2.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Carbonate; glaciated landscape; Kings River Geological Area with significant caves. Significant and unique.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: Significant aboriginal cultural site.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Mule Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Mule Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Nelder Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.172)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Northern boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area
- End Point Description: Southwest boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area
- Special Area: Nelder Grove Historical Area

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.9
- Eligible: 1.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Variety Class A. Within the Nelder Grove Special Interest Area. The Giant Sequoias are the notable and exemplary visual features. This is a significant diverse landscape
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
  - Description: The section within Nelder Grove has hiking through redwood trees unique to the area and along the Nelder Grove NRT and provides a significant hiking opportunity unique to the forest
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Botany**
  - Description: Eight populations of the mountain lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium montanum*), two populations western waterfan lichen (*Peltigera gowardii*), and giant sequoias
  - ORV Finding: Botany is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Nelder Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery, Recreation, and Botany are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Nelder Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Trailhead facility with toilet building.
- Accessibility: Roads and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Nelson Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.174)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northeast of Nelson Mountain
- End Description: Courtright Reservoir
- Special Area: Dinkey Lakes Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest.
  - ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Nelson Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Nelson Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.

- Water Quality: Unknown

North Fork Kings River (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.177.1; 3.177.2: 3.177.3; 3.177.4; and 3.177.5)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point: Headwaters north of Battalion Lake
- End Point Description: Confluence of unnamed creek south of Blackcap Basin
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 2.7
- Eligible: 2.7

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of unnamed creek south of Blackcap Basin
- End Point Description: Wishon Reservoir
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 15.6
- Eligible: 15.6

Location (Segment 3):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Wishon Reservoir
- End Point Description: Just below the dam of Wishon Reservoir
- Special Area: Wishon Reservoir

Mileage (Segment 3):

- Studied: 3.7
- Eligible: None

Location (Segment 4):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Just below the dam of Wishon Reservoir

- End Point Description: Black Rock Reservoir
- Special Area: None

Mileage (Segment 4):

- Studied: 7.6
- Eligible: 7.6

Location (Segment 5):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Just below the dam of Black Rock Reservoir
- End Point Description: Kings River
- Special Area: None

Mileage (Segment 5):

- Studied: 10.8
- Eligible: 10.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Four of the five study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Views of the Sierra crest. Knife-edged ridges are the unique visual features.
    - Segment 2: Variety Class A (Distinctive). Barren granite-walled river canyons interspersed with patches of forested areas. There is one section where granite-walled river canyons are prominent
    - Segment 3: Wishon Reservoir
    - Segment 4: 4.23 miles within the segment are Variety Class A (Distinctive). Barren granite-walled river canyons interspersed with patches of forested areas. There is one section where granite-walled river canyons are prominent.
    - Segment 5: Common scenery
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 3: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 4: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 5: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value

- **Recreation**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: wilderness hiking experience
    - Segment 2: wilderness hiking experience
    - Segment 3: Wishon Reservoir
    - Segment 4: Includes the Granite Gorge for excellent viewing of water falls dropping over 100 feet. Unique individuals hike / climb the large boulders at the bottom of the Granite Gorge traversing 100 foot water falls. This area offers a unique canyoneering in a deep gorge
    - Segment 5: Unique canyoneering between the confluence of Weir Creek and Balch Camp Powerhouse. Upper and Lower Jump Canyons.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 4: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 5: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 2: Glaciated landscape
    - Segment 3: Wishon Reservoir
    - Segment 4: Glaciated landscape
    - Segment 5: Carbonate; Glaciated Landscape
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 4: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 5: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Prehistory**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: No known cultural/prehistoric sites
    - Segment 2: No known cultural/prehistoric sites

  - Segment 3: Wishon Reservoir
  - Segment 4: No known cultural/prehistoric sites
  - Segment 5: Contains a unique NRHP eligible Holkoma Mono ethnographic village.
- ORV Finding:
  - Segment 1: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 2: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value
  - Segment 3: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value
  - Segment 4: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value
  - Segment 5: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: North Fork Kings River is determined to be eligible. Four of the five segments are free flowing. Segment 1 has Scenery and Geology as outstandingly remarkable values; Segment 2 has Scenery as an outstandingly remarkable value; Segment 3 has no outstanding remarkable values; Segment 4 has Scenery and Recreation as outstanding remarkable values; Segment 5 has Recreation and Prehistory as outstanding remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Motorized and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 3 has no classification based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Black Rock Campground
- Accessibility: Water based access.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 4 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: Recreation facilities; Black Rock Ranger Station.
- Accessibility: Roads and nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 5 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Balch Power Plant; power lines, transmission lines; town of Balch Camp
- Accessibility: Roads and cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

North Fork Mono Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.178)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Bighorn Lake
- End Point Description: Mono Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.3
- Eligible: 5.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible Mono Trail Traditional Cultural Property. This is a significant cultural landscape
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest

- ♦ ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: North Fork Mono Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology, Prehistory and Wildlife (Population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

North Fork Mono Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Nutmeg Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.185.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Haslett Basin - where the creek leaves private property and enters Sierra National Forest
- End Point Description: Big Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.8
- Eligible: 1.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - ♦ Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural landscape for the Holkoma Mono people.
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Nutmeg Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Nutmeg Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: Development includes roads and powerlines; dispersed camping in the area
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Owl Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.190)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Whiskey Ridge east of Whiskey Falls Campground
- End Point Description: Whiskey Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.3
- Eligible: 2.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Botany**
  - Rawson's flaming trumpet (*Collomia rawsoniana*) is present along the stream; brook pocket moss (*Fissidens aphelotaxifolius*) and western waterfan lichen are in the stream. The brook pocket moss location is one of only two in California.
  - ORV Finding: Botany is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Owl Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Botany is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Owl Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development.
- Accessibility: Roads
- Water Quality: Unknown

Pitman Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.198)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno

- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of Tamarack Creek and South Fork Tamarack Creek,
- End Point Description: Big Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.4
- Eligible: 2.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: Contains NRHP eligible ethnographic trails.
  - ORV Finding: ORV - Unique prehistoric trails.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Pitman Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Pitman Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Development includes roads and powerlines; dispersed camping in the area
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Piute Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.199.1; 3.199.2; 3.199.3)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point: Headwaters at Humphreys Lake
- End Point Description: Confluence of unknown creek from Muriel Lake
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 2.5
- Eligible: 2.5

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra

- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of unknown creek from Muriel Lake
- End Point Description: Kings Canyon National Park boundary
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 11.0
- Eligible: 11.0

Location (Segment 3):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Kings Canyon National Park boundary
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 3):

- Studied: 0.06
- Eligible: 0.06

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: All three study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Views of the Sierra crest. Knife-edged ridges are the unique visual features.
    - Segment 2: Headwaters in scenic alpine basin, upper portion flows in rough rocky, heavily glaciated gorge, gradient decreases downstream; granite outcroppings, boulders and bare rock dominate scenery with timber and alpine meadows interspersed; access by trail. Knife-edged ridges are the unique visual features
    - Segment 3: Kings Canyon National Park
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
    - Segment 3: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology**
  - Description:

    - Segment 1: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 2: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 3: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest. On the Sierra NF, this is the most southern habitat where the Yosemite toad has been found
    - Segment 2: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest. On the Sierra NF, this is the most southern habitat where the Yosemite toad has been found
    - Segment 3: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest. On the Sierra NF, this is the most southern habitat where the Yosemite toad has been found
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 3: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Piute Creek is determined to be eligible. Each of the three segments is free flowing. Segments 1 and 2 have scenery, geology and wildlife as outstandingly remarkable values; Segment 3 has geology and wildlife as outstanding remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 3 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Post Corral Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.202.1)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters north of Red Rock Basin
- End Point Description: Confluence of Burnt Corral Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.4
- Eligible: 5.4

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of Burnt Corral Creek
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 2: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1 Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Post Corral Creek segments 1 and 2 are determined to be eligible. They are free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Post Corral Creek segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trails, cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Post Corral Creek segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Post Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.203)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Post Lakes
- End Point Description: West Fork Granite Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Post Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Post Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Providence Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.205)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of Forked Meadow
- End Point Description: Big Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.8
- Eligible: 2.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: Clovis Culture has been discovered in this area.

- ♦ ORV Finding: ORV - Significant cultural landscape

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Providence Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Providence Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Campground and Forest Service work center in area.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rancheria Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.207)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters north of Spanish Lakes
- End Point Description: North Fork Kings River
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 8.7
- Eligible: 8.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Recreation**
  - ♦ Description: Spectacular waterfall into the Granite Gorge. Viewing scenery, photography. Significant views for photography
  - ♦ ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rancheria Creek segment 3.207 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rancheria Creek segment 3.207 has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development

- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rancheria Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.208)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters east of Idaho Lake
- End Point Description: Huntington Lake
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.4
- Eligible: 5.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Recreation**
  - Description: Accessed by a NRT - Rancheria Falls Trail on the lower portion of the creek. Trail is designed to accommodate various abilities. Spectacular view of the falls at the end of the trail. Significant views for photography
  - ORV Finding: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rancheria Creek segment 3.208 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rancheria Creek segment 3.208 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rock Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.215.1)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Cutts Meadow

- End Point Description: Confluence of unnamed creek west of Bald Mountain
- Special Area: none

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest with only a few outside the wilderness
  - ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rock Creek segment 3.215.1 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rock Creek segment 3.215.1 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, motorized trails and dispersed camping
- Accessibility: Roads and motorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rock Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.217)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Rock Creek Lake
- End Point Description: San Joaquin River
- Special Area: none

Mileage:

- Studied: 6.4
- Eligible: 6.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rock Creek segment 3.217 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rock Creek segment 3.217 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, bridges and developed campground.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rodgers Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.218)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at Geraldine lakes east of Spanish Mountain
- End Point Description: to Forest boundary with Kings Canyon National Park where it meets Crown Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.5
- Eligible: 5.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rodgers Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rodgers Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rough Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.322)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Rogers Ridge, east of Garlic Meadow
- End Point Description: Kings River
- Special Area: Kings River Special Management Area

Mileage:

- Studied: 5.0
- Eligible: 5.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Wildlife (Population):**
  - Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest
  - ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rough Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rough Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rube Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.224.1, 3.224.2)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno

- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters north of Rube Meadow
- End Point Description: Confluence with unnamed creek near Heitz Meadow
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence with unnamed creek near Heitz Meadow
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.1
- Eligible: 1.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description:
    - Segment 1: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
    - Segment 2: Glaciated Landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding:
    - Segment 1: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
    - Segment 2: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rube Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rube Creek segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails, cross-country travel.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rube Creek segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Rush Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.226.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: South of Burrough Mountain and east of Bob's Flat.
- End Point Description: Big Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.1
- Eligible: 2.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**:
  - Description: NRHP eligible, unique Protohistoric period village
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Rush Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Rush Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Development includes roads and powerlines; dispersed camping in the area
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Sallie Keyes Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.231)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters unnamed lake southeast of Mt. Hooper
- End Point Description: South Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.6
- Eligible: 4.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Sallie Keyes Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Sallie Keyes Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

San Joaquin River (River/Segment GIS Number: (3.233.1, 3.233.3, 3.233.4, 3.233.6)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point: Hells Half Acre
- End Point Description: Mammoth Pool Reservoir
- Special Area: None

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 1.0
- Eligible: 1.0

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Mammoth Pool Reservoir
- End Point Description: Mammoth Pool Dam
- Special Area: None

Mileage (Segment 3):

- Studied: 8.5
- Eligible: 8.5

Location (Segment 4):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake / High Sierra
- County: Madera, Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Mammoth Pool Powerhouse
- End Point Description: Redinger Lake
- Special Area: None

Mileage (Segment 4):

- Studied: 7.1
- Eligible: 7.1

Location (Segment 6):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake / High Sierra
- County: Madera, Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Redinger Lake Dam
- End Point Description: Kerckhoff Lake
- Special Area: None

Mileage (Segment 6):

- Studied: 7.2
- Eligible: 7.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: Segments 1, 3, 4 and 6 are found to be free-flowing. Segments 2, 5, and 7 are not free flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**

  Description:

  - Segment 1: Variety Class A. Steep granitic walls, domes, and deep canyon are the visual features.
  - Segment 3: Variety Class A. Steep granitic walls, domes, and deep canyon are the visual features.
  - Segment 4: Variety Class A. Steep granitic walls, domes, and deep canyon are the visual features.
  - Segment 6: Variety Class A. Steep granitic walls, domes, and deep canyon are the visual features.

  ORV Finding:

  - Segment 1: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 3: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 4: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
  - Segment 6: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**

  Description:

  - Segment 1: hiking, viewing scenery
  - Segment 3: Class VI-V rafting, fishing, deep canyon with limited access, Rock Creek and Fish Creek have multiple falls dropping into the canyon - viewing scenery
  - Segment 4: Hiking, viewing scenery
  - Segment 6: hiking, viewing scenery

  ORV Finding:

  - Segment 1: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value
  - Segment 3: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value
  - Segment 4: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value
  - Segment 6: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Segments 1, 3, 4 and 6 of the San Joaquin River are determined to be eligible. They are free flowing. Segments 1, 4 and 6 have Scenery has an outstandingly remarkable value. Segment 3 has Scenery and Recreation as outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.

- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 3 has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment
- Shoreline Development: Trailhead to access nonmotorized trails
- Accessibility: Non-motorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 4 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreation" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment
- Shoreline Development: Mammoth Pool Powerhouse; power lines, transmission lines
- Accessibility: One road and Non-motorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Segment 6 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreation" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment
- Shoreline Development: Powerhouse; power lines, transmission lines
- Accessibility: One road and Non-motorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Scepter Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.235)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Scepter Pass; north of Scepter Lake
- End Point Description: Crown Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 7.2
- Eligible: 7.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population):**

- Description: Historic accounts indicate Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog species was once extremely abundant across its range with some populations in the hundreds and even thousands. There are 48 known occupied locations on the forest.
- ORV Finding: Wildlife (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Scepter Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Wildlife (Population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Scepter Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Senger Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.236)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northeast of Mount Senger
- End Point Description: Sallie Keyes Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.2
- Eligible: 4.2

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Senger Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Senger Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Shakeflat Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.237)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters southeast Shuteye Pass
- End Point Description: San Joaquin River near Shakeflat Trailhead
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.9
- Eligible: 3.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**:
  - Description: NRHP eligible, significant prehistoric district
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Shakeflat Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Shakeflat Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads and bridges.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Sharktooth Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.238)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Sharktooth Lake
- End Point Description: Fish Creek

- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.8
- Eligible: 3.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population):**
  - Description: Paiute cutthroat trout population. This subspecies evolved from Lahontan cutthroat trout (*O. c. henshawi*) in Silver King Creek, below Llewellyn Falls. The separation of the subspecies is believed to have occurred following the desiccation of Lake Lahontan
  - ORV Finding: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Sharktooth Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Fish (Population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Sharktooth Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Shirley Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.241)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Shirley Lake
- End Point Description: Madera Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.7
- Eligible: 2.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Shirley Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Shirley Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Shuteye Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.243)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northeast Shuteye Peak
- End Point Description: West Fork Chiquito Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.7
- Eligible: 2.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**:
  - Description: Significant aboriginal cultural site.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Shuteye Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Shuteye Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, bridges and campground.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Silver Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.244)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of the Gorge of Despair in Kings Canyon National Park
- End Point Description: Middle Fork Kings River at Little Tehipite Valley
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.5
- Eligible: 3.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Silver Creek segment 3.244 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Silver Creek segment 3.244 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Silver Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.245)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra

- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Big Margaret Lake
- End Description: Fish Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 9.7
- Eligible: 9.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Silver Creek segment 3.245 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Silver Creek segment 3.245 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Silver Pass Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.246)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Silver Pass Lake
- End Description: North Fork Mono Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.6
- Eligible: 2.6

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Geology

- Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
- ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Silver Pass Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Silver Pass Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Slide Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.250)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northeast of Stevenson Meadow
- End Point Description: North Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.5
- Eligible: 2.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Slide Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Slide Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Bear Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.256)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters southeast of Three Island lake
- End Description: East Fork Bear Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Bear Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

South Fork Bear Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Dinkey Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.258.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of unnamed creek from Sportsman Lake
- End Point Description: Dinkey Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.5
- Eligible: 3.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**
  - Description: Variety Class A (Distinctive). Barren granite-walled river canyons interspersed with patches of forested areas and views of lakes and domes are visual features. Connects to Dinkey Cr and offers views of Bear Mountain and Virginia Lakes.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology**
  - Description: Unique glaciated scoured valley. Granitic bedrock with small metamorphic bodies including silicated marble bodies. Monzonite of Dinkey Dome and Granodiorite of Eagle Peak.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Dinkey Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and Geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

South Fork Dinkey Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development.
- Accessibility: Motorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork San Joaquin River (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.260.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra

- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Florence Lake Dam
- End Point Description: San Joaquin River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 28.0
- Eligible: 28.0

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**:
  - Description: Variety Class A. Steep granitic walls, domes, and deep canyon are the visual features.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**:
  - Description: Glaciated landscape; u-shaped valley; hanging valleys. Significant and unique geology.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork San Joaquin River is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and Geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

South Fork San Joaquin River has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, bridges and campground.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

South Fork Willow Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.262.1)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Confluence of Sand Creek and North Fork Sand Creek
- End Point Description: Forest boundary at private property
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.3

- Eligible: 4.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **History**
  - Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural landscape for the Nim Mono people associated with the Late Prehistoric through early 20th century periods. A unique cultural landscape.
  - ORV Finding: History is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: The South Fork of Willow Creek is populated with unique NRHP eligible ethnographic Nim hamlets and Indian Allotments.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: South Fork Willow Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. History and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

South Fork Willow Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: The shoreline itself is not developed, however, there is a large town nearby and it is a roaded area.
- Accessibility: County and forest roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Stairway Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.265)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Stairway Meadow
- End Point Description: Middle Fork San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.9
- Eligible: 3.9

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - ORV Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population):**
  - ORV Description: Paiute cutthroat trout population - This subspecies evolved from Lahontan cutthroat trout (*O. c. henshawi*) in Silver King Creek, below Llewellyn Falls. The separation of the subspecies is believed to have occurred following the desiccation of Lake Lahontan
  - ORV Finding: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Stairway Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology and Fish (Population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

Stairway Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Statham Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.267)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters on Rodgers Ridge
- End Description: Statham River
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.1
- Eligible: 1.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**

- Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
- ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Statham River is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Statham River has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Stevenson Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.268.4)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Stevenson Creek at the base of the Shaver Lake Dam where the creek leaves private property and enters Sierra National Forest lands.
- End Point Description: San Joaquin River
- Special Area: Critical Aquatic Refuge

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.3
- Eligible: 4.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible traditional cultural landscape.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Stevenson Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Stevenson Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads, powerlines and penstock

- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Sycamore Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.273.3)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Sierra National Forest boundary with private property in section 11 east of Davis Mountain
- End Point Description: Sierra National Forest boundary with private property
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 0.7
- Eligible: 0.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Cultural/Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible Holkoma Mono cultural property associated with the mid to late 19th century diaspora of Native Californians.
  - ORV Finding: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Sycamore Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Sycamore Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Roads and powerlines, predominately on private property.
- Accessibility: Roads.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Timber Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.279)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters west of Timber Knob
- End Point Description: West Fork Granite Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.7
- Eligible: 1.7

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Timber Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Timber Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Tombstone Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.281)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters near Obelisk
- End Point Description: Middle Fork Kings River
- Special Area: Monarch Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Tombstone Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Tombstone Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Turret Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.283)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters northeast of Turret Peak
- End Description: Piute Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.8
- Eligible: 1.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: Turret Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

Turret Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

West Fork Bear Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.290)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters Marshal Lake
- End Description: South Bear Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.5
- Eligible: 3.5

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Scenery**:
  - Description: The lakes, granitic walls, and waterfalls are the exemplary visual features.
  - ORV Finding: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: West Fork Bear Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Scenery and Geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

- West Fork Bear Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:
- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

West Fork Granite Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.294.1; 3.294.2)

Location (Segment 1):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Slab Lakes

- End Point Description: Post Creek
- Special Area: Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 1):

- Studied: 4.3
- Eligible: 4.3

Location (Segment 2):

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning point Description: Post Creek
- End Point Description: Confluence of Granite Creek at Granite Creek campground
- Special Area: At the confluence of West Granite Creek and Post Creek until the Wilderness boundary, the creek is in the Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage (Segment 2):

- Studied: 5.8
- Eligible: 5.8

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reaches are found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description Segment 1: Glaciated landscape; glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - Description Segment 2: Glaciated landscape
- **History**
  - Description Segment 1: No historic properties
  - Description Segment 2: historic mining significance (e.g. Strawberry Mine - a tungsten mine used to supply tungsten during WWII)

Summary of Eligibility Findings:

Segment 1 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Segment 2 is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. History is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

West Fork Granite Creek Segment 1 has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Wilderness
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

West Fork Granite Creek Segment 2 has been given a preliminary classification of "recreational" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Minimum developed campground.
- Accessibility: Roads and trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

West Fork Jackass Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.295.2)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Confluence of Nehouse Creek
- End Point Description: Jackass Creek
- Special Area: None

Mileage:

- Studied: 1.4
- Eligible: 1.4

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape
  - ORV Finding: Not an ORV
- **History**
  - Description: Area includes a significant NRHP eligible Intermediate Period prehistoric trail; now called the French Trail. Confluence of West Fork Jackass Creek and Jackass Creek.
  - ORV Finding: History is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
  - Description: NRHP eligible Intermediate Period prehistoric trail; now called the French Trail. Confluence of West Fork Jackass Creek and Jackass Creek.
  - ORV Finding: ORV - Significant prehistoric trail

Summary of Eligibility Findings: West Fork Jackass Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. History and Prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Classification Findings:

West Fork Jackass Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development.
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown

West Fork Portuguese Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.306)

Location:

- Ranger District: Bass Lake
- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Burro Lake
- End Point Description: East Fork Portuguese Creek
- Special Area: one mile is in Ansel Adams Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.3
- Eligible: 3.3

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Fish (Population):**
  - Description: Lahontan cutthroat trout population is one of 14 recognized subspecies of cutthroat trout in western United States. The species is managed under the recovery plan and is monitored annually for population abundance.
  - ORV Finding: ORV - Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: West Fork Portuguese Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

West Fork Portuguese Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "scenic" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Development related to roads.
- Accessibility: Two roads, cross-country hiking.

- Water Quality: Unknown

West Pinnacles Creek (River/Segment GIS Number: 3.297)

Location:

- Ranger District: High Sierra
- County: Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters south of Hoopal Lake
- End Description: Piute Creek
- Special Area: John Muir Wilderness

Mileage:

- Studied: 2.1
- Eligible: 2.1

Eligibility Findings:

Determination of Free Flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

- **Geology**
  - Description: Glaciated landscape, glaciated scoured bedrock and valleys, moraines, significant and unique glacial landforms as spectacular as Yosemite National Park.
  - ORV Finding: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary of Eligibility Findings: West Pinnacles Creek is determined to be eligible. It is free flowing. Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Classification Findings:

West Pinnacles Creek has been given a preliminary classification of "wild" based on the following:

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: No development
- Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.
- Water Quality: Unknown

Review of Previously Evaluated Inventory

Description of Previous Studies Completed

The National Rivers Inventory of January 1982 identified three rivers on the Sierra National Forest which may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: the Merced River, including the South Fork Merced River; the San Joaquin River including the Middle Fork San Joaquin River, the North Fork San Joaquin and South Fork San Joaquin Rivers; and the Kings River including the Middle Fork Kings River.

The 1986 Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan DEIS, Appendix E provides a detailed discussion of the eligibility analysis and evaluation of the Merced, South Fork Merced, San Joaquin, Middle Fork San Joaquin, North Fork San Joaquin, South Fork San Joaquin, and Middle Fork Kings Rivers.

Table C-14. Merced River findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

Merced River	Segment 7	Segment 8
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Geology Vegetation Wildlife Recreation Cultural, History	Geology Vegetation Wildlife Recreation Cultural, History
Beginning and Ending Points	West boundary El Portal Administrative Site to confluence with South Fork Merced River (5 miles)	Confluence with South Fork Merced River to NW boundary Sierra National Forest (5 miles)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No
Diversions	No	No
Classification	Recreation	Recreation

Note: Segments 1 through 6 are managed by National Park Service; segments 9 and 10 are managed by Bureau of Land Management

Table C-15. South Fork Merced River findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

South Fork Merced River	Segment 6	Segment 7
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Geology Vegetation Wildlife Fisheries Recreation Cultural, History	Geology Wildlife Fisheries Recreation Cultural, History
Beginning and Ending Points	Yosemite NP / USFS boundary to 2 miles upstream of Hite Cove (12 miles)	2 miles upstream of Hite Cove to confluence with Merced River (6 miles)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No
Diversions	No	No
Classification	Wild	Scenic

Note: Segments 1 through 5 are managed by National Park Service

Table C-16. San Joaquin River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

San Joaquin River	Segment 1	Segment 2
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Geology Fisheries Scenery	Geology Fisheries Scenery
Beginning and Ending Points	Confluence of North Fork and Middle Fork San Joaquin River to Hells Half Acre (12 miles) (Ansel Adams Wilderness)	Hells Half Acre to Northeast end of Mammoth Pool Reservoir (2 miles)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No
Diversions	No	No
Classification	Wild	Wild

Table C-17. North Fork San Joaquin River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

North Fork San Joaquin River	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Geology Wildlife Recreation Scenery	Geology Wildlife Recreation Scenery	Geology Wildlife Scenery Cultural, History
Beginning and Ending Points	Headwaters to Hemlock Crossing (4 miles) (Ansel Adams Wilderness)	Hemlock Crossing to Cora Creek (4 miles) (Ansel Adams Wilderness)	Cora Creek to confluence with the Main Fork San Joaquin River (6 miles) (Ansel Adams Wilderness)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No
Classification	Wild	Wild	Wild

Table C-18. Middle Fork San Joaquin River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Segment 4
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Scenery Geology Recreation
Beginning and Ending Points	Rainbow Falls to confluence with North Fork San Joaquin (9 miles) (Ansel Adams Wilderness and Devils Postpile National Monument and Sierra National Forest) (9 miles)
Free Flowing	Yes
Impoundments	No
Diversions	No
Classification	Wild

Note: Segments 1 and 2 are on the Inyo National Forest, Segment 3 is Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument. See Inyo National Forest Review of Previously Evaluated Inventory for details on Segments 1-3.

Table C-19. South Fork San Joaquin River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

South Fork San Joaquin River	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Geology Wildlife Scenery	Wildlife Scenery	Wildlife Scenery
Beginning and Ending Points	Kings Canyon National Park / Sierra NF boundary to Hot Springs area (3 miles) (John Muir Wilderness)	Hot Springs area to west end of Blayney Meadows (private parcel) (2 miles)	Blayney Meadows area to end of Florence Lake (2 miles) (John Muir Wilderness)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No
Classification	Wild	Recreation	Scenic

Note: Segment 1 is managed as wilderness by Kings Canyon National Park

Table C-20. Middle Fork Kings River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest LRMP DEIS, Appendix E of the DEIS

Middle Fork Kings River	Segment 2
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Geology Wildlife Recreation Scenery Cultural, History
Beginning and Ending Points	Southeast boundary Sierra NF to confluence with Kings River and South Fork Kings River (north boundary of Sequoia NF) (8 miles) (Monarch Wilderness)
Free Flowing	Yes
Impoundments	No
Diversions	No
Classification	Wild

Note: Segment 1 is managed as wilderness by Kings Canyon National Park

During the course of preparing the 1988 forest plan and its accompanying EIS, a considerable amount of legislative action took place. In summary, legislation included the following:

- In November 1987 and October 1992, legislation designated the Merced and the South Fork Merced Rivers under the Wild and Scenic River Act, negating the need for further wild and scenic river consideration. Management of the Merced River is shared by National Park Service, the BLM and the Forest Service. The Forest Service sections include portions of Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests, but the Sierra National Forest is the lead administrator of the Merced WSR.
- In November 1987, the Kings River was designated under the Wild and Scenic River Act, negating the need for further wild and scenic river consideration from the confluence of the Middle Fork and the South Fork to the point at elevation 1,595 feet above mean sea level. The Middle Fork was designated from its headwaters at Lake Helen to its

confluence with the main stem. The South Fork was designated from its headwaters at Lake 11599 to its confluence with the main stem.

- In addition, a 48,000-acre special management area consisting of the Kings River was designated. The lower Kings River, a stretch of river above the high water line of Pine Flat Reservoir and below Garlic Meadow Creek was not analyzed in preparation of the land and resources management plan because of ongoing controversy and discussions about raising the dam resulting in the flooding of this stretch of river. This was appealed and in part of the appeal's settlement the Kings River original Segment 1 would be evaluated as Segments 3, 4, and 5 in the Kings River Special Management Area Implementation Plan 1991, Appendix B as shown in Table C-21.

Additionally, in 1992, the following segments of these rivers that were not included in the Congressional designations were found as suitable and are currently being managed as recommended wild and scenic rivers:

- The Middle Fork San Joaquin River from its headwaters at Thousand Island Lake to the Confluence with the North Fork San Joaquin River. (22.0 miles)
- The North Fork San Joaquin River from its headwaters in sec 8, T3S, R25 E to the confluence with the San Joaquin River. (14 miles)
- The San Joaquin River from the confluence with North Fork San Joaquin River to Hells Half Acre. (12 miles)
- The South Fork San Joaquin River from its headwaters to the south end of Florence Lake. (17 miles)

Table C-21. Findings of the Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA) Implementation Plan 1991, appendix B

Kings River (the previous Segment 1)	**Segment 3 Elevation 1595 to Garnet Dike**	**Segment 4 Garnet Dike to boundary of KRSMA**	**Segment 5 KRSMA boundary to high water mark for Pine Flat Reservoir**
Outstandingly Remarkable Value (s) (ORVs)	Scenery Recreation Geology Botanical Wildlife/Fish Cultural/Historic Science/Educational	Scenery Recreation Geology Wildlife/Fish Cultural/Historic Science/Education	Scenery Recreation Wildlife/Fish Cultural/Historic
Free flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No
Classification	Wild	Scenic	Recreational

Process the Sierra National Forest Interdisciplinary Team Used to Determine if There Are Any Changed Conditions or New Information since the Previous Evaluation(s)

The Sierra National Forest interdisciplinary team was provided a copy of the 1986 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Appendix E. The interdisciplinary team reviewed the two segments of the San Joaquin River, three segments of the North Fork San Joaquin River, one segment of the Middle Fork San

Joaquin River, two segments of the South Fork San Joaquin River, and one segment of the Middle Fork Kings River to identify if there were any changed conditions in the intervening period since the past eligibility and suitability studies, or if new information was available that could potentially change previous findings on outstandingly remarkable values.

Results of the Eligibility Review for Previously Evaluated Rivers

The Sierra National Forest interdisciplinary team found the existing outstanding remarkable values of the recommended rivers and segments to be well defined and acceptable as written during the previous evaluation and suitability study. These rivers will continue to be managed as recommended wild and scenic rivers.

It should also be noted that though the previous wild and scenic rivers evaluation of these rivers that resulted in the designations and recommendations was comprehensive, there are portions of the North Fork Kings River, San Joaquin River, and South Fork San Joaquin River that were not included in the previous studies. These segments were addressed as new inventory in the current evaluation are documented in the new inventory section.

Summary of Eligibility and Classification Findings

A total of approximately 3,754.4 miles of river were included in the current inventory that was evaluated for wild and scenic river eligibility by the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests. Of that inventory, approximately 1,294.4 miles of river had been evaluated in previous efforts and approximately 200.4 miles had previously been determined to be eligible and have been managed to protect their eligibility. Of those eligible rivers, approximately 102.7 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “wild,” approximately 29.9 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “scenic,” and 64.3 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “recreational.”

The current effort included development of a comprehensive inventory of rivers on all three national forests. Rivers that had been previously evaluated for eligibility in earlier efforts were given a refreshed look to determine if there were any changed conditions or new information and findings were adjusted accordingly. Of the 200.4 miles that had previously been determined to be eligible, all miles were reaffirmed as eligible. Classifications were reviewed and adjusted if changed conditions were present. The updated classification findings on the previously evaluated rivers includes approximately 103.6 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “wild,” approximately 32.5 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “scenic,” and 64.2 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “recreational.”

New inventory was evaluated to determine if free flow and any outstandingly remarkable values were present. Of the 2,462.7 miles of new inventory that were evaluated for eligibility, approximately 669.0 miles were determined to be eligible. The classification findings on the newly evaluated rivers includes approximately 372.0 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “wild,” approximately 75.5 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “scenic,” and 221.4 miles were assigned a preliminary classification of “recreational.” The total miles of river currently determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is approximately 897.2 miles. A detailed summary of the eligibility and classification findings for each forest can be found on the following tables and maps.

Eligibility Tables and Maps

The following tables provide summaries of the rivers on each national forest that meet eligibility requirements to be considered for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Maps follow each table. Larger, higher resolution maps are available to view online at the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) Web page at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3833668.

Inyo National Forest

Table C-22. Inyo National Forest rivers that meet eligibility requirements to be considered for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild Scenic or Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Convict Creek (Segment 1)	7.0	Wild	Headwaters	Convict Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Botanical
Cottonwood Creek (Segment 1)	4.7	Wild to wilderness boundary and then scenic	Headwaters	Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02	Scenery, Recreation, Fish Habitat
Cottonwood Creek (Segment 2)	1.4	Recreational	Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site	Recreation, Fish Populations
Cottonwood Creek (Segment 3)	3.9	Wild	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site	Golden Trout Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Fish Populations
Cottonwood Creek (Segment 4)	2.1	Recreational	Golden Trout Wilderness boundary	Intake in Section 27 just east of Forest Service Road 17S01	Scenery, Fish Populations
Fish Creek	20.4	Wild	Headwaters	Confluence with Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Golden Trout Creek	19.0	Wild	Headwaters above Big Whitney Meadows	Confluence with the Kern River	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish Populations
Hot Creek	2.9	Recreational	Fish Hatchery	Forest boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish Populations
Laurel Creek	3.8	Scenic	Wilderness boundary	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek (Segment 1)	1.5	Wild	Headwaters tributaries	Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek (Segment 2)	0.2	Wild	Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area	Greenstone Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild Scenic or Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Lee Vining Creek (Segment 3)	3.0	Recreational	Saddlebag Lake	Hwy 120	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek (Segment 4)	6.0	Recreational	Southern CA Edison Powerhouse	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Diversion Pond	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lone Pine Creek/North fork Lone Pine Creek (Segment 1)	4.7	Wild	North Fork and South fork Headwaters	John Muir Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Lone Pine Creek (Segment 2)	3.9	Recreational	John Muir Wilderness boundary	Inyo Forest boundary near Lone Pine Campground	Scenery, Recreation
McGee Creek	6.7	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Middle Fork San Joaquin River	3.5	Wild	Headwaters are from an unnamed lake southwest of Thousand Island Lake	Middle Fork San Joaquin River at the northeast end of Thousand Island Lake	Recreation
Mill Creek (Segment 1)	4.0	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Mill Creek (Segment 2)	1.4	Scenic	Wilderness boundary	Private Property	Scenery, Recreation
Mill Creek (Segment 3)	0.8	Recreational	Private Property	Lundy Lake	Scenery, Recreation
North Fork Big Pine Creek (Segment 1)	5.5	Wild	Northern headwaters on flank of Cloudripper	Wilderness boundary	Recreation, Geology
North Fork Big Pine Creek/Big Pine Creek (Segment 2)	3.6	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Private Property	Recreation, Geology
Parker Creek	4.5	Wild	Headwaters	Wild Bound	Scenery, Recreation
Rock Creek (Segment 1)	1.2	Wild	Headwaters	Mack Lake	Scenery, Recreation
Rock Creek (Segment 2)	12.0	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place	Scenery, Recreation
Rock Creek –Lower (Segment 3)	6.9	Recreational	Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place	Forest boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Rush Creek	3.7	Wild	Headwaters	Inlet of Waugh Lake	Scenery, Recreation
South Fork Bishop Creek (Segment 1)	3.6	Wild	Headwaters	Inlet at South Lake	Scenery, Recreation

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild Scenic or Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
South Fork Bishop Creek (Segment 2)	5.2	Recreational	Dam outlet at South Lake	Habeggers RV Park	Scenery, Recreation
South Fork Mill Creek (Segment 1)	1.1	Wild	Dove Pass Lake	Crystal Lake	Scenery, Recreation
South Fork Mill Creek (Segment 2)	1.6	Wild	Crystal Lake	Hoover Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation
South Fork Mill Creek (Segment 3)	0.3	Scenic	Hoover Wilderness boundary	Confluence with Mill Creek	Scenery, Recreation
South Fork Oak Creek (Segment 1)	3.6	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Geology, Botanical
South Fork Oak Creek (Segment 2)	3.9	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Road 13s04	Scenery, Geology, Botanical
Walker Creek (Segment 1)	2.6	Wild	Headwaters tributaries	Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Walker Creek (Segment 2)	0.4	Scenic	Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary	Walker Lake	Scenery

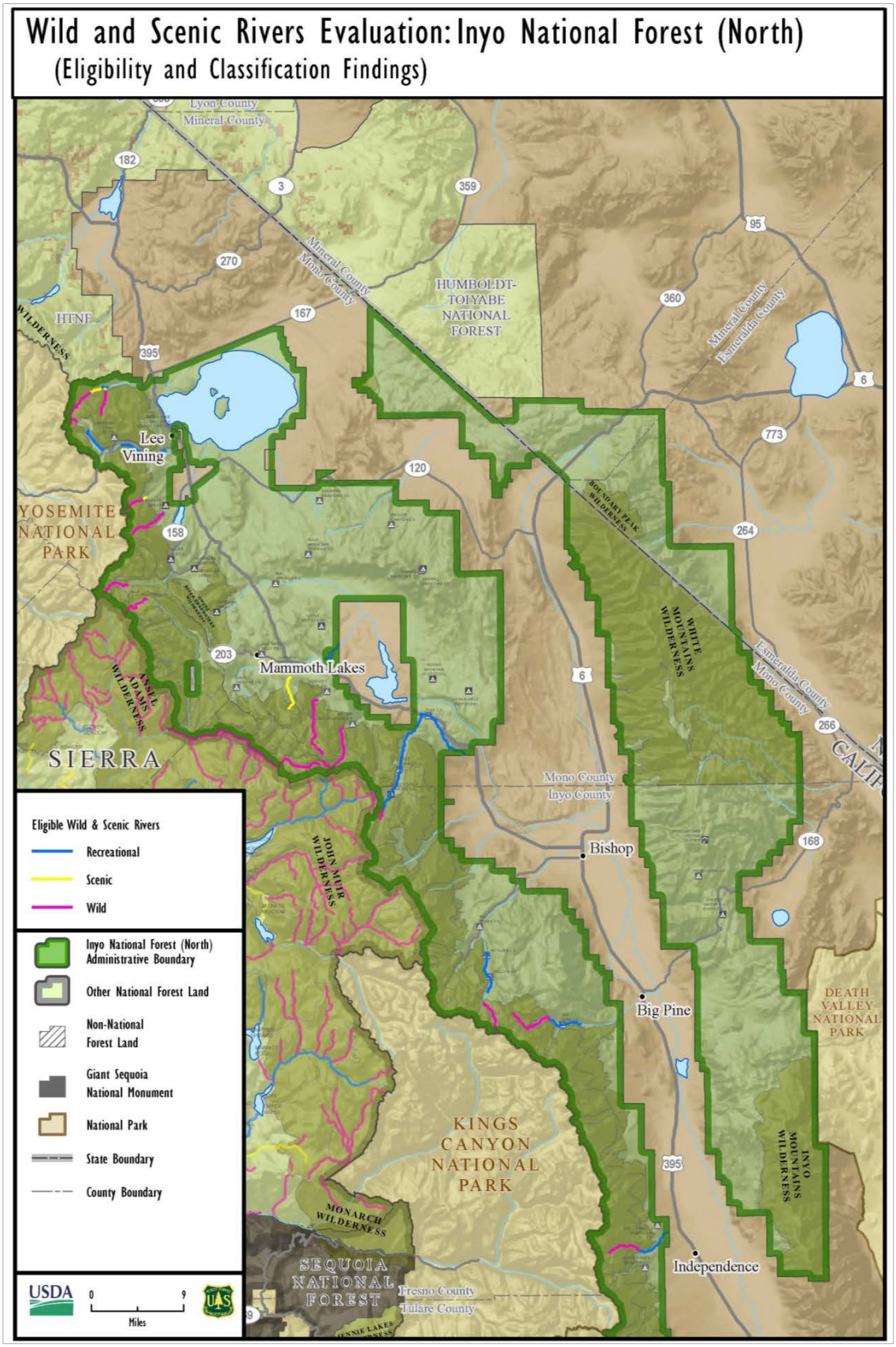

Figure C-77. Inyo National Forest wild and scenic river eligibility and classification finding (north half)

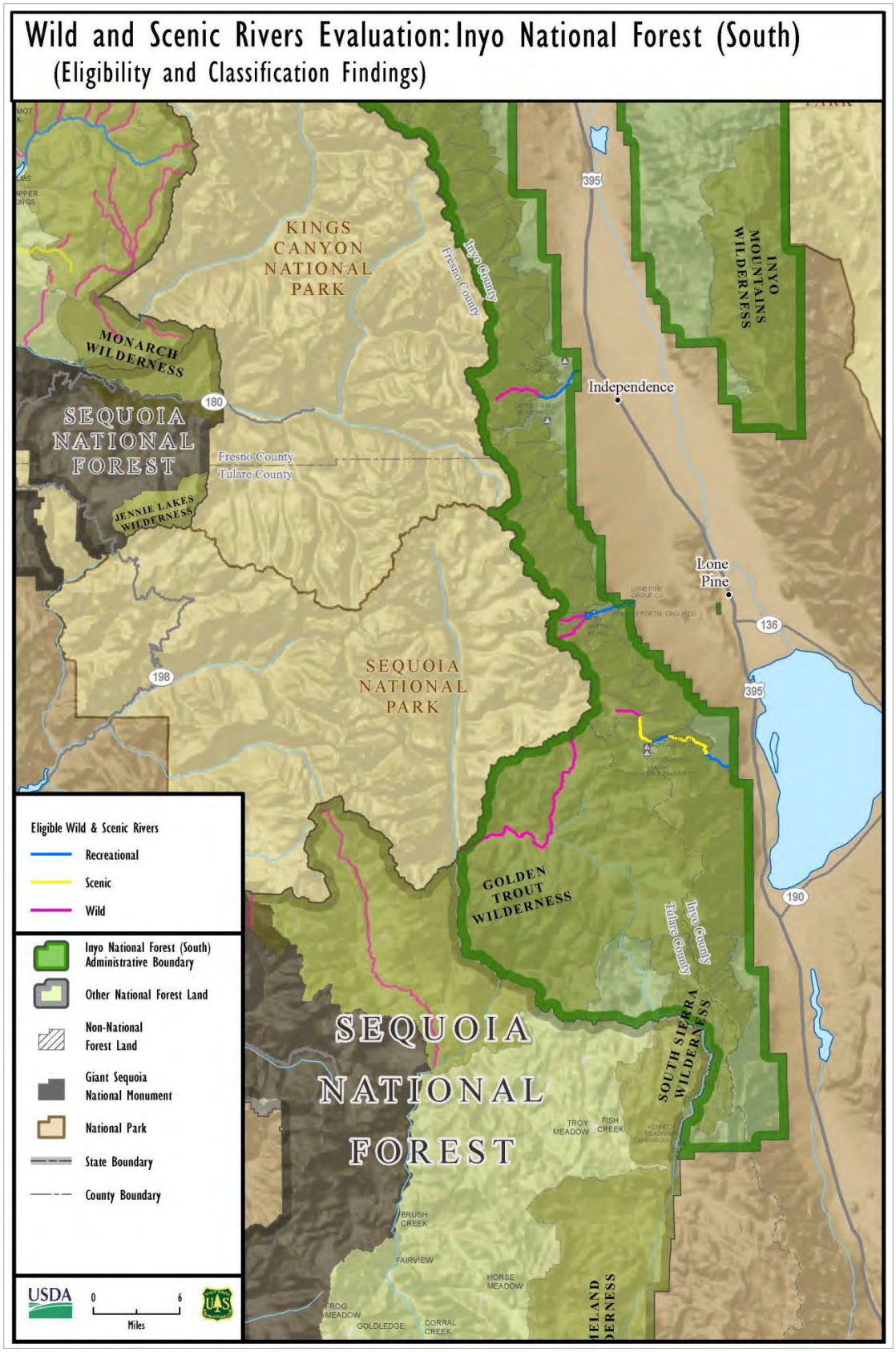

Figure C-78. Inyo National Forest wild and scenic river eligibility and classification finding (south half)

Sequoia National Forest

Table C-23. Sequoia National Forest rivers that meet eligibility requirements to be considered for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (W = Wild; S = Scenic; R = Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Kern River (Segment 1)	7.4	R	Main Dam Lake Isabella	Borel Station	Scenery
Kern River (Segment 2)	12.7	S	Borel Powerhouse	Democrat Hot Springs	Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife Populations
Kern River (Segment 3)	11.5	R	Democrat Hot Springs	Forest boundary just below the Powerhouse	Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife Populations
Kings River	4.0	Wild	Kings River from terminus of the existing WSR in vicinity of Garlic spur on north side and Cabin Creek on south side	Garnet Dike	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, History, Prehistory, Fish Habitat and Populations, Wildlife Habitat and Populations, Science/educational
Kings River	7.5	S	Garnet Dike	Kings River Special Management Area boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, History, Prehistory, Fish Habitat and Populations, Wildlife Habitat and Populations, Science/educational
Kings River	1.3	R	Kings River Special Management Area boundary	Pine Flat Reservoir high water line	Scenery, Recreation, History, Prehistory, Fish Habitat, Wildlife Habitat and Populations
Little Kern River (Segment 1)	12.4	Wild	Headwaters begin near the north boundary of the Sequoia NF South Block near Farewell Gap	Extends South to Table Meadow Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish Habitat, Wildlife Habitat, Wildlife Populations
Little Kern River (Segment 2)	12.0	Wild	Begins at the confluence of Table Meadow Creek	Extends to its confluence with the Kern River	Recreation, Fish Habitat and Populations
North Fork Middle Fork Tule River	2.8	Wild	From the Forest boundary with Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, south through Golden Trout Wilderness	To Golden Trout Wilderness boundary near Mountain Home	Ecological
North Fork Tule River	3.9	Wild	Originates in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks flowing west	Ends at the west boundary of Sequoia National Forest at Mountain Rd. 276 and FS Rd.19S09	Recreation, Wildlife Habitat and Populations

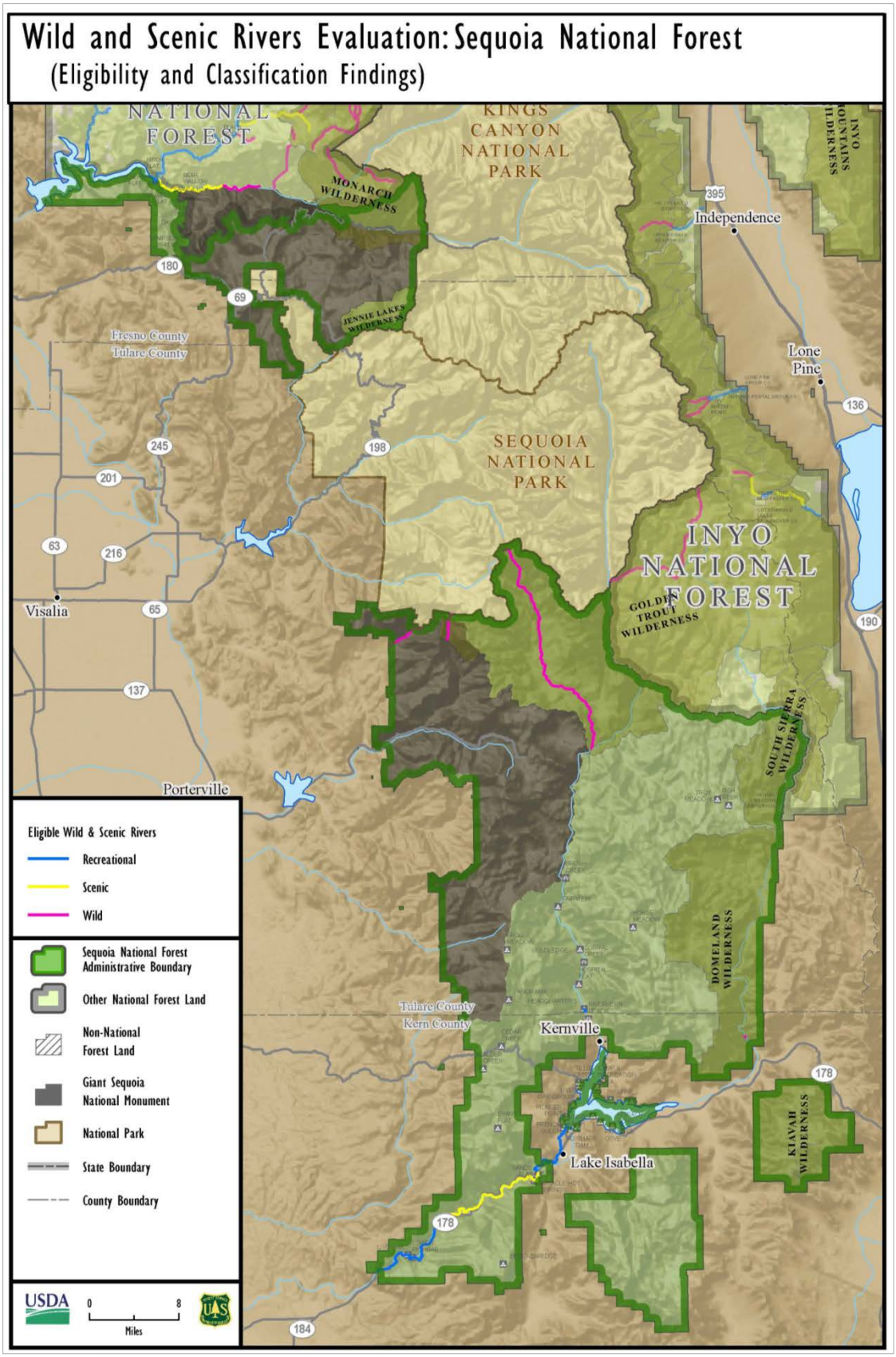

Figure C-79. Sequoia National Forest wild and scenic river eligibility and classification finding

Sierra National Forest

Table C-24. Sierra National Forest rivers that meet eligibility requirements to be considered for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System[2]

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Alder Creek	3.7	Wild	Headwaters south of Mount Hooper	South Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Anderson Creek	2.3	Wild	Headwaters are east of Long Top; west of Corral Mountain	North Fork Kings River	Geology
Aspen Creek	3.6	Recreational	Headwaters near Horsethief Lake	San Joaquin River	Prehistory
Bald Mill Creek	5.6	Recreational	Headwaters near Bald Mt., 0.6 miles west of Alder Springs - private property	Confluence San Joaquin River - crosses Big Sandy Rancheria - mostly private property	Prehistory, Botanical
Balsam Creek	3.9	Recreational	Headwaters are northeast of Balsam Meadow	Big Creek	Prehistory
Bear Creek*	8.7	Recreational	Headwaters southwest of Nelson Mt.	Dinkey Creek	Prehistory
Bear Creek*	11.4	Wild	Upper Bear Creek Meadows, Confluence of the South Fork Bear Creek and East Fork Bear Creek	South Fork San Joaquin River	Scenery, Geology
Bear Meadow Creek	5.4	Recreational	Headwaters west of Dinkey Mt. in Bear Meadow	Oak Flat Creek	Prehistory
Bench Canyon	3.4	Wild	Headwaters Blue Lake	North Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Big Creek*	13.4	Recreational	0.7 miles north of the Bretz Mill site at confluence of unnamed stream	Pine Flat Reservoir on the Kings River near intersection Dinkey Trimmer Road (10S069) and Trimmer Springs Road (FREM0002)	Prehistory
Big Creek*	9.9	Recreational	South side of Huntington Lake at the Gaging Station near Dam.	San Joaquin River	History, Prehistory
Big Creek*	6.0	Recreational	Confluence with White Chief Branch	Forest boundary with Yosemite National Park, north of Summerdale Campground	Prehistory

[2] Asterisks in table denote a river that shares the same name with at least one other segment but is a geographically separate and distinct river.

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Billy Creek	1.4	Wild	Headwaters east of Homecamp research natural area in Kaiser Wilderness	Huntington Lake	Prehistory
Bishop Creek	1.7	Recreational	Forest boundary with Yosemite National Park	South Fork Merced River	Prehistory
Black Rock Creek	1.9	Recreational	Headwaters east of Black Rock	North Fork Kings River	Prehistory
Boulder Creek	5.6	Wild	Headwaters west of Dutch Meadow in the John Muir Wilderness	Florence Lake	Geology
Burnt Corral Creek	6.0	Wild	Headwaters south of Thompson Pass	Post Corral Creek	Geology
Cabin Creek	1.6	Wild	Headwaters south of Chain Lakes	Rancheria Creek	Geology
California Creek	1.8	Recreational	Northeast boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area	Southern boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area	Scenery, Recreation
Cargyle Creek	5.1	Wild	Headwaters Straube Lake	Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Chetwood Creek	2.3	Wild	Headwaters at Detachment Meadow	Confluence North Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Chiquito Creek	2.0	Recreational	Confluence of West Fork Chiquito Creek	Mammoth Pool Reservoir on the San Joaquin River near the Mammoth Pool campground	History, Prehistory
Cirque Creek	3.2	Wild	Headwaters at Cirque Lake	Bear Creek	Geology
Clearwater Creek	2.2	Recreational	Headwaters east of Source Point	Ross Creek	Prehistory
Cold Creek	9.7	Wild	Headwaters west of Silver Pass Lake	Edison Lake – John Muir Wilderness boundary	Geology
Cora Creek	3.7	Wild	Headwaters at Cora Lakes - Ansel Adams Wilderness	North Fork San Joaquin River - Ansel Adams Wilderness	Geology
Cow Creek	4.4	Scenic	Headwaters Willow Meadow south of Forest Road 9S62	Dinkey Creek	Fish Populations
Crown Creek	10.5	Wild	Headwaters east of Crown Basin; west of Kettle Ridge	Forest boundary with Kings Canyon National Park	Geology
Dike Creek	3.6	Wild	Headwaters unnamed lake in the Ritter Range	North Fork San Joaquin River	Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Dinkey Creek (Segment 1)	4.0	Wild	Headwaters at Island Lake	Upper waterfalls north of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area	Scenery, Geology
Dinkey Creek (Segment 2)	0.7	Recreational	Upper waterfalls north of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area	Waterfalls south of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area	Recreation, Geology
Dinkey Creek (Segment 3)	6.9	Wild	Waterfalls south of Dinkey Creek Roof Pendent Geological Area	Confluence Rock Creek	Scenery, Geology
Dinkey Creek (Segment 4)	4.0	Recreational	Confluence Rock Creek	South of the gauging station and north of Strawberry Meadow	Scenery, History, Prehistory
Dusy Creek	5.8	Recreational	Headwaters southwest of Thompson Lake	Cortright reservoir	Recreation, History, Prehistory
East Fork Bear Creek	4.6	Wild	Headwaters Black Bear Lake	Bear Creek	Scenery, Geology
East Fork Big Creek (Segment 1)	1.8	Wild	Headwaters west of Dutch Oven Meadow	Confluence unnamed stream at Ershim Meadow	Geology
East Fork Big Creek (Segment 2)	3.0	Scenic	Confluence unnamed stream at Ershim Meadow	Confluence of Big Creek and South Fork Big Creek	Recreation, History, Wildlife Populations
East Fork Cargyle Creek	4.1	Wild	Headwaters south of Iron Lake	Cargyle Creek	Geology
East Fork Granite Creek	11.3	Wild	Headwaters north of McClure and Sadler Lakes in Ansel Adams Wilderness	Confluence of Granite Creek and West Fork Granite Creek	Geology
East Pinnacles Creek	3.2	Wild	Headwaters at Aweetasal Lake	Piute Creek	Geology
Fall Creek	5.1	Wild	Headwaters south of Mount Hutton	North Fork Kings River	Geology
Fernandez Creek	1.4	Wild	Headwaters unnamed lake north of Ruth Lake	Confluence West Fork Granite Creek	Geology
Fish Creek (Segment 1)	8.6	Wild	Headwaters near forest boundary with Inyo NF south of McGee Pass	Minnow Creek	Geology
Fish Creek (Segment 2)	11.8	Wild	Confluence Minnow Creek	Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Fleming Creek (Segment 1)	4.7	Wild	Headwaters Upper Indian Lake	Confluence unnamed creek, west of Devils Punch Bowl	Geology
Fleming Creek (Segment 2)	3.6	Wild	Confluence unnamed creek, west of Devils Punch Bowl	North Fork Kings River	Geology
French Canyon	4.9	Wild	Headwaters French Lake	Piute Creek	Geology
Glen Meadow Creek	2.2	Recreational	0.1 miles east of the Glen Meadow work center	Dinkey Creek near the Dinkey Creek Ranger Station	History, Prehistory
Golden Creek	3.1	Wild	Headwaters at Summit Lake	Mono Creek	Geology, Prehistory
Granite Creek	2.0	Recreational	West of Cattle Mountain/east of road 5S84A termination point and .1 mile north of the river's intersection with the 6,800 foot elevation contour.	Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary	Prehistory
Helms Creek	2.6	Wild	Base of the Courtright Reservoir Dam	North Fork Kings River, 0.96 miles east of Lost Peak	Scenery, Recreation
Hilgard Branch	7.1	Wild	Lake Italy	Bear Creek	Geology
Hooper Creek	4.4	Wild	Headwaters northwest of Mount Hooper	South Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Hopkins Creek	3.8	Wild	Headwaters Upper Hopkins Lakes	Mono Creek	Geology, Prehistory
Horse Creek	6.3	Wild	Headwaters north of Woodchuck Pass	Crown Creek	Geology
Iron Creek*	3.4	Wild	Headwaters at Iron Lake west of Iron Mt., east of SNF/INF boundary	North Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Iron Creek* (Segment 1)	2.1	Scenic	Headwaters at Iron Lakes	Confluence of unnamed creek from Hoggem Lake	Scenery
Iron Creek* (Segment 2)	2.0	Wild	Confluence of unnamed creek from Hoggem Lake	South Fork Merced River	Scenery
Jackass Creek	13.6	Scenic	Headwaters Jackass Meadow	Mammoth Pool	Prehistory
Jose Creek	4.7	Recreational	Confluence of Jose Creek and Musick Creek	San Joaquin River at Powerhouse 3, east of the Chawanakee School	Prehistory, Wildlife Populations
Kaiser Creek	2.6	Wild	Headwaters Lower Twin Lakes	Kaiser Creek at trail 26E30	Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Lakecamp Creek	3.7	Wild	Headwaters south of Mt. Givens, East of Dusy-Ershim	Big Creek	Wildlife Populations
Laurel Creek	4.4	Recreational	Headwaters at Little Grinnell Lake, southwest of Red and White Mountain	Mono Creek	Geology, Prehistory
Lewis Fork Creek	4.5	Recreational	Forest boundary at Sugar Pine private property	Forest boundary at Cedar Valley private property	Recreation, History
Little Fine Gold Creek	3.3	Recreational	Headwaters are east of Teaford Saddle	Forest boundary, 1.27 miles southwest of Goat Mtn. Fire Lookout	Prehistory
Long Canyon	3.7	Wild	Headwaters Scarab Lake	Fish Creek	Geology
Long Creek	4.9	Wild	Headwaters Rockbound Lake	North Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Madera Creek	4.6	Wild	Headwaters at Madera Lakes	West Fork Granite Creek	Geology
Meadow Brook	3.6	Wild	Headwaters at Cold Springs	North Fork Kings River	Geology
Mills Creek	6.0	Wild	Headwaters on north side of Mt. Gabb	Confluence with Mono Creek	Geology, Prehistory, Wildlife Populations
Minnow Creek	5.0	Wild	Headwaters Minnie Lake	Fish Creek	Geology
Mono Creek (Segment 1)	2.4	Wild	Headwaters at Pioneer Basin Lakes	Golden Creek, 0.5 miles north of Mono Rock	Scenery, Geology, Prehistory, Wildlife Populations
Mono Creek (Segment 2)	9.9	Recreational	Confluence of Golden Creek, 0.5 miles north of Mono Rock	Northeast end of Lake Thomas A. Edison Reservoir	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Prehistory, Wildlife Populations
Mono Creek (Segment 4)	6.2	Recreational	0.66 miles southwest of Vermillion Valley Dam on Lake Thomas A. Edison	South Fork San Joaquin River	Prehistory
Mule Creek	2.1	Wild	Headwaters eastside Kings River Geological Area	North Fork Kings River	Geology, Prehistory
Nelder Creek	1.9	Recreational	Northern boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area	Southwest boundary Nelder Grove Historic Area	Scenery, Recreation, Botany
Nelson Creek	4.4	Wild	Headwaters northeast of Nelson Mountain	Courtright Reservoir	Wildlife Populations
North Fork Kings River (Segment 1)	2.7	Wild	Headwaters northeast of Battalion Lake	Blackcap Basin, 1.3 miles west of Pearl Lake	Scenery, Geology
North Fork Kings River (Segment 2)	15.6	Recreational	Blackcap Basin, 1.3 miles west of Pearl Lake	At the northeast end of Wishon Reservoir, 1.73 miles west of Cape Horn	Scenery, Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
North Fork Kings River (Segment 4)	7.6	Recreational	Base of dam at Wishon Reservoir	Black Rock Reservoir	Scenery, Recreation
North Fork Kings River Segment 5)	10.8	Recreational	Black Rock Reservoir	Kings River	Recreation, Prehistory
North Fork Mono Creek	5.3	Wild	Headwaters northwest Bighorn Lake	Mono Creek	Geology, Prehistory, Wildlife Populations
Nutmeg Creek	1.8	Recreational	Haslett Basin - where the creek leaves private property and enters Sierra National Forest	Big Creek	Prehistory
Owl Creek	2.3	Recreational	Headwaters Whiskey Ridge east of Whiskey Falls Campground	Whiskey Creek	Botany
Pitman Creek	2.4	Recreational	Confluence of Tamarack Creek and South Fork Tamarack Creek	Big Creek	Prehistory
Piute Creek (Segment 1)	2.5	Wild	Headwaters at Humphreys Lake	Confluence of unknown creek from Muriel Lake	Scenery, Geology, Wildlife Populations
Piute Creek (Segment 2)	11.0	Wild	Confluence of unknown creek from Muriel Lake	Forest boundary with Kings Canyon National Park	Scenery, Geology, Wildlife Populations
Piute Creek (Segment 3)	0.1	Wild	Forest boundary with Kings Canyon National Park	South Fork San Joaquin River	Geology, Wildlife Populations
Post Corral Creek	5.4	Wild	Headwaters north of Red Rock Basin	Confluence of unnamed stream, 0.12 miles north of confluence with Burnt Corral Creek	Geology
Post Corral Creek	4.1	Wild	Confluence of unnamed stream, 0.12 miles north of confluence with Burnt Corral Creek	North Fork Kings River	Geology
Post Creek	4.1	Wild	Headwaters Post Lakes	West Fork Granite Creek	Geology
Providence Creek	2.8	Recreational	west of Forked Meadow	Big Creek	Prehistory
Rancheria Creek	8.7	Scenic	North of Spanish Lakes	North Fork Kings River	Recreation
Rancheria Creek	5.3	Recreational	Headwaters south west of Mt Givens	Huntington Lake	Recreation
Rock Creek*	6.4	Recreational	Headwaters at Rock Creek Lake	South Fork San Joaquin River	Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Rock Creek*	4.1	Recreational	Headwaters Cutts Meadow	Confluence of unnamed creek west of Bald Mountain	Wildlife Populations
Rodgers Creek	5.5	Wild	. Headwaters at Geraldine Lakes	Forest boundary of Kings Canyon NP, southeast of Deer Meadow	Geology
Rough Creek	5.0	Wild	Headwaters south of Rogers Ridge, east of Garlic Meadow	Kings River	Wildlife Populations
Rube Creek (Segment 1)	4.1	Wild	Headwaters north of Rube Meadow	Confluence with unnamed creek near Heitz Meadow	Geology
Rube Creek (Segment 2)	1.1	Wild	Confluence with unnamed creek near Heitz Meadow	South Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
Rush Creek*	2.1	Recreational	Headwaters south of Burrough Mountain and east of Bob's Flat.	Big Creek	Prehistory
Sallie Keyes Creek	4.6	Wild	Headwaters unnamed lake southeast of Mt. Hooper	South Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
San Joaquin River (Segment 1)	1.0	Wild	Hells Half Acre	Mammoth Pool Reservoir	Scenery
San Joaquin River (Segment 3)	8.5	Scenic	Mammoth Pool Dam	Mammoth Pool Powerhouse	Scenery, Recreation
San Joaquin River (Segment 4)	7.1	Recreational	Mammoth Pool Powerhouse	Redinger Lake	Scenery
San Joaquin River (Segment 6)	7.2	Recreational	Redinger Lake Dam	Kerckhoff Lake	Scenery
Scepter Creek	7.2	Wild	Headwaters south of Scepter Pass; north of Scepter Lake	Crown Creek	Geology, Wildlife Populations
Senger Creek	4.2	Wild	Headwaters northeast of Mount Senger	Sallie Keyes Creek at Blayney Meadows.	Geology
Shakeflat Creek	3.9	Recreational	Headwaters southeast Shuteye Pass	San Joaquin River near Shake Flat Trailhead	Prehistory
Sharktooth Creek	3.8	Wild	Headwaters Sharktooth Lake	Fish Creek	Geology, Fish Populations
Shirley Creek	2.7	Wild	Headwaters Shirley Lake	Madera Creek	Geology
Shuteye Creek	2.7	Scenic	Headwaters northeast Shuteye Peak	West Fork Chiquito Creek	Prehistory

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Silver Creek*	3.5	Wild	Headwaters west of the Gorge of Despair in Kings Canyon National Park	Middle Fork Kings River at Little Tehipite Valley	Geology
Silver Creek*	9.7	Wild	Headwaters east of Big Margaret Lake	Fish Creek	Geology
Silver Pass Creek	2.6	Wild	Headwaters at Silver Pass Lake	North Fork Mono Creek	Geology
Slide Creek	2.5	Wild	Headwaters northeast of Stevenson Meadow	North Fork San Joaquin River	Geology
South Fork Bear Creek	4.4	Wild	Headwaters southeast of Three Island Lake	East Fork Bear Creek	Scenery, Geology
South Fork Dinkey Creek	3.5	Recreational	Confluence of unnamed creek from Sportsman Lake with South Fork Dinkey	Dinkey Creek	Scenery, Geology
South Fork San Joaquin River	28.0	Scenic	Florence Lake Dam	San Joaquin River	Scenery, Geology
South Fork Willow Creek	4.3	Recreational	Confluence of Sand Creek and Browns Creek	Forest boundary at Private Property	History, Prehistory
Stairway Creek	3.9	Wild	Headwaters south of Stairway Meadow	Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Geology, Fish Populations
Statham River	1.1	Wild	Headwaters on Rodgers Ridge	Rancheria Creek	Geology
Stevenson Creek	4.3	Recreational	Base of the Shaver Lake Dam where the creek leaves private property and enters Sierra National Forest lands	San Joaquin River	History, Prehistory
Sycamore Creek	0.7	Recreational	Sierra National Forest boundary	Private Property	Prehistory
Timber Creek	1.7	Wild	Headwaters west of Timber Knob	West Fork Granite Creek	Geology
Tombstone Creek	4.0	Wild	Headwaters near Obelisk	Middle Fork Kings River	Geology
Turret Creek	1.8	Wild	Headwaters northeast of Turret Peak	Piute Creek northwest of Pavilion Dome	Geology
West Fork Bear Creek	3.5	Wild	Headwaters Marshal Lake	South Fork Bear Creek	Scenery, Geology

River Name	Miles	Preliminary Classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
West Fork Granite Creek (Segment 1)	4.3	Wild	Slab Lakes	Confluence of Post Creek	Geology
West Fork Granite Creek (Segment 2)	5.8	Recreational	Confluence of Post Creek	East Fork Granite Creek at the Granite Creek campground	History
West Fork Jackass Creek	1.4	Scenic	Confluence Nehouse Creek	Jackass Creek	History, Prehistory
West Fork Portuguese Creek	3.3	Scenic	Headwaters north of Portuguese Vista Point	Portuguese Creek	Fish Populations
West Pinnacles Creek	2.1	Wild	Headwaters south of Gemini Mountain	Piute Creek	Geology

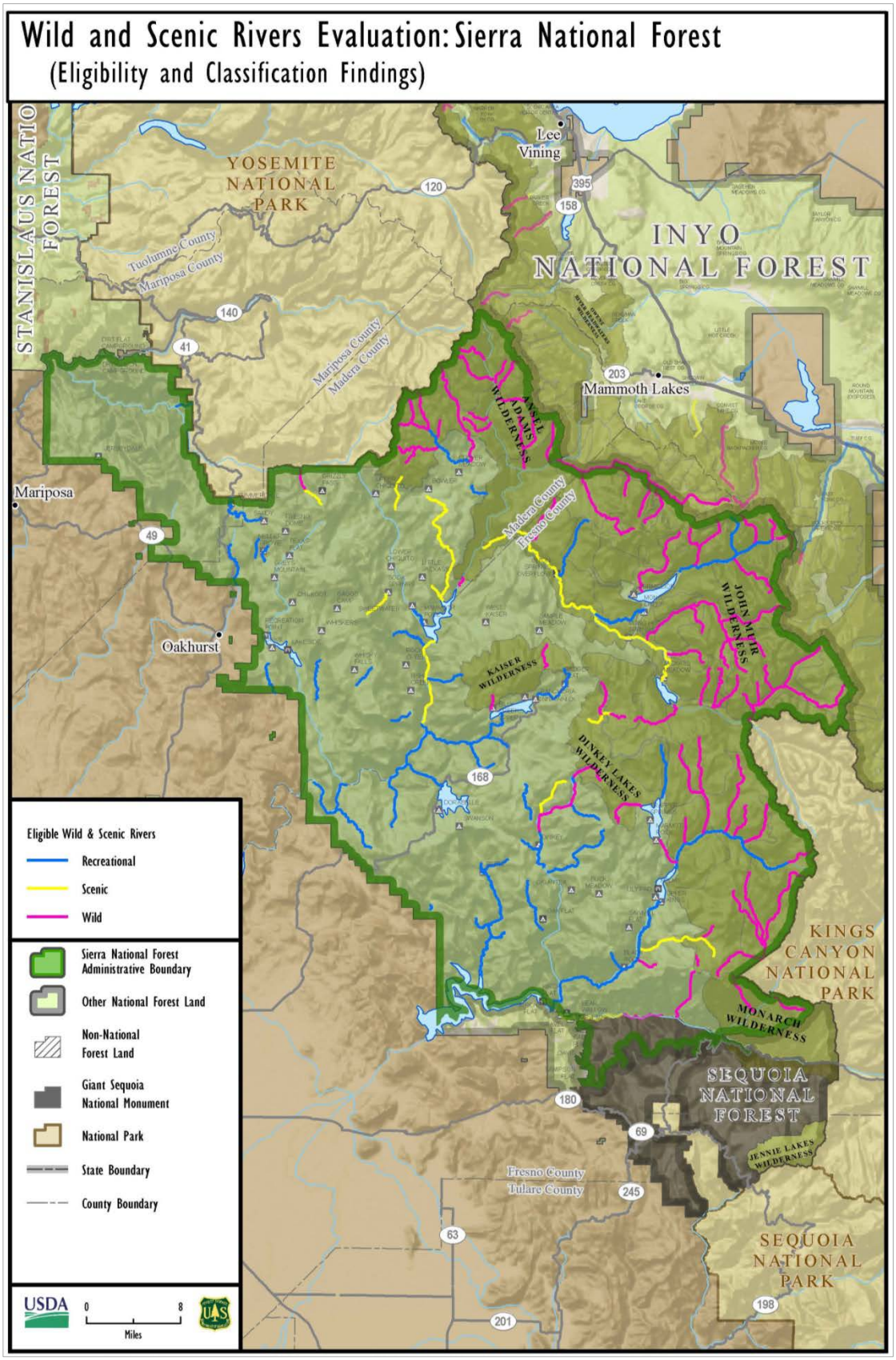

Figure C-80. Sierra National Forest wild and scenic river eligibility and classification finding