

Question 1b. What is the extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Considerations	Narrative
Extent that current vegetation species composition and structure has changed from historical conditions (pre-EuroAmerican settlement). ¹	There are invasive species scattered in that area.
Vegetation restoration treatments (e.g. thinning) or timber harvest areas and distribution across the land (broadly dispersed vs. concentrated). This also includes associated railroad beds, skid trails, and logging decks of timber harvest areas.	There are visible signs of timber harvest throughout that polygon.
Does the forest appear natural (consider elements, including but not limited to, vegetation, wildlife, soil, air, etc.)?	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

¹ Species composition is the number and proportion of species present. Structure refers to the size, density, and arrangement of plants.

Extent to which the improvements cause the appearance to depart from apparent naturalness to the area as a whole (Consider improvements listed above as well as water tanks, aviation crash locations, wreckage sites, locations of cemeteries or gravesites, bombing or ordinance locations, and viewshed analysis for proposed developments)

There are departures from the natural appearance.

Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)

Criterion 2- Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation: the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Note: 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.

Question 2a. Consider impacts that are pervasive and influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude within the evaluated area.

Note: 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.

Considerations

Narrative

Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening. Can a traveler see or hear evidence of civilization from within the area? Is the area quiet and free from motorized noise?

There is sight and sound from vehicles, picnickers in the area. There is definitely motorized noise.

Proximity to area of recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, non- Forest Service roads, and/or activities that impact opportunities for solitude. Consider effects of the area's adjacent, cherry-stemmed roads.⁵

Private lands border this area.

Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)

⁵ The term "cherry stemmed" road refers to a road removed from the inventory using the 30 meter (98.4 feet) road buffer screening from the Phase 1 Inventory process.

Question 4a. Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems?

Note: Rare in this context is defined as local or regional.

Considerations	Narrative
Average modeled species richness value from New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool.	Not that we saw.
Presence of threatened or endangered species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat (from National Heritage database and other data sets as available).	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

Question 4b. Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Considerations	Narrative
Description of any unique geologic features in the area.	That area is pretty much like the other areas in the Rocky Mountains; nice but pretty much the same.
Presence of outstanding scenic features within the area or percent of area with distinctive scenic attractiveness class. ⁷	
Other (include any additional information related to the question above)	

⁷ The Forest Service's Scenery Management System (SMS) provides the framework to effectively inventory, assess, and manage scenic resources. Scenic Attractiveness is a component of the SMS inventory, and is the primary indicator of the intrinsic scenic beauty based on commonly held perceptions of preferred scenery and landscape features. The three scenic attractiveness classes are: Class A-distinctive; Class B-typical; Class C-indistinctive. To determine these classes, the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, rocks, cultural features and water features are mapped using General Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey (GTES) information for the Forest, with District personnel input on areas of the Forest that were not picked up at the GTES scale. The Scenic Attractiveness map is based largely on existing landscape features. Refer to the Forest Service Scenery Management Handbook for more information: http://www.fs.fed.us/cdt/carrying_capacity/landscape_aesthetics_handbook_701_no_append.pdf

Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 5a. Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?

Considerations	Narrative
Shape and configuration of the area.	That proposed area is too large. It <u>does not</u> need to be designated as wilderness.
Presence and extent of legally established rights or uses within the area.	
Presence and extent of any specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.	
Presence and extent of non-Federal land in the area	
Describe management of adjacent lands.	
Describe presence and extent of cultural and traditional uses of the area (e.g. shrines, ceremonial use, etc.)	Many cultural and traditional uses require motorized access be allowed in this polygon area.
Presence and extent of wildland urban interface in the area. Include acres if possible.	
Describe any other management activities or restrictions within in the area (e.g. upcoming management decisions).	
Describe existence and extent of motorized uses within the area (trails, routes, special activities).	There are many trails and roads for motorized vehicles there.
Presence and extent of special use permits and authorizations within the area.	
Presence and extent of "cherry stemmed" ⁸ roads or other linear features.	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

⁸ The term "cherry stemmed" road refers to a road removed from the inventory using the 30 meter (98.4 feet) road buffer screening from the Phase I Inventory process.