

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST EVALUATION OF AREAS WITH WILDERNESS POTENTIAL



Phillips Ridge Roadless Area

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INTRODUCTION

Roadless areas were identified during the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II) analysis conducted in 1978 and re-evaluated in 1983 to include all areas of at least 5,000 acres without developments and substantially natural in character. The RARE II and subsequent roadless area inventories and evaluations identified twenty roadless areas on the forest. In 1984 with the passage of the Wyoming Wilderness Act, most of the Gros Ventre roadless area became the Gros Ventre Wilderness and Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Area; another became the Palisades Wilderness Study Area.

Natural areas without roads or developments contribute to the BTNF's niche, character and sense of place; they possess attributes of public interest that do not necessarily have to do with their potential as wilderness; the state of 'roadlessness' is valuable for recreation as well as its influence on clean water and healthy watersheds, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity, among other attributes. The purpose of this evaluation is not to determine the best future management of undeveloped lands across the BTNF, but only to determine which, if any, of the areas of potential wilderness will be recommended to Congress for future designation. Areas not recommended may still be managed under forest plan direction as unroaded backcountry.

THE 2001 ROADLESS RULE AND AREAS OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS

Under the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001 inventoried roadless areas of record were fixed in time and place. National forest policy related to this rule holds that inventoried roadless areas contain important environmental values that warrant protection. Accordingly, until a forest-scale roads analysis is completed and incorporated into a forest plan, inventoried roadless areas shall, as a general rule, be managed to preserve their roadless characteristics. However, where a line officer determines that an exception may be warranted, the decision to approve a road management activity or timber harvest in these areas is reserved to the Chief or the Regional Forester. On a project-specific basis, the Chief, for good cause, may grant exceptions to the reservations of authority upon the written request of a Regional Forester or Forest Supervisor. This has never occurred on the BTNF.

The BTNF has identified areas within the forest that might be potential additions to the national wilderness preservation system. These are called AREAS OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS instead of 'roadless' areas to avoid confusion between those areas legally bound by the 2001 rule and those that result from the updated and corrected maps of forest roads and trails. Three primary data layers were used to conduct the initial screening: (1) all BTNF lands outside of existing wilderness; (2) all forest system roads managed by the BTNF as open roads or gated and used administratively; and (3) facilities such as campgrounds, summer home areas, etc.

The inventory mapping process used is a two-step process.

Step 1 - GIS rendering of polygons that meet the wilderness potential criteria for size, absence of roads, and human impacts.	Overlay roads layer and facilities layer to create a base map.
	Apply size criteria to the polygons to determine which are greater than 5000 acres. Review polygons less than 5000 acres as needed to determine if they potentially qualify for further wilderness potential consideration. Include as appropriate.
	Identify and attribute all polygons that will be considered for further wilderness suitability analysis.
	Final product = map of areas with wilderness potential.
Step 2 - Refinement of the GIS polygons.	Clean up the polygons to remove areas which do not meet the intent of the wilderness potential criteria, such as narrow fingers, heavily roaded areas which create ameoba-like polygons, and other appendages, intrusions, and extensions.
	Describe all rationale for excluding areas from the roadless inventory.
	Final product = areas identified for consideration as potential wilderness).

Areas of potential wilderness that will be identified for future recommendation to Congress are to be managed for desired conditions aimed at preserving wilderness characteristics, with the following guidance:

- ❖ Motorized or mechanical transportation uses, as indicated in existing travel plans, are allowed only if they do not compromise wilderness values.
- ❖ New roads or trails for motorized or mechanical transportation are prohibited.
- ❖ Mechanical vegetation treatments that would compromise wilderness values are prohibited.
- ❖ Per the March 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and the State of Wyoming, areas are unavailable for new oil and gas leases until forest plans are revised and leasing availability decisions are completed.
- ❖ Improvements to trails are allowed only if they do not compromise wilderness values.
- ❖ New or expanded recreation uses, including special uses, are allowed only if they do not compromise preservation of wilderness characteristics.
- ❖ Recreation settings will be managed either to maintain existing conditions or to increase primitive character.

CAPABILITY FACTORS

Areas with wilderness potential have been evaluated according to attributes outlined in the tables that follow. These attributes come directly from language in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and include the degree of naturalness; the level of development in the area; opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation; special features and values; and manageability. Note that narratives for each roadless area discuss their particular attributes; the tables have not been used to arrive at a numerical rating but rather to summarize the attributes common to most roadless areas that were considered during the evaluation.

Naturalness. The degree to which the area's ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization and generally appear to have been affected primarily by forces of nature. Roadless areas may have high, moderate, or low degrees of naturalness, as described in Table 1.

Naturalness		
High	Moderate	Low
Non-native species that alter the composition of natural plant and animal communities are few or absent. Developments that degrade the free-flowing condition of rivers and streams are absent. Water quality is high and watershed conditions are healthy and functioning properly. Ecological communities or species that are rare or at risk find protection and quality habitat in the area. Light pollution that degrades night sky quality is absent.	Non-native species that alter the composition of natural plant and animal communities are few; plant communities may show some effects of past alteration but are trending toward a natural condition. Developments that alter the free-flowing condition of streams may be present but are few and their effects are local. High to good water quality; watershed conditions mostly function properly; some may be at risk. Ecological communities or species that are rare or at risk find some protection and habitat in the area. Light pollution that degrades night sky quality is minor or restricted geographically.	Non-native species have clearly altered the composition of natural plant and animal communities. Developments that alter the free-flowing condition of streams are present and their effects are significant. Fair water quality; watershed conditions are at risk or impaired. Ecological communities or species that are rare or at risk find little habitat in the area. Light pollution that degrades night sky quality is evident to visitors in the area.

Table 1. Summary of high, moderate, and low levels of naturalness that were applied to each inventoried roadless area in the analysis.

Undeveloped character. The degree to which the area is undeveloped, free of permanent structures or other signs of human occupation. Table 2 summarizes the evaluation factors used to determine each roadless area's degree of development.

Undeveloped Character		
High	Moderate	Low
Most of the area can be classified as Primitive or Semi-primitive non-motorized using ROS criteria. * There is no evidence of structures, construction, or human habitation other than historic remains. Minor improvements such as trails and established campsites are found.	Half or less of the area can be classified as Primitive or Semi-primitive non-motorized. Evidence of structures, construction, or human habitation may include minor electronic sites or fire lookouts.	While much of the area may be classified as Semi-primitive, none is Primitive, and there may be facilities inconsistent with the setting, such as power lines, dams, and roads. Area shows some signs of human activity and there is evident activity or development adjacent to the area.

* ROS classes identified in this report are for the non-snow season unless otherwise noted.

Table 2. Summary of high, moderate, and low levels of undeveloped character that were applied to each inventoried roadless area in the analysis.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation – The degree to which the area is capable of providing such opportunities is influenced by its remoteness and the setting it offers for physical and mental challenge, adventure and self-reliance, feelings of solitude, isolation, self-awareness, and inspiration. Solitude is the opportunity to experience isolation from sights, sounds, and the presence of others from the developments and evidence of humans. The size of the area, presence of screening, distance from outside impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions all contribute to this factor. Table 3 summarizes the various attributes that contribute to ratings of high, moderate or low opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.



Grayback area from Monument Ridge

Opportunity for Solitude and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation		
High	Moderate	Low
The area provides a feeling of being alone or remote from civilization. Away from trailheads and mainline trails, there are places within the area where there is little chance of meeting another party. Along trails, a visitor would encounter fewer than five parties per day 80% of the time. On peak use days fewer than 10 other parties would likely be encountered. Terrain is rugged and assistance in an emergency is far away. The area demands physical ability, orienteering, and outdoor skills to safely recreate in the area. Special features that contribute to challenging recreation, such as high, remote peaks, climbing walls, technical rapids, etc. are attractions that draw visitors seeking challenge as a primary interest. Over half the area can be classified as Primitive using ROS criteria, and the rest falls within the Semi-primitive settings Area is accessed by trail or a closed and revegetated road; the adjacent area has a quiet and natural-appearing setting. No active or obvious disturbance near the area boundary that can be seen or heard.	A feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely. Away from trails and trailheads the possibility of meeting other parties exists, and along the trail, it is likely. On mainline trails a visitor would encounter no more than 5-10 other parties per day 80% of the time, and on peak use days the number could be considerably more. The area requires some degree of physical ability, knowledge, and outdoor skills for safe travel. Challenging features are part of the overall appeal of the area but do not contribute to visitors' primary reason for going to the area. Less than half the area can be classified as Primitive using ROS criteria May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident. May have disturbance near boundary but is short term, e.g., logging operation.	There is little opportunity to feeling alone and removed from signs of civilization. There are few accessible places away from trails and trailheads where others would not be seen or heard. On mainline trails a visitor would encounter more than 10 other parties per day 80% of the time, and on peak use days the trail would feel crowded. The area is easily accessible and in an emergency assistance would not be unduly delayed. The area requires average physical ability and limited knowledge and skill for safe travel. There are no challenging features such as peaks, climbing walls, etc. None of the area can be classified as Primitive using ROS criteria. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or highway, along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farmhouses with outbuildings, pasture land, or towns. Boundary is adjacent to long-term disturbance, e.g., farm land, town, or natural gas field.

Table 3. Summary of high, moderate, and low levels of solitude and primitive types of recreation applied to each inventoried roadless area in the analysis.

Special features and values (geological, biological, ecological, educational, historical). These include the area's capability to provide values of ecologic, geologic, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, or cultural significance. Examples include unique fish and wildlife species, unique plants or plant communities, habitat connectivity, potential or existing research natural areas, outstanding landscape features, and significant heritage resource sites, described in terms of their contribution to wilderness character. Table 4 lists some of the unique values and features that contribute to a high, moderate, or low rating for this factor.

Special Features		
High	Moderate	Low
Significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the inventoried roadless area.	At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the inventoried roadless area.	No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the inventoried roadless area.
Identified values are unique to the region.	Identified values are common in the region but uncommon on the BTNF.	Any identified values are common throughout the BTNF and the region.
Area has distinctive features as compared with the forest overall.	Area has at least one feature that stands out from surrounding terrain as a well-known landmark or unusual example.	No features of particular outstanding character.
Area contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	Area contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	Area does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.

Table 4. Summary of high, moderate, and low levels of special features that were applied to each inventoried roadless area in the analysis.

Manageability. The ease with which it is possible to manage an area as wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act. Such factors as size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences are considered. Table 5 displays high, moderate, and low levels of the main factors that determine manageability.

Manageability		
High	Moderate	Low
Size, shape, and borders of the area allow effective management. The roadless area is exceptionally large or located adjacent to existing wilderness. Topographic and vegetative screening provides separation from other forest areas and assists in controlling prohibited uses. Little in the way of incompatible human activities is found in the immediate area. Boundary locations avoid conflict with uses outside the boundary that might result in demands to allow nonconforming structures and activities in the wilderness. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail. Boundaries provide adequate opportunity for access and traveler transfer facilities.	Size or shape of area is not ideal for manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes. The roadless area is located near existing wilderness or other inventoried roadless areas. May be difficult to access. Topography generally makes it difficult to participate in prohibited use. Other activities nearby are evident and ongoing but though they may detract from visitor experience they do not keep the area from being managed. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the inventoried roadless area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.	Size is small, has irregular shape, and lacks topographic or other separation from nearby lands, thus making management difficult. Topography and vegetation pattern is not a deterrent to prohibited uses. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the area, including noise, lights, and traffic. The area is an isolated and relatively small parcel. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g., GPS unit. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features, or requires extensive signing.

Table 5. Summary of high, moderate, and low levels of manageability that were applied to each inventoried roadless area in the analysis.

DETERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY

All lands determined to meet wilderness capability requirements are considered potentially available for wilderness designation. However, the determination of availability is conditioned by the value of and need for the wilderness resource compared to the value of and need for other resources. In evaluating availability, other resource demands and uses that the area under evaluation could satisfy must be considered, including current and potential uses, outputs, and trends.

Constraints and encumbrances that also govern the availability of lands for wilderness include degree of Forest Service control over the surface and subsurface of the area, whether existing rights to minerals for example exist, and whether development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would negatively affect wilderness character and potential can be avoided.

For each area with potential for wilderness, this document includes a discussion of resource uses that would be facilitated by such designation as well as other resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the Wilderness system, constraints and encumbrances on the land within this roadless area, and the effect that wilderness designation and management is likely to have on adjacent lands, transportation systems outside the wilderness.

Availability criteria used for this process include the following:

1. Areas where desired management for wildlife or aquatic animals might conflict with wilderness.
2. Areas needing active aquatic restoration activities.
3. Areas with identifiable fuels reduction needs to reduce the risk of wildfire.
4. Areas with concentrated recreation use and having a great deal of attraction for recreation activities that would be incompatible with future wilderness management.
5. Lands committed through contracts, permits, or agreements that would be in conflict with wilderness management.

DETERMINATION OF NEED

Need is the degree to which wilderness designation would contribute to the local and national distribution of wilderness. Factors considered in the discussion of need include:

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area, and accessibility from population centers.
2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population trends and changes in transportation.
3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.
4. The ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats.

5. The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.
6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest includes the Teton, Gros Ventre, and Bridger Wildernesses for a total of approximately 1.3 million acres. Although these wildernesses differ from one another in character, they primarily represent high mountain environments and rugged terrain. The Teton Wilderness, known for its long distances and big game hunting opportunities, is visited by people from the larger region and nation-wide; a large majority of recreation use is guided and the major period of recreation use is late summer and fall. The Bridger Wilderness, known for its mountain lakes, scenery, and climbing, also attracts visitation from all over the nation and the world, with the high-use season being mid-summer. The Gros Ventre Wilderness is smaller and lesser known than the other two and attracts mostly local and regional visitation, although its proximity to Jackson Hole makes it attractive to national and international visitors as well. During the 2002 national visitor use monitoring study in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, wilderness visitors surveyed originated from over seventy zip codes. It was estimated that over 52,000 people visited one of the three wildernesses within the forest that year.

In addition to the forest's three wildernesses, the Popo Agie and Fitzpatrick Wildernesses within the Shoshone National Forest, the High Uinta Wilderness shared by three Utah national forests, and areas managed as wilderness in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks are located in the general region of BTNF roadless areas. Two wilderness study areas are found within the BTNF, and the BLM has several wilderness study areas and other primitive recreation areas nearby.

Present visitor pressure on wilderness focuses on favored destinations. Particularly in the Bridger Wilderness, mainline trails and lakeshores popular for camping can be crowded to the point that set standards for the social setting are not met. Crowded conditions in other BTNF wildernesses are generally found only during peak use periods and in the most popular destination areas. Trends in wilderness use reflect trends in general forest use – stays are shorter than they once were (although wilderness stays tend to be considerably longer than for other parts of the forest, at an average of about 31 hours per stay). As the local and regional population increases wilderness use also increases, though the stays are short and often limited to day use. On the other hand there is an increase in more strenuous forms of backcountry recreation so that some remote, off-trail areas in wilderness are seeing increases in day use by marathon hikers and trail runners.

Nonwilderness lands within the Bridger-Teton National Forest, as well as nearby NPS and BLM lands, provide opportunities for unconfined and primitive forms of outdoor recreation. The forest's large roadless backcountry areas are valued by the citizens who use them because they offer an alternative to over-crowded wilderness areas and are in some cases more primitive than better-known areas within the wilderness system.

AREAS WITH WILDERNESS POTENTIAL
AND CHANGES FROM RARE-II INVENTORY

The following summary compares the inventoried roadless areas (1983) with the current areas with wilderness potential. Some RARE-II areas do not meet criteria for wilderness potential, due to small size; Little Cottonwood Creek (3006) is an example (see page 62). The numbering system follows a regional protocol whereby the '04' refers to Forest Service Region 4 (Intermountain) and the '03' refers to the forest identifier within the region (Bridger-Teton NF).

04-03-01 Pacific – Blackrock Creek

RARE-II area name:	Pacific – Blackrock Creek
RARE II ID number:	3014
Acres from last inventory:	26,370 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential:	23,760 acres

04-03-02 Spread Creek – Gros Ventre River

RARE-II area name:	Spread Creek – Gros Ventre River
RARE II ID number:	3013
Acres from last inventory:	172,821 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential:	205,117 acres

04-03-03 Grizzly Lake

RARE-II area name:	none
RARE II ID number:	none
Current area with Wilderness potential:	3,955 acres (contiguous with Gros Ventre Wilderness and therefore eligible; this is not part of a RARE-II area)

04-03-04 Phillips Ridge

RARE-II area name:	Phillips Ridge
RARE II ID number:	3903
Acres from last inventory:	9,900 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential:	9,785 acres

04-03-05 Palisades

RARE-II area name:	Palisades (includes in Palisades WSA)
RARE II ID number:	3902
Acres from last inventory:	81,872 acres (BTNF only)
Current area with Wilderness potential:	80,307 acres

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04-03-06 Curtis Canyon, 04-03-07 Cache Creek, 04-03-08 Camp Creek, 04-03-09 Shoal Creek (includes Shoal Creek WSA), 04-03-10 Raspberry Ridge, and 04-03-11 Teepee Creek Ridge

RARE-II area name: Gros Ventre
RARE II ID number: 3010
Acres from last inventory: 435,320 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 149,531 acres total*

*286,413 acres became the Gros Ventre Wilderness (Wyoming Wilderness Act, 1984).

04-03-12 Monument Ridge

RARE-II area name: Monument Ridge
RARE II ID number: 3008
Acres from last inventory: 17,380 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 17,581 acres

04-03-13 Grayback, 04-03-14 Muddy Cr – South Fk Fisherman, and 04-03-15 Noble Basin

RARE-II area name: Grayback
RARE II ID number: 3007
Acres from last inventory: 315,647 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 335,341 acres

04-03-16 Munger Mountain

RARE-II area name: Munger Mountain
RARE II ID number: 3009
Acres from last inventory: 12,900 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 10,063 acres

04-03-17 Salt River Range

RARE-II area name: Salt River Range
RARE II ID number: 3002
Acres from last inventory: 259,270 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 244,935 acres

04-03-18 Gannett Hills - Spring Creek

RARE-II area name: Gannett Hills – Spring Creek
RARE II ID number: 3901
Acres from last inventory: 46,400 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 42,998 acres

04-03-19 Lake Alice - Commissary Ridge and 04-03-20 Pine Knoll

RARE-II area name: Lake Alice - Commissary Ridge
RARE II ID number: 3001
Acres from last inventory: 179,920 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 155,142 acres

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04-03-21 Tunp Range

RARE-II area name: Nugent Park – Hams Fork
RARE II ID number: 3001A
Acres from last inventory: 21,590 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 6,498 acres

04-03-22 Riley Ridge

RARE-II area name: Riley Ridge
RARE II ID number: 3003
Acres from last inventory: 17,600 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 11,981 acres

04-03-23 North Mountain

RARE-II area name: North Mountain
RARE II ID number: 3004
Acres from last inventory: 8,564 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 5,972 acres

04-03-24 South Wyoming Range

RARE-II area name: South Wyoming Range
RARE II ID number: 3005
Acres from last inventory: 76,191 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 97,905 acres

04-03-25 Upper Green River – Seven Lakes

RARE-II area name: Mosquito Lake – Seven Lakes
RARE II ID number: 3012
Acres from last inventory: 30,014 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 26,025 acres

04-03-26 Little Sheep Mountain

RARE-II area name: Little Sheep Mountain
RARE II ID number: 3011
Acres from last inventory: 17,300 acres
Current area with Wilderness potential: 13,690 acres

04-03-27 New Fork, 04-03-28 Sweeney Creek, and 04-03-29 Big Sandy – Sweetwater

RARE-II area name: West Slope Wind River Range
RARE II ID number: 3904
Acres from last inventory: not available
Current area with Wilderness potential: 103,892 acres

Much of the RARE-II inventory area was added to the Bridger Wilderness in the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY FACTORS BY AREA



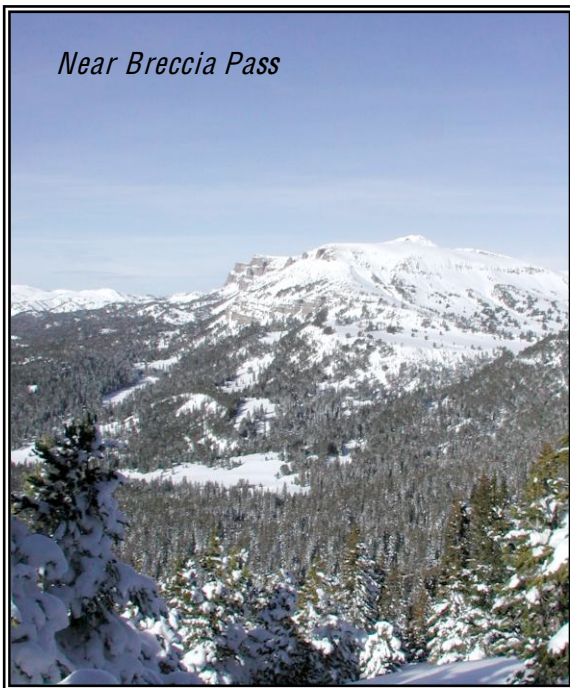
04-03-01 PACIFIC - BLACKROCK CREEK (23,760 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. Nearly all of this area lies within the SPMN recreation setting. Non-native plant species are few and species at risk, including the gray wolf, Canada lynx, and grizzly bear, find quality habitat here. U.S. 26 and the Buffalo Valley Road lie south of the area and the sights and sounds of human activity are evident in some places; the north boundary of the area is the Teton Wilderness.

Other than trails there is little evidence of human activity although adjacent developments such as the dude ranches, private homes and associated roads are visible from some locations. Pacific Creek is within a livestock grazing allotment but the cattle numbers are low and their use has not created an obvious change in vegetation or watershed integrity. One intrusion into the naturalness of this area is found on the far eastern margin—the electronic reflector that stands on the butte east of Breccia Peak.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—this varies widely by season. For most of the summer, aside from mainline trails, the opportunity for solitude and



unconfined recreation is high. There is a good deal of activity summer-long in the vicinity of Pacific Creek and Turpin Meadows, especially along the main trail corridors and the trails used by outfitters and dude ranches. Away from these areas, the opportunity for solitude is high. Davis Hill, Lava Creek, the frontal hills of Mt. Randolph, the Holmes Cave and Breccia Pass trails all receive relatively low use in summer. Fall hunting season brings more people to some of these areas, but the highest use season is winter. Snowmobile use occurs nearly everywhere except where terrain and winter range closures do not allow it, and the sights, sounds, and tracks of many snow machines reduce the winter opportunities for solitude in much of this area.

Although most of this area is close to roads and settlements, the rugged terrain, opportunities for cross-country travel, climbing and cave exploration, and presence of grizzly bears add to the challenge and skills needed to travel in this area. The sights and sounds of recreation complexes, a main highway, and private residences are fairly evident and close to many parts of the area, yet forested draws have a remote feel. Since this area is contiguous with the vast Teton Wilderness, there is a sense of remoteness possible even in this relative front country.

Special features and values—high. Some of the largest spruce trees in the BTNF are found along Pacific Creek. The Breccia Cliffs are regionally known for scenery and caves. The area is within the grizzly bear primary recovery area and provides habitat for a number of other wildlife species. Breccia Pass and Angles Mountain offer reasonably easy access to the Teton Wilderness, with incredible views; these are popular areas for winter sports.

Manageability—moderate. This area offers a transition zone between a highway corridor and the Teton Wilderness. Parts could be managed as wilderness with definable boundaries (the area north of Davis Hill, between Pacific Creek and the existing Teton Wilderness boundary). Much of the area would be difficult to manage as wilderness because of the current recreation use levels and types of use, large numbers of people per day and large party sizes using some of the area, the proximity of developments, and the long, narrow configuration.

AVAILABILITY.

This area is available for wilderness designation. Resource uses that would be facilitated by such designation include non-motorized backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Other resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the Wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments and prescribed fire, timber harvest, and the construction of permanent facilities.



The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands include limiting mechanical fuels treatments to reduce the risk of fire near developments. Guided services relying on motorized equipment and traveling with large parties would also be restricted.

NEED.

Wilderness for this area would contribute little to the local and national distribution of wilderness but would add scenic features and additional wildlife habitat to the existing Teton Wilderness. Wilderness designation would meet desires expressed by those seeking quiet sports in winter. The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already; wilderness designation would assure that this would be the case all year. Wilderness designation would help assure the ability of certain biotic species, including grizzly bear, to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats.

04-03-02 SPREAD CREEK – GROS VENTRE RIVER (205,117 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate to high, depending on which part of this large and diverse area is considered. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 30% of the area is Primitive, 50% SPM and 15% SPM, the remainder being within areas of influence of open forest system roads. Non-native species that alter the composition of natural plant and animal communities are few or absent, as are any developments that degrade the free-flowing condition of rivers and streams. Water quality is high and watershed conditions are healthy and functioning properly. Ecological communities or species that are rare or at risk find protection and quality habitat in the area, including grizzly bear, gray wolf, sage grouse, and Canada lynx.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high in most of the area. The opportunity for solitude is quite high in summer. During the deer and elk hunting seasons considerable use takes place and motorized use of the backcountry is at its peak. Solitude in winter is found away from the main trail system; the state of Wyoming grooms numerous snowmobile trails, some of which are within the area.

Away from the main trails, there are places where there is little chance of meeting another party. Terrain is rugged and assistance in an emergency is far away. The area demands physical ability, orienteering, and outdoor skills to safely recreate.

Because of the size and diversity of the Spread Creek-Gros Ventre River area the sense of remoteness is quite variable from place to place. In many places a feeling of remoteness can be gained soon after leaving the trailhead. Slate Creek is an example; one must ford the Gros Ventre River, which even in low water can be a considerable task. Topographic enclosure quickly places distance between the sights and sounds of the Gros Ventre Road and the backcountry visitor. Distant views



of the high country within the Gros Ventre Wilderness further enhance this feeling. In other parts of the area, the country is open and screening is slight, but there is little in the way of human developments to screen. Some of the roads that give access to the area are many miles long and fairly primitive, with native surface and one lane. By the time the visitor reaches one of the more distant trailheads, he/she has driven the better part of an hour after leaving the pavement. The primary access for this area is via the Gros Ventre Road on the south, Ditch Creek, Shadow

Mountain, and Spread Creek on the west, many forest roads branching off U.S. 26/89 on the north, the Union Pass Road on the southeast, and Moccasin Basin on the northeast. Nearly all of these are distant from towns and settlements.

Special features and values—high. The eastern margin of the area is the Continental Divide, and parts of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail pass through it. The Sheridan Trail, of historic interest, also passes through this area. Other features include Mt. Leidy, Bacon Ridge, multi-colored cliffs and sedimentary strata that provide unique scenery, and habitat for many species of wildlife of interest, including bighorn sheep, sage grouse, pronghorn, elk and deer, mountain lion, grizzly bear, black bear, gray wolf, and Canada lynx. The Grand Teton pronghorn herd migrates through part of this area, and most of it well known for big game hunting.



Manageability—moderate. The size and shape of the area is not ideal for manageability. More than half of the boundary follows a distinct geographic feature (the Continental Divide) that can be easily identified on the ground. Prevention of incompatible uses would be difficult in some areas due to open, gentle terrain.

AVAILABILITY.

This area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would be facilitated by such

designation include non-motorized backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Other resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the Wilderness system include motorized and mechanized recreation, mechanical fuel treatments, timber harvest, and the construction of permanent facilities. This area includes migration corridors for elk and pronghorn, and some of these areas would benefit from prescribed fire and other treatments to enhance the wildlife habitat; if wilderness, the management options would be limited unless specific language allowing such treatments is included in legislation (as was the case with the Fitzpatrick Wilderness).

Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands would be slight. The area is largely managed for backcountry recreation now. Boundaries could accommodate the need for fuel treatments near vulnerable developments.

NEED.

If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, this area would likely continue to attract visitors from the local area and region, similar to the Gros Ventre Wilderness to the south. The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations; access to it is by unpaved roadway with few developments. Visitors without some sense of adventure would be unlikely to seek it out. Existing winter trails within the groomed system would be reduced or relocated and the opportunity for snowmobile use would be limited to areas adjacent to the Spread Creek-Gros Ventre River.

Wilderness here would contribute to the distribution of wilderness by providing a link between the Teton Wilderness and other wild areas to the south. It offers different terrain and recreation opportunities than nearby wilderness so it would not likely reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses. Parts of this area have become established as OHV areas, particularly Slate Creek and its tributaries, so wilderness designation would eliminate that use; there are few opportunities within the Jackson Hole area to replace these trails if closed to OHVs.

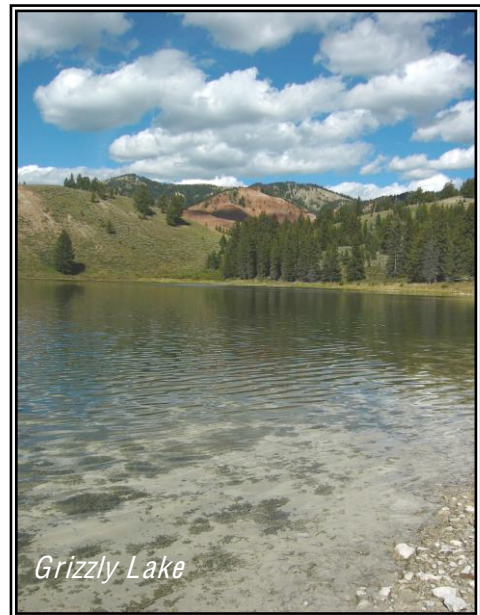
The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already and will likely continue to do so without wilderness designation. Wilderness designation would help assure the ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats, and would provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings (grizzly bear and Canada lynx among them).

04-03-03 GRIZZLY LAKE (3,995 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The BTNF lands within the area are all SPNM; a number of private parcels exist at the north margin of the area; most of these are ranches with associated buildings and activities.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. The trail to Grizzly Lake is moderately used and it is possible to find no one else on the trail except on high-season weekends; this trail also gives access to Blue Miner Lake in the Gros Ventre Wilderness. The area lies between the Gros Ventre Wilderness and the river; although one is never far from human activity along the Gros Ventre road or the ranches in the area, the topography and forest cover in places lend a sense of remoteness.



Special features and values—high. The Gros Ventre Slide geologic site lies partly within this area; the south shore of Slide Lake is in the area, as well as part of the Gros Ventre River, a Scenic River candidate. Grizzly Lake is a small, shallow lake; it and another small lake to the east (during wet years) are used by nesting trumpeter swans and other waterfowl. Scenic views include the Red Hills and Teton Range.

Manageability—high. This area could be managed as wilderness; it can be protected from unauthorized uses and is sheltered from nearby developments. Its southern boundary meets the Gros Ventre Wilderness.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. The area is already being managed for non-motorized recreation and wildlife habitat. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, current levels of livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

NEED.

Public land values of interest are being protected in this area under current management, and addition of the area would be unlikely to take pressure off popular recreation destinations elsewhere in the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Addition of this area would add lower elevation forests, sagebrush habitats and nesting areas for swans and other waterfowl to the wilderness system (as well as to the Gros Ventre Wilderness). Fuels projects to help protect private parcels would be restricted should this area be added to the wilderness.

04-03-04 PHILLIPS RIDGE (9,785 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The area is adjacent to the Jedediah Smith Wilderness and Grand Teton National Park, and most of it is in a natural condition. A sheep allotment (now closed) once included part of the area but the sheep were only driven through and not left for long periods so the native vegetation is not altered here. Areas of lower natural integrity are those that have a few site-specific alterations to the natural landscape: the avalanche control devices on Mt. Glory, old roads and structures in Cody Bowl, and some primitive roads near the power line (most of the line and its associated road access points are not within the area). The Ski Lake/Phillips Pass area receives heavy recreation use year-round and trails have been upgraded to handle this use, with bridges and other structures.

Most of the area contains outstanding natural beauty, with extensive wildflower parks, views in all directions, and little sign of human activity. The power line has become more visible since it was upgraded in the mid-1990s, and the developed valleys on both sides of the Teton Range are visible—especially at night—but within the area itself a natural setting prevails.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. As suggested above, solitude is not something most people expect when traveling the main trails. One can expect to encounter numerous other parties on trails during most of the summer. User conflicts, especially between skiers and snowmobilers, occur in some areas, and are expanding as machines become increasingly capable of using steep terrain. Noise from WYO 22 and snowmobiles can be heard for considerable distances within this area. Some trails have become popular for mountain biking; others are used mostly by hikers and horseback riders. Those who travel off the beaten track will still find few others. Most use is day use; primitive overnight facilities built for winter are fallen into disrepair or are now gone.

The area is large enough to include bowls and valleys without trails and small pockets that receive little use most of the year, but for the major part of this area there is not a high degree of remoteness. Access is from the Teton Pass highway and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. An extensive trail system gives access to most popular sites and destinations; views give orientation and from many places it is easy to see the settlements of Jackson Hole, the LWE power line, and hear the traffic on Teton Pass.

Special features and values—moderate. Ski Lake is one of the most popular and easily reached subalpine lakes in the area. Rendezvous Mountain is the main landmark on the south end of the Teton Range; Mt. Glory is well known to winter and summer visitors; Cody Bowl, accessed via the ski area offers out-of-bounds skiing and a place to see wildflowers in the alpine vegetation zone.

Manageability—moderate. Because of its proximity to an existing wilderness and Grand Teton National Park, parts of the area could be managed as wilderness. However, it currently serves as a suitable recreation area that can handle large numbers and many kinds of use, including uses and party sizes that would be incompatible with wilderness, and thus it offers an alternative to wilderness than many people value.

AVAILABILITY.

Most of this area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural



Ski lake area

processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat. Current commitments to other resource use, such as powerlines, avalanche control, and downhill ski area operations, could be accommodated through boundary adjustments.

NEED.

The need for wilderness designation in this area is probably not as great as the need for a scenic backcountry recreation area that can handle large numbers of people near communities. Wilderness designation would not be likely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses or meet a need for wilderness related uses. The area provides some opportunity for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already; wilderness designation would assure that some of this use would continue while other activities would be displaced.

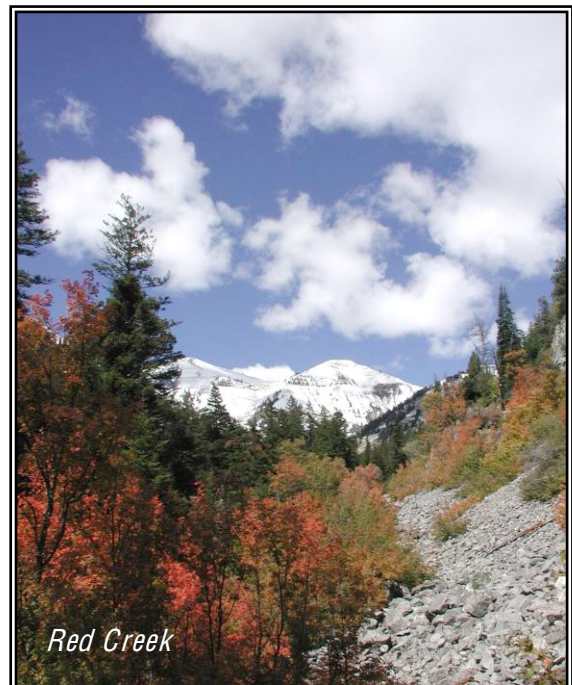
04-03-05 PALISADES (80,307 ACRES, INCLUDING THE PALISADES WSA)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 25% of the BTNF section of the area is Primitive, 60% SPM, and 15% SPM or within the area of influence of nearby roads. The area near Teton Pass and Black Canyon is an exception, due to the many structures, rights-of-way, and high recreation use.

Long-term ecological processes are intact and operating in this area, nearly all of which is part of the Palisades Wilderness Study Area. For most of the WSA alterations such as physical developments (e.g. roads, utility rights-of-way) are limited to the northern boundary. Some alteration of native vegetation has occurred in places, mostly along trails and old sheep bed grounds. Constructed facilities for recreation, domestic livestock grazing, and other activities are minor and primitive in nature, and have no significant influence on long-term ecological processes. A high degree of natural integrity exists in the area.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. The WSA offers visitors outstanding opportunities to



experience adventure, challenge, and to practice skills of self-reliance. The area is large enough to accommodate multi-day trips; it offers a feeling of large size and remoteness. Although the area is close to Jackson Hole and some trailheads originate along paved highways, it is distant from large population centers and for much of the year receives low to moderate levels of recreation use. The area has a high capability of providing primitive and unconfined types of recreation, including camping, hunting, fishing, ski touring and winter camping, backpacking, hiking, riding, photography, and other outdoor activities. Several outfitter-guides operate in the area; their use, as well as most private recreation use is concentrated on certain trails during the fall hunting season. In many parts of this area the opportunity for solitude is high, though one is likely to encounter bands of domestic sheep.

A good trail system penetrates this area but there are many places where cross-country travel is possible, with the need to route-find, ford creeks, and travel over rough and steep terrain. Some trails are gentle and moderately used; others are steep and rarely used except during the fall hunting season. Most of the peaks can be hiked up, though they are remote and steep enough that these are long and challenging hikes.

Special features and values—high. The Palisades WSA includes high peaks (Indian, Wolf, and Observation Peaks are the highest within the BTNF part of the WSA), with beautiful subalpine terrain. A variety of plant communities and vegetation types exists in the area, including some



that are restricted to only a few places within the BTNF (curl-leaf mahogany; bigtooth maple). Among the peaks that contain alpine plants, substantial populations of uncommon species exist. *Aquilegia jonesii* and *Lesquerella multiceps* have been documented on Ferry Peak.

From many high points in the WSA there are views of distant mountain ranges. Montane parklands in the mid-to-upper elevations have a wide diversity of forbs that create

spectacular wildflower displays all summer. Wolf Creek, Red Pass, and the head of Cabin Creek contain scenic cliffs and colorful rock strata. Many places in the lower elevations of the WSA have bigtooth maple, aspen, a variety of deciduous shrubs, all colorful attractions in the fall. Wolf Creek is an eligible Wild River.

Wildlife includes several species of special interest: osprey and bald eagle near the Snake River, wolverine, elk, moose, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and introduced Rocky Mountain goat. Opportunities for seeing wildlife and hunting are outstanding.

Manageability—high. The Forest Service's ability to manage this area to retain and enhance the attributes discussed above is high for most of the Palisades WSA. The area is large and intact

enough at its core to be easily managed to retain and enhance its backcountry setting and character whether managed as it is or as potential future wilderness. The area boundary comes quite close to existing roads and highways but there is vegetation and topographic screening in many areas.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, current levels of livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. Highway and power line rights of way and an electronic site exist on the margins of the area; wildland-urban interface areas that benefit from mechanical treatments occur on the eastern margin of the area, this boundary has identifiable fuels reduction needs to reduce the risk of wildfire to adjacent land and therefore is not available as wilderness. However, small boundary adjustments could accommodate these uses and needs with little reduction in the area of potential wilderness.

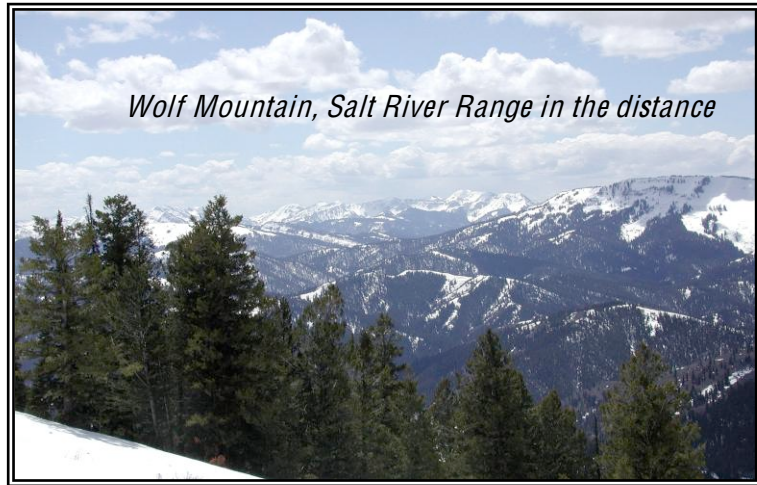
Some parts of the Palisades WSA area have concentrated recreation use (Teton Pass) and a great deal of attraction for recreation activities that would be incompatible with wilderness. There are also some lands committed through contracts, permits, and agreements that would be in conflict with wilderness management. Boundary adjustments could accommodate some, but not all, potentially conflicting uses.

NEED.

If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, this area would likely continue to attract visitors from the local area and region. Trails are primitive and some are not maintained; visitors without some sense of adventure would be unlikely to seek this area.

The Palisades area offers different terrain and recreation opportunities than nearby wilderness; designation would not likely reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses. Parts of this area have established mountain bike trails, snowmobile areas, and the only heli-skiing operation on the forest, so wilderness designation would eliminate these uses.

The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already and will likely continue to do so without wilderness designation. Wilderness designation would help assure the ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats, and would provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings (wolverine).



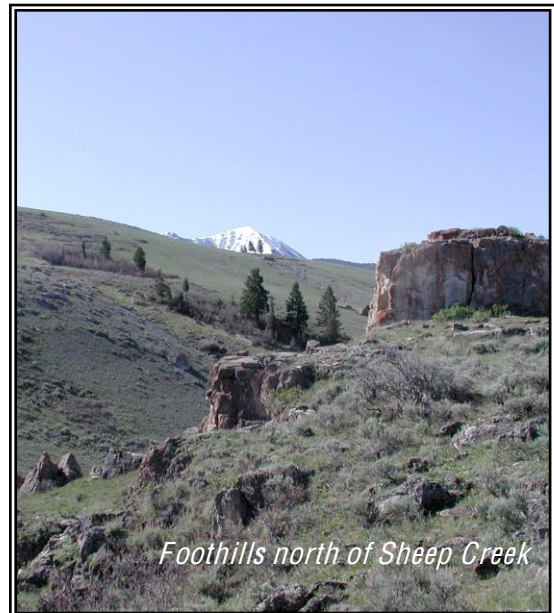
04-03-06 CURTIS CANYON (9,580 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that about half the area is SPNM, 20% SPM, and 30% roaded natural. Some non-native grass species are found in the area, the result of revegetation projects after disturbances in the past. Water quality is high and the only impoundment that affects a free-flowing stream is at Flat Creek Lake, on private land. Lights and sounds of settlement nearby are evident from most parts of this area.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—low. The opportunity to be alone, but sights and sounds of human activity are evident in most places. Terrain is not highly challenging or remote, though some features attract recreationists seeking challenge; these are mostly front-country rock faces favored by sport climbers.

Special features and values—moderate. This area is known for spectacular views of the Tetons, enjoyed from the main road system that gives access to campsites and trailheads. Other special values include wildlife, particularly elk, which move across the area from the adjacent National Elk Refuge, bison, bears, falcons, and gray wolves.



Manageability—low. This area is contiguous with the National Elk Refuge on one side and the Gros Ventre Wilderness on the other, but even so, it would be difficult to manage as wilderness, given the configuration of popular open roads that create an irregular area.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is unavailable for potential wilderness designation because of other resource values that the BTNF has committed to (vegetation management, including prescribed fires, for wildlife habitat enhancement purposes and to protect nearby private lands).

NEED.

The need for this area to be added to the Gros Ventre Wilderness is not apparent; its inclusion would not be expected to reduce recreation pressure on the wilderness. The SPNM parts of the area are already being managed for their natural attributes, and there may be some benefit to vegetation treatments to enhance elk winter range that would not be appropriate in wilderness.

04-03-07 CACHE CREEK (14.866 ACRES)

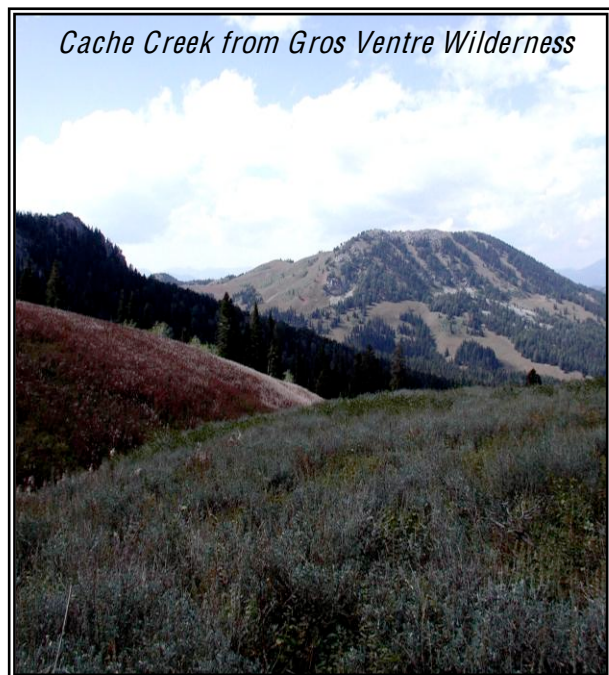
CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The ROS physical setting is primarily SPNM; it is contiguous with the west side of the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Most of the area is in a natural condition. An old road exists in upper Cache Creek (Noker coal mine access), but it bears more resemblance to a trail than a road; the coal quarry is small and inconspicuous. The main road in Cache Creek from the trailhead to Gin Pole Draw is not part of area with wilderness potential.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—low. The area is readily accessed from a number of locations and receives considerable recreation in all seasons; along the main trail system opportunity for solitude is rare. Views from open areas and high points often include developments on Snowking, the town of Jackson, and the nearby valley.

Special features and values—low. The opportunity to see wildlife is notable and the area includes lovely wildflower parks, but these features are typical for the surrounding area.

Manageability—low. Parts of this area are already being managed as non-motorized backcountry, though the use level and



concentration may not be compatible with wilderness purposes. Other parts of the area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to their location relative to the town of Jackson and the greater Snowking area.

AVAILABILITY.

Much of the area is committed to concentrated recreation use since Cache Creek has a great deal of attraction for recreation activities that would be incompatible with wilderness. The upper elevations are available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

NEED.

The area is adjacent to the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Addition of this area would include some habitats and plant communities that are considered underrepresented in protected areas, including sagebrush, grasslands, and mountain shrubs. Most of the area is already committed to outdoor recreation purposes for which there is a growing need and which is not in keeping with wilderness management.

04-03-08 CAMP CREEK (5,966 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The ROS physical setting is primarily SPNM; it is contiguous with the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Most of the area is in a natural condition, though there are areas of non-native grass and evidence of heavy grazing and browsing by wildlife in the Camp Creek area where two elk feed grounds contribute to an unnaturally high concentration of elk for part of the year. An old road and stock tank exist in Little Horse Creek though the only sign of the road is the smooth brome along its trace. A private communication tower exists on the southern margin of the area and a power line ROW exists in a small part of the west side.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. The area is readily accessed from the Camp Creek elk feed ground and receives considerable recreation use in summer and fall. Views from open areas and high points include developments in the nearby valleys and the sights and sounds of U.S. 191. Once north and east of Camp Creek Saddle, the sights and sounds of nearby developments area mostly gone. Little Horse Creek is a popular route into the upper elevations during hunting season; for much of the summer there is little recreation use here.

Special features and values—moderate.

The opportunity to see wildlife, as well as to hunt big game, is notable; Camp and Little Horse Creeks include stands of aspen and shrubs such as serviceberry that attract songbirds, deer, and black bears. Migrating Lewis' woodpeckers have been observed in fall. Mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and moose may be seen in the area; much of it is considered crucial big game winter range. Stinking Springs is a local landmark at the margin of the area. Terrain is typical for lower elevations of

the Gros Ventre Range. Camp Creek and Poison Creek Bench include open grasslands and transition bighorn sheep range, large patches of Scouler willow and fireweed, adding to diversity and fall color.



Manageability—moderate. Parts of this area would be reasonably easy to manage as wilderness since it is already being managed as non-motorized backcountry, though the use level and concentration of elk may not be compatible with wilderness purposes.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would be facilitated by such designation include backcountry recreation, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Other resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the Wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, elk feed grounds, and projects that would improve wildlife habitat (prescribed fire). The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

NEED.

The area is adjacent to the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Addition of this area to the national wilderness preservation system would result in the inclusion of some habitats and plant communities that are considered underrepresented in protected areas, such as sagebrush, grasslands, and mountain shrub lands.

04-03-09 SHOAL CREEK (105,467 ACRES).

Originally part of the Gros Ventre RARE-II area; Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Area is included in this area with wilderness potential.

CAPABILITY.

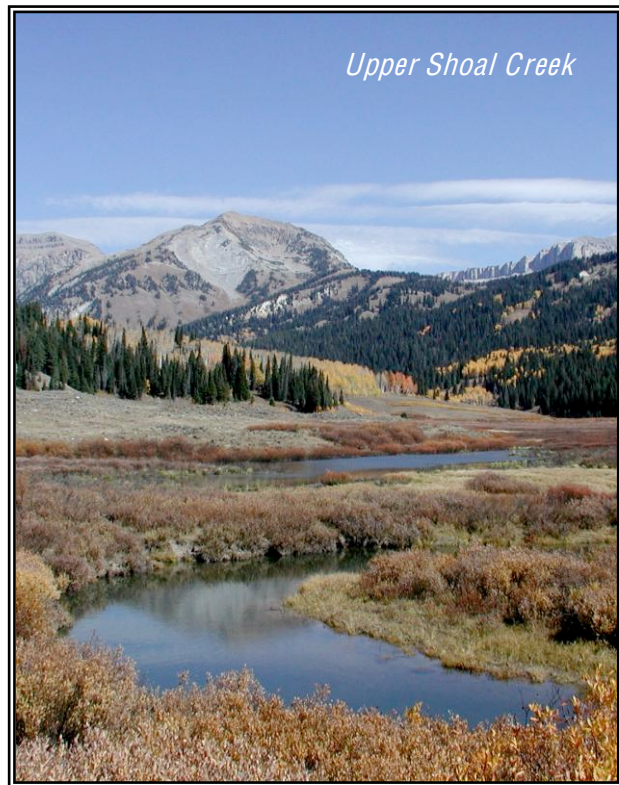
Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that nearly all of the area is SPNM, though that mapping does not reflect the presence of the contiguous Gros Ventre Wilderness, the inclusion of which would add some Primitive setting to the core area. The only structures are trails, established campsites, range allotment fences and minor structures in support of permitted activities such as outfitted hunting trips. Salvage logging after forest fires in the late 1980s and early 1990s has occurred in Shoal and Dell Creeks and is visible from the area. Fences and water developments for cattle are minor and do not detract from the natural integrity of the area.

Vegetation communities do not contain evidence of overgrazing or changes in plant diversity; riparian areas are mostly vigorous and healthy in appearance. There is some private land adjacent to the area; these lands remain largely pastoral in nature, but near Bondurant many of the larger ranchlands are being subdivided and lights, noise and structures on the periphery of the area are increasing.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate.

The opportunity for solitude is quite high for most of the summer. During hunting season much more use takes place, especially along the primary trails (and parts of the area near popular access roads such as North Fork Fisherman Creek), and in the heavy-use campsites such as in West Dell and House Creeks. Much of the hunting is from trailhead and roadside camps, so there is not a lot of crowding in popular backcountry campsites. Though some destinations, such as Shoal Creek, Tin Can Park, and Fisherman Creek Lake, can be easily reached as a day outing, much of the area is remote, with little access through private inholdings.

Forest access roads in Dell Creek and North Fork Fisherman Creek pass nearby and lead to access points; roads in Riling Draw, Granite Creek, Parody Draw, Rock Creek, and West Dell Creek give access to trailheads leading into the backcountry. Because of topographic and vegetation screening the backcountry visitor may begin to feel the area's remoteness quite soon after leaving a trailhead.



Special features and values—high. Scenic views of the southern Gros Ventre Range are outstanding. Features of interest include the high country of the Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Area, including Shoal Creek and Tin Can Park, extensive beaver ponds and riparian areas, Pass Peak, diverse vegetation communities, including moist shrub lands that provide summer habitat for numerous neotropical songbirds, and mixed aspen, conifer and parklands that offer scenic views. The area provides important habitat for big game, as evidenced by the number of hunting outfitters using this area. Pronghorn and mule deer spend summers here and migrate to the Green River basin for winter. Shoal, upper Dell, and West Dell Creeks are candidate wild rivers.

Manageability—high. Most of this area would be reasonably easy to manage as wilderness because it is contiguous with the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Though some access is restricted by private lands most of the area can be reached via road or trail.

AVAILABILITY.

Most of this area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would be facilitated by such designation include non-motorized backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Other resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the Wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments that are not directly related to wilderness values, timber harvest, and the construction of permanent facilities. The far eastern part of the area, including Klondike Hill and areas adjacent to the upper Green River, is part of the Grand Teton pronghorn herd migration corridor. Vegetation projects such as burning to keep the corridor open may face constraints if this area were designated wilderness.

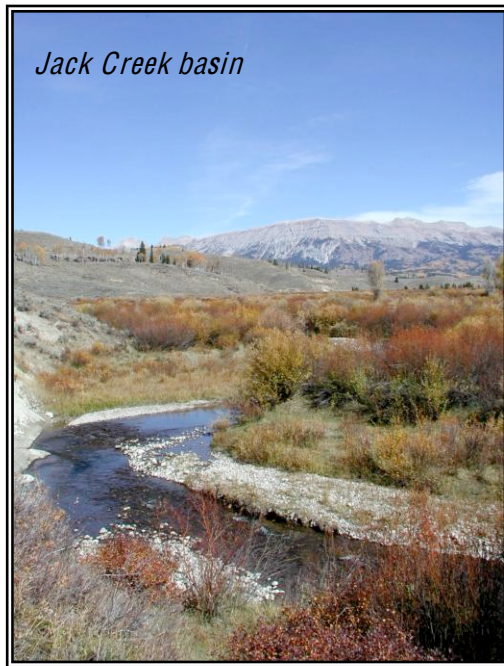
Because of private land in the area the Forest Service has a moderate degree of control over access. Development of more housing on adjacent private land could lessen wilderness character and potential with more lights and more demand for recreation use in the area. In some parts of the area subsurface rights are held by oil and gas leasees.

Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the area is largely managed for backcountry recreation now, so expected changes after designated are slight.

NEED.

The Shoal Creek area offers moderate to high elevations, a mix of shrublands, riparian areas with beaver ponds, sagebrush flats and forested land. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System this area would likely continue to attract local and regional visitors, as it does now. The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations; access to it is by unpaved roadway with few developments. Visitors without some sense of adventure would be unlikely to seek it out.

Wilderness for this area would contribute to the local distribution of wilderness by adding lower elevation uplands, frontal hills, and riparian areas to the existing Gros Ventre Wilderness, which lies mostly above 9,000 feet. Much of this area already provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences; wilderness designation would assure that the settings for such



recreation continues. Some parts near roads and highways offer front-country recreation as well (Granite Creek is an example).

Wilderness designation could help assure the ability of certain biotic species to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats, including amphibians that rely on wetlands and riparian areas, various big game species, and species of interest such as goshawks and harlequin ducks. It would provide a sanctuary for species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings.

04-03-10 RASPBERRY RIDGE (9,410 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The area is 85% SPNM and 15% SPM. A trail that has evolved into a primitive jeep road (not on the forest transportation system) gives access to the southern part of the ridge, ending at a high bench. An ATV trail has been established from Highway 191 to the Raspberry Ridge road – neither of these motorized routes are formally designated [but are proposed for adoption under current travel plan – which would change the conformation of this area.] The area is natural in character with high water quality, native vegetation that has not been substantially altered by weeds, and little evidence of human use other than recreation and cattle grazing and associated structures.

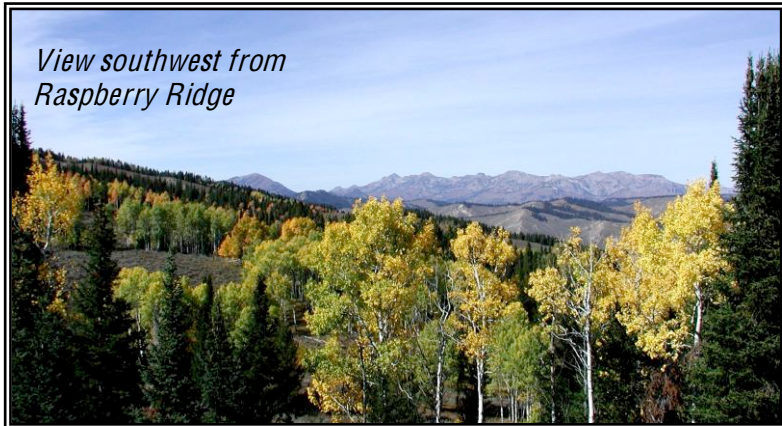
Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Sights and sounds of activity along roads and the highway is evident from non-forested high points, yet the area receives low use. Other than during hunting season and the winter snowmobile season the opportunity for solitude is high; during those higher-use times of year this is not the case. The area is bounded on one side by private ranchlands and grazing areas, the quiet and lack of human presence on the private land makes the area seem more remote than it is. Activity along the North Fork Fisherman Creek road and nearby areas is evident from Raspberry Ridge during the fall and winter.

Special features and values—moderate. Raspberry Ridge is a prominent mid-elevation ridge north and east of the Hoback Basin. Views of adjacent mountains are outstanding, and the area is

known for elk and deer habitat and quality hunting. In winter moose concentrate on the slopes of the ridge and in the willow/birch flats of North Fork Fisherman Creek. Jack and Jenny Creeks include abundant wetlands, beaver ponds, and riparian vegetation, adjacent to dry slopes and sandstone cliff bands dotted with limber pine. Aspen offers seasonal color.

Manageability—moderate. This area could be managed as wilderness based the presence of identifiable boundaries, but it lacks remoteness and a feeling of distance from activities nearby.

Open slopes and ridgelines would be difficult to manage to prevent non-wilderness forms of human use, including motorized recreation. The southern part of the area is within the influence zone of U.S. 191; the sound of traffic and large semis carries for a good distance.



AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation.

Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

NEED.

Wilderness for this area would contribute to the local distribution of wilderness by adding montane uplands, frontal hills with aspens and vernal pools, and sage-grassland vegetation, and extensive riparian wetlands. This area serves as a transitory range for migrating deer and can hold wintering elk in years when snowpack is light and human use infrequent.



04-03-11 TEEPEE CREEK RIDGE (4,242 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The area is entirely SPNM with access via the Tosi trailhead and 4WD roads to the north and south. The area with wilderness potential is small and views of nearby roads, old timber harvest areas, and developments in the upper Green River valley are evident, but it is contiguous with the Gros Ventre Wilderness and thus connected to a much larger wild area. Much of the ridge itself lies within the Gros Ventre Wilderness.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Sights and sounds of activity along the Green River Lakes and Union Pass Roads are evident from non-forested areas, and this area is bounded on the north and south by open roads that receive light use by 4WD and ATV traffic. Other than during hunting season and winter (the upper Green being a popular snowmobile area) the opportunity for solitude is high.

Special features and values—moderate. This area offers scenic views of the upper Green River, the Wind River Range, and Tosi Basin. Teepee Creek Ridge is the primary feature.

Manageability—moderate. This area is contiguous with the Gros Ventre Wilderness and is a distinctive geographic feature, so from a boundary definition standpoint it could be managed as wilderness. The proximity of roads and other forest management activities detract from its manageability.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.



NEED.

Wilderness for this area would contribute to the local distribution of wilderness by adding lower elevation uplands, frontal hills, and sage-grassland vegetation to the existing Gros Ventre Wilderness, which lies mostly above 9,000 feet in this area.

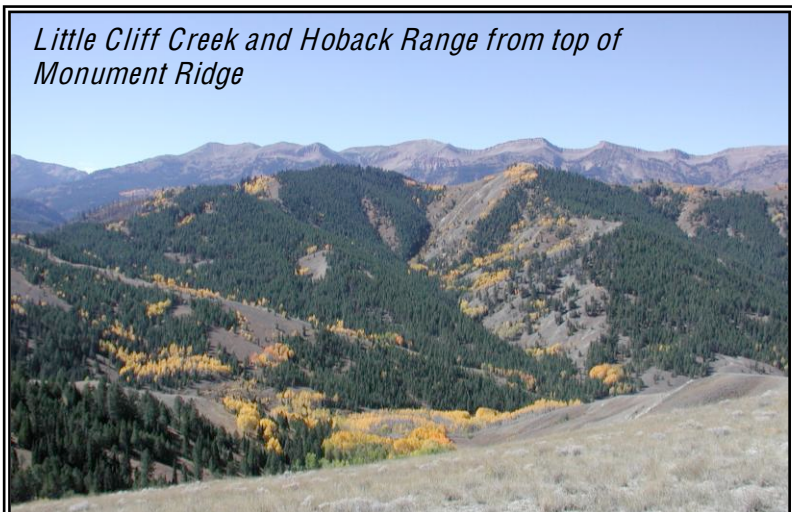
04-03-12 MONUMENT RIDGE (17,581 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that about 90% of the area is SPNM and the rest lies within areas of influence of roads and U.S. 191. The area includes a cattle grazing allotment, with associated fences and minor facilities, but there is no obvious reduction in productivity or species diversity as a result of grazing by either livestock or big game. The area includes year-round habitat for wildlife, transitional range for migrating elk and deer, and important winter range on the west slope, which are closed to human entry to provide refuge for big game. The area is also considered good habitat for Canada lynx. The only human-created features that are easily noticed are some pasture fences for livestock grazing and the old fire lookout on the summit.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Considering the size and proximity of this area to the highway and town of Bondurant, there is a good opportunity for solitude with many isolated draws and ridge spurs. The area immediately surrounding the old fire lookout is a scenic attraction with 4WD access from the south, and it therefore invites more use (although the condition of the road does not). The opportunities for solitude are high; other than hunting season there are usually few visitors on a given day.

This area is not large and has easy access from the town of Bondurant and nearby subdivisions and settlements. A system trail provides non-motorized access to the top of the ridge and there are numerous game trails with views for orientation. The area is relatively close to roads, including U.S. 191, and developments on nearby private land. There is considerable private land to the north and east; in the Bondurant area many of the larger ranchlands are being subdivided and additional lights, traffic, and structures noticeable from Monument Ridge are increasing. Because adjacent developments are close and highly visible from many parts of the area, they have an influence on the sense of



remoteness. On the other hand, the character of the Hoback Basin remains rural and developments are dwarfed by the vista of wild mountains on all sides. The Monument Ridge area is closed to motor vehicles (in summer) except along the road to the lookout; there is considerable illegal use of motor vehicles and this is having an effect on the sense of remoteness. There is a winter range closure at the head of Little Cliff Creek; otherwise the area is open to snowmobile and ski use, both of which remain light.

Special features and values—moderate. Features of interest include the Monument Ridge summit, from which a panoramic view of the nearby Gros Ventre Wilderness and Hoback Range can be had; diverse vegetation communities and extensive aspen stands that are spectacular during the fall; and habitat for big game and other wildlife. This area has been noted as having good habitat and a relatively high population of snowshoe hares and is thus of interest from a lynx conservation standpoint. Pronghorns and mule deer summer in the area and migrate to the upper Green River Basin for the winter. The historic Hoback Guard Station is available for public rentals; it lies on the margin of this area.

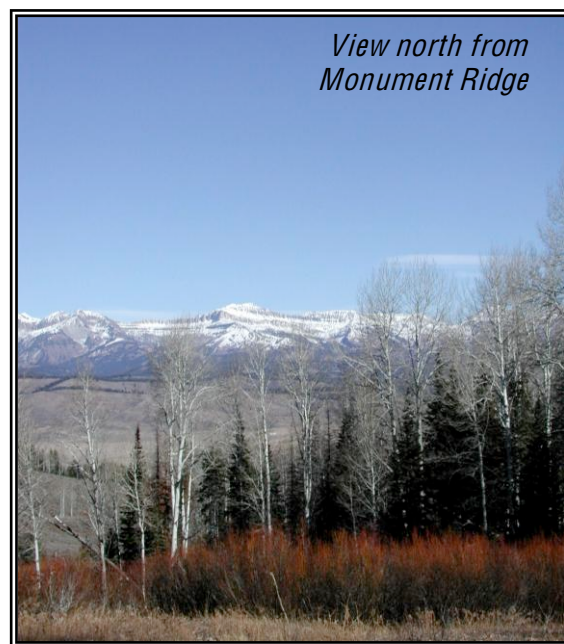
Manageability—moderate. This area would be somewhat difficult to manage as wilderness because it is isolated from other backcountry areas by roads and is fairly small. As far as definable boundaries are concerned, it would be relatively easy to use the surrounding road corridors as margins. Topographic features are less obvious. Some boundaries, particularly those near Cliff Creek, act as suitable shields from the sights and sounds of human activity, but most of the area does not have topographic or vegetation screening from nearby development.

Although parts of the north and east side of the area are not accessible because of private land or the need to ford the Hoback River, most of the area is accessible, and it is small enough that existing access points provide adequate means for reaching the area.

AVAILABILITY.

This area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would be facilitated by such designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Other resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the Wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments that are not directly wilderness-related, and the construction of permanent facilities.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to



prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential; subsurface rights are held in places by oil and gas leasees. Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the area is largely managed for backcountry recreation and wildlife habitat now, so expected changes should the area be designated in the future are slight.

NEED.

Monument Ridge offers moderate elevations and a mix of largely forested and open lands with some high ridges for distant views, and extensive stands of aspen. The area is remote to large population centers but is close to the community of Bondurant and U.S. 191; access to it is from the highway or via gravel roads and 4WD routes.

Wilderness designation for this area could contribute to the distribution of wilderness by the inclusion of aspen, sagebrush, and lower-elevation terrain that is typically underrepresented in protected areas. Wilderness designation would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses nearby, but would meet a growing need for outdoor recreation near growing communities. The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already and wilderness designation would assure that it would continue to offer opportunities for non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation.

04-03-13 GRAYBACK (313,847 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 30% of the area is Primitive and 50% SPNM. The largest area with wilderness potential on the forest, Grayback includes its namesake Grayback Ridge, the Hoback Range, and the northern Wyoming Range to McDougal Gap. The evidence of past livestock grazing is found in shale gullies north of Mount McDougal and in the reduced species diversity in places like Pickle Pass, Blind Bull summit, the hills above Roosevelt Meadows, but most of the changes to vegetation are not obvious to the typical visitor, and natural ecological processes have resulted in improving trends. All of the criteria listed in the “high” column of Tables 1 and 2 are met.

Most of the area appears natural. There is little sign of an old airstrip near Blind Bull Summit but there are some closed roads in the Blind Bull—Silvermine area that are still visible. The Telephone Pass OHV trail is within the area; pioneered vehicle tracks are beginning to create some visible scars in that area as well as Middle Ridge.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. Except in popular hunting locations early in the fall elk and deer seasons there is a very good chance to seeing few to no other parties on most of the trails here. Cliff Creek has become more popular in recent years, especially with people on mountain bikes, but even that trail (up to the falls) gets relatively light use. Outstanding opportunities for backcountry hunting are offered by the large,

remote area and the wildlife it supports. All of the criteria listed in the “high” column of Table 3 are met.

There is a high degree of remoteness in much of this large area. Some of the most remote parts of the BTNF backcountry are within the Grayback area, particularly in the central core where the Little Greys and Hoback Rivers and Cliff and Willow Creeks begin. A good trail system penetrates this area but there are many places where cross-country travel is possible, with the need to route-find, ford creeks, and travel over rough and steep terrain.

Special features and values—high. This is the Forest’s largest primitive/semi-primitive area outside of wilderness. The upper Hoback and Little Greys Rivers and several of their tributaries are eligible for inclusion in the National Rivers System. The area includes Deadman Mountain, Hoback Peak, and Mt. McDougal, high landmarks of the northern part of the range.



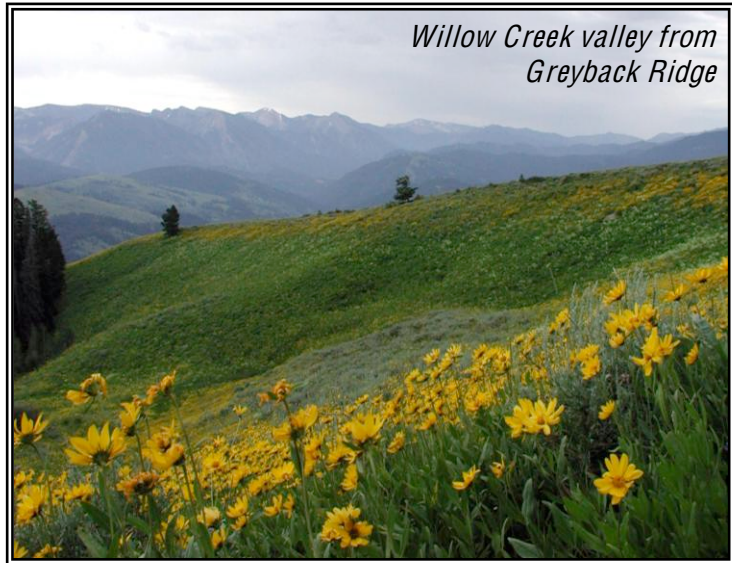
Grayback Ridge is a landmark of scenic and historic importance, associated with Theodore Roosevelt, who once hunted in the area. The Wyoming Range National Recreation Trail passes through the area from Bryan Flat to McDougal Gap. Nearly all of the area has distinctive scenic character, with ridges, cliffs, and multi-colored rock formations, waterfalls, aspen stands, and extensive subalpine wildflower parks. The area is well known for big game, especially trophy mule deer, and parts of it are home to scattered small bands of bighorn sheep.

Manageability—high. This area is large and remote enough to be managed as wilderness. The boundary comes quite close to existing roads but there is some vegetation and topographic screening. Most of the area is shielded from the sights and sounds of human settlement. Forest system roads give access to many trailheads in the area and very little of it is affected by lack of public access across private land.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

Constraints and encumbrances on the land within this area: the land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential; subsurface rights are held in some places by oil and gas leasees. Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the area is largely managed for backcountry recreation now, so expected changes should the area be designated in the future are slight.



NEED.

The Grayback area offers a range of elevations and a variety of forest and open lands. If designated, this area would likely continue to attract visitors from around the country, as it does now. It offers much the same kind of experience as the Gros Ventre Wilderness and the Palisades Wilderness Study Area, both of which are within a few miles, but it is also known in particular for its trophy big game. The Grayback area is remote to large population centers but parts of it are close to the communities of Jackson and Bondurant, and access to the area is by both gravel forest road and highways.

This area would contribute to the distribution of wilderness by representing the southern part of the BTNF in an area dominated by steep mountains of sedimentary rock. Wilderness designation would not significantly reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses but would meet need for primitive, non-motorized forms of recreation. The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already; wilderness designation would assure that non-motorized, non-mechanized forms of recreation would continue in a setting similar to what exists now.

04-03-14 MUDDY CREEK – SOUTH FORK FISHERMAN CREEK (8,207 ACRES)

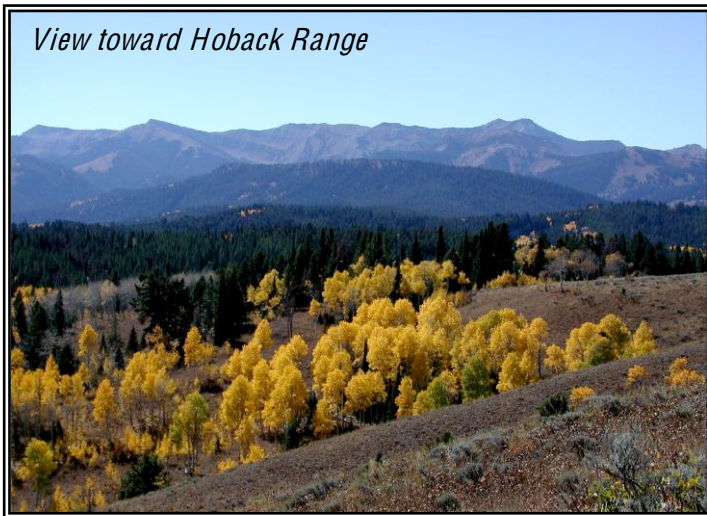
CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—low. Though greater than 5,000 acres, this area is surrounded by roads and private land and has numerous ATV trails and two-track roads. Nearby subdivisions, ranches, and highways are evident from some parts of this area.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—low. Sights and sounds of development and roads nearby are evident from many places within this area. Forest roads of low development level, or closed timber roads, are found in several locations within this

area; the current forest visitor map and the new GIS roads layer do not agree.

Special features and values—low. The area is typical for the lower elevations of the Hoback Basin, with a mix of forest, aspen, and sagebrush parks. It offers scenic vistas to the Hoback and Gros Ventre Ranges. It is a popular area for fall hunting and is increasingly used by OHVs. Muddy Creek is recognized as an important spawning stream for Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout. It is within a larger area of the Hoback Basin that provides habitat for snowshoe hare (and, potentially, Canada lynx), and serves as big game habitat, both for migration and winter range.



View toward Hoback Range

Manageability—low. This area is relatively small and isolated from nearby wild areas and would thus be difficult to manage as wilderness. Two-tracks and ATV routes that exist would be hard to close; roads coming off nearby private land would make access hard to manage. Open terrain further complicates management as wilderness, making it difficult to prevent incompatible uses.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is largely unavailable for potential wilderness designation; it is

subject to existing energy leases with pre-existing rights and is being managed for recreation uses that are not compatible with wilderness.

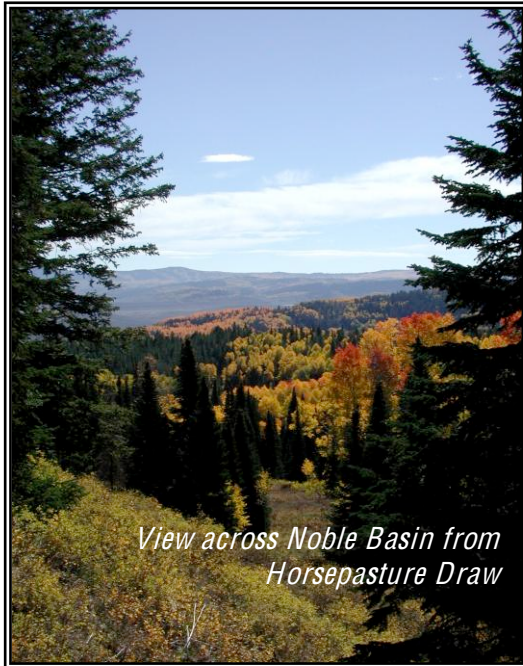
NEED.

There is no apparent need for wilderness designation in this area; the area does not offer recreation opportunities that are distinctly wilderness-related and its designation would be unlikely to reduce pressure on other nearby wildernesses.

04-03-15 NOBLE BASIN (13,287 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. Though greater than 5,000 acres, this area is surrounded by roads and private land and has numerous ATV trails, two-track roads, and closed timber harvest roads with clearcuts that remain evident. [none of which show up on the GIS layer but they are obvious on the orthophotos] 1,092 acres were removed from this area with wilderness potential after the information provided by the orthoquad was included. Nearby subdivisions, ranches and highways are evident from some parts of this area.



Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. Sights and sounds of development and roads in the nearby upper Hoback Canyon are evident in the western part of this area. Access is restricted and recreation use is relatively low so the opportunity for unconfined recreation and solitude, while perhaps not outstanding, is high.

Special features and values—low. The area is typical of the eastern foothills of the Wyoming Range and no known special features exist within it. It offers scenic vistas across the Green River basin to the Wind River Range, west to the Wyoming Range, and north to the Gros Ventre Range. Parts of this area lie within a larger area that provides habitat for snowshoe hare (and, potentially, Canada lynx).

Manageability—low. Parts of the area could be managed as wilderness and the boundary could be defined by topographic features. Open terrain and lack of public access complicates management as wilderness, making it difficult to prevent incompatible uses, especially if they originate on private land.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is largely unavailable for potential wilderness designation; it is subject to existing energy leases with pre-existing rights.

NEED.

There is no apparent need for wilderness designation in this area; the area does not offer recreation opportunities that are distinctly wilderness-related and its designation would be unlikely to reduce pressure on other nearby wildernesses.

04-03-16 MUNGER MOUNTAIN (10,063 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The area is small and nearly all of it is within the SPM setting due to the number of user-created vehicle trails. Some weed infestations have been found and treated, including leafy spurge and musk thistle.

There was once a fire lookout on top of Munger Mountain; a remnant of the concrete pad and some broken glass and other debris remain in a small area here. The 4WD road that gave access to its summit has now reverted to a trail, although this and other trails have begun to receive considerable OHV use and are therefore showing up more than they did before the mid-1990s. Vegetation in most places is diverse and natural; exceptions exist in a few lower-elevation areas where grazing by cattle has altered vegetation and there is obvious trampling (Rock Creek, Squaw Creek) and increases in weeds.

For a relatively small area surrounded by roads and housing developments, Munger Mountain appears quite natural. Its proximity to the South Park elk feed ground and lower elevations of the Snake River Range make it prime migration and winter habitat for elk and moose. An increasing level of trail use and pioneering by motor vehicles is creating more visible scars and a dense network of trails in some parts of this area. Small areas have been affected by season-long cattle grazing, with damage to springs, introduction of weeds, and intense forage utilization.



Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—low. As adjacent private lands are developed, people are looking for somewhere to recreate in their back yards, and Munger Mountain has become one of those places. Year round recreation includes skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, mountain biking, hiking and OHV riding. Although Munger Mountain is not crowded, it is a rare day to see no one else on the trail. In recent years users have been pioneering routes and constructing trails into parts of the area that were formerly distant from the few established trails. The area is small and the numerous trails allow visitor use without a great need for self-reliance. Many draws and small creeks, along with forest cover, provide pockets where it is possible to feel quite remote from the sights and sounds of habitation but the trails are increasingly popular for motorcycle riding and the noise travels into these off-trail areas. Most of the scenic vistas of Jackson Hole from the high ridge of Munger Mountain include highways, nearby subdivisions, and other signs that one is not far from civilization.

Special features and values—moderate. Munger Mountain summit, site of the old lookout, offers a 360-degree view. There are extensive wildflower parks along the ridge and stands of aspen on the lower slopes. This area is of value for big game, especially elk, coming off the South Park feed ground; a number of moose find winter range here.

Manageability—low. This area is easily defined and could be managed to retain its backcountry character and opportunities for dispersed recreation; as far as being a candidate for future wilderness designation, it is small, isolated from other wild areas, and increasingly popular for types of recreation that would not be allowed in wilderness. Because of its small size and proximity to increasing populations with the subdivisions on all sides, this is rapidly becoming a back yard recreation area, and would be difficult to manage for wilderness values. It is surrounded by forest road, U.S. highway, and, increasingly, residential subdivisions.

The boundary of most of this area is densely vegetated and offers a shield from the sights and sounds of human activity nearby; however, the upper elevations are open and views of settlements, highways, and adjacent industry are evident.

Some parts of the area are inaccessible due to private land but there is adequate access to trails, and because the area is small it is not difficult to gain access to most parts of it.

AVAILABILITY.

This area is available for potential wilderness

designation, but it increasingly serves as a recreation area close to town and has become heavily used by mountain bikes and motor vehicles in the past decade. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest, although the area abutts private and state lands. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area.

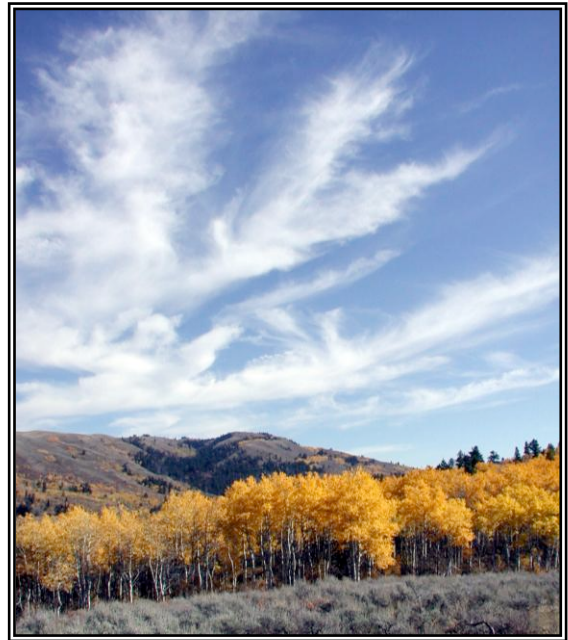


Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the area is largely managed for motorized trail vehicles, skiing and snowmobiles, foot and horse traffic, and mountain bikes. As the population in south Jackson Hole area continues to grow, Munger Mountain becomes more attractive as a back yard recreation area for more people.

NEED.

Munger Mountain offers moderate elevations and a mix of forest and sagebrush with extensive aspen stands. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System this area would likely continue to attract visitors from the local area. Though it is close to Jackson and the national parks nearby, it does not offer the kind of backcountry destinations that would attract large numbers of people. Access is somewhat restricted due to private land on the north, east, and west sides of the area, though several informal trailheads exist. Visitors without some sense of adventure and a desire to get away from the crowds would be unlikely to seek it out.

Wilderness designation for this area could contribute to the distribution of wilderness by the inclusion of aspen, sagebrush, and lower-elevation terrain that is typically underrepresented in protected areas. Wilderness designation here would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses and would eliminate uses that have become established in the area.



Munger Mountain summit from the northwest

04-03-17 SALT RIVER RANGE (244,935 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that about 10% of the area is Primitive and 60% SPNM, the remainder being within areas of influence of SPM corridors and roads. The Salt River Range includes the crest of the range from north to south and most of the higher elevations on the Greys River side of the range. Excluded from the area with wilderness potential are lower reaches of Squaw, Murphy, North Fork Murphy, and White Creeks; the benchlands between Meadow and Three Forks Creeks, lower Spring Creek, and Poison Meadows-Tri-Basin Divide, where most of the permanent facilities such as roads and other alterations to the natural landscape exist. Included in the area is the Corral Creek timber salvage sale, already regrowing and natural in appearance. All of the criteria listed in the “high” column of Tables 1 and 2 are met.



Some of the most scenic and undisturbed backcountry areas within the BTNF are found in this area. Alterations to the natural condition are mostly the result of old grazing practices; natural vegetation and soil have been altered in some areas and one can still see terracing that was placed along steep denuded slopes fifty years ago. These effects are limited to a few areas and do not seriously detract from the recreation experience of most visitors. Some of the BTNF’s most extensive tall forb plant communities are found in the high basins of this area; some of these are in impaired condition with loss of soil and species diversity, but others are in excellent shape, including the east slope of Stewart Peak, upper Murphy Creek, upper Bear Creek, the divide between Strawberry and White Creeks, and parts of upper Corral Creek. The Swift Creek Research Natural Area was designated to exemplify the tall forb cover type. Sheep Pass, at the southern end of the area, has been treated with check dams and native planting to help restore a severely eroded area, this slope is beginning to look natural again, as can be see in the photograph above. Some pioneered ATV routes have created new scars on steep open slopes.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high, with the exception of a few popular trails and destinations during peak use times. This is an outstanding area for backcountry recreation. A good trail system and many access points exist. All of the criteria listed in the “high” column of Table 3 are met.

The area has livestock grazing in summer, various forms of non-motorized recreation and some motorized trails, as well as winter snowmobiling. Many of the major creek valleys that drain into

the Greys and Salt Rivers contain system trails; if one avoids the most-used areas there is a high probability of seeing few to no people.

There are many parts of the area without trails which offer cross-country travel and require navigation skills; yet the trail system is adequate to give access to most destinations. Steep and rough terrain, creek fords, and essentially wild country offer a high degree of challenge in most areas, even where the destination (usually a high lake) is only a few miles from the trailhead.

Special features and values—high. Periodic Spring, in Swift Creek, is a cold water geyser and well-known special feature; it provides culinary water for the town of Afton. Only a half-mile from the trailhead, it is a popular destination for hikers. Swift Creek is also the location of one research natural area; the Afton Front RNA, designated to represent mountain shrub land and related communities, is also within the Salt River Range.

This area has distinctive scenic character, with a high degree of variety and features such as high mountain lakes, subalpine wildflower parks, multi-colored cliffs and hogbacks, waterfalls, and



rock formations that include caves and natural bridges. There are extensive stands of whitebark pine in the upper elevations. The area includes Mt. Fitzpatrick, highest peak in the Salt River Range (left).

The headwaters of the Greys and Salt Rivers, both eligible for consideration under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, are found in this area. Other eligible streams include Swift Creek, Corral Creek, and Crow Creek.

Manageability—high. This area is large and remote enough to be managed as wilderness. The boundary comes quite close to existing roads but there is vegetation and topographic screening in many areas. Much of the area is shielded from the sights and sounds of human settlement and from high points the sparsely settled Star Valley appears distant. Forest system roads give access to many trailheads in the area and relatively little of it is affected by lack of public access across private land.

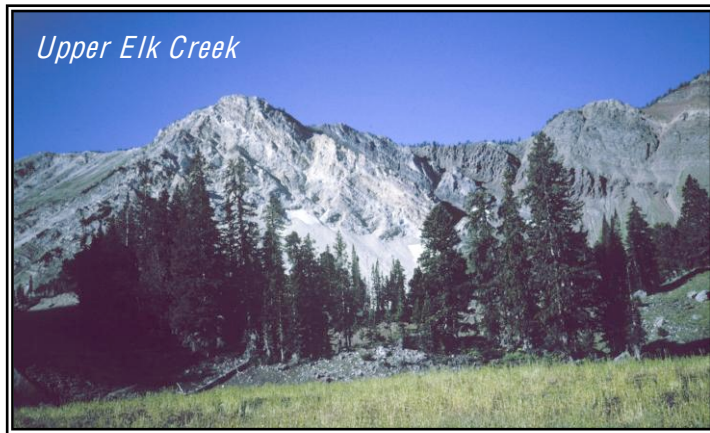
AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness

system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the area is largely managed for backcountry recreation now, so expected changes should the area be designated in the future are slight.



NEED.

The Salt River Range, if added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, would likely continue to attract visitors from the region, and also has enough high mountain terrain, scenic destination spots, and other attractors to draw people from around the nation. It offers similar kinds of recreation opportunities as other existing wildernesses in the area, including the Gros Ventre Wilderness and the Palisades Wilderness Study Area to the

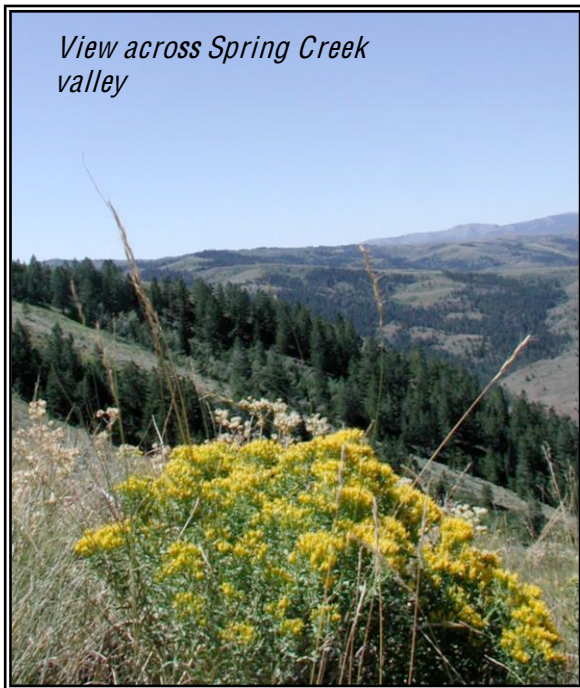
north. The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations, but there are numerous access points from Star Valley and the Greys River road. Wilderness designation for this area would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses but would meet the need for primitive recreation in this part of the forest.

The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already; wilderness designation would assure that the non-motorized and non-mechanized forms of outdoor recreation would continue in a setting similar to what exists now. Wilderness designation could help assure the ability of biotic species such as wolverine to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitats. Wilderness designation here would protect unique phenomena such as water quality in the recharge area for Periodic Spring and other sources of community drinking water.

04-03-18 GANNETT HILLS - SPRING CREEK (42,998 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 60% of the area is SPNM and 30% SPM, the remainder being within influence zones of roads and highways. Natural ecological processes operate in most of this area, water quality is high, and Spring Creek is known for its fishery. There are some places where the native vegetation has been altered by past livestock grazing and trailing, and places where off-route vehicle use has created established routes. The area includes some user-created roads and structures, and there is evident activity or development adjacent to it.



View across Spring Creek valley

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Although this area gets some use during the fall hunting season, for most of the summer it retains a high degree of opportunity for solitude. Lack of public access except from Salt River Pass, Little White Creek and Packstring Creek, as well as the lack of major attractions such as high peaks or lakes, tend to keep use levels low. Winter is a higher-use season, with access via Salt River Pass for groomed cross-country skiing. The trail in Spring Creek is open to motorbikes but there is no public access to the trail.

This area is distant from major population centers but the access points for public use are along U.S. 89 and the proximity of the highway and nearby farms and ranches makes some of the area less remote. However, deep canyons and visual

screening give the visitor a sense of remoteness from the roadway and nearby settlements, so there is a feeling of remoteness in many parts of this area. Ridgelines are open and views of nearby settlements, roads, and distant phosphate quarries are obvious but from most parts of this area they appear distant.

The area is isolated from other parts of the forest, topographically and by U.S. 89. Beyond the main trail system travel is cross-country. Skills in travel over rugged terrain, creek fording, and navigation are needed in much of the area.

Special features and values—moderate. Places of interest within and adjacent to the area include several with historic value: Salt Creek and the historic salt quarries nearby, Spring Creek, and Salt River Pass. The area is important big game habitat, especially in winter and during migration seasons. Spring Creek is known for its native trout fishery.

Manageability—moderate. Most of the area could be managed as wilderness. Its boundaries are

not ideal but this can be mitigated by boundary changes. The area is contiguous to backcountry on the Caribou National Forest that extends west to the Crow Creek road.

AVAILABILITY.

This area is partially available for potential wilderness designation; wildlife habitat management projects (including burns), ski trail grooming, and existing uses allowed for adjacent landowners would be incompatible with wilderness. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat. Existing projects could be accommodated through boundary adjustments.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character. Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the area is largely managed for backcountry recreation now, so expected changes should the area be designated in the future are slight.

NEED.

The area offers moderate elevations and largely open land with pockets of forest and mountain shrub lands, plant communities that are considered underrepresented in protected areas. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System this area would be unlikely to alleviate pressure on nearby wildernesses; it would continue to attract visitors from the local area. The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations; access is somewhat restricted except via U.S. 89 (Salt River Pass, Little White Creek and Packstring Creek trailheads). Visitors without some sense of adventure would be unlikely to seek it out.



Wilderness for this area would contribute to the local and national distribution of wilderness by including landscapes not typically protected as wilderness – mountain shrub, sagebrush and grass, and lower elevations. It would not likely reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses. The area currently provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

04-03-19 LAKE ALICE—COMMISSARY RIDGE (143,401 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character – high. The breakdown of acreage in each summer/fall ROS physical setting shows that about 30% of the area is Primitive and 60% SPNM, the remaining 10% within influence zones of nearby forest roads. There are some areas where the native vegetation has been altered by past livestock grazing and trailing. Other criteria for these capability factors rate within the “high” category.

Opportunity for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation– high. The area offers much to the visitor seeking a chance to use backcountry navigation skills. Though there are many trails in the area, most are not highly developed or heavily used and there are many ridges and trailless areas for cross-country travel. All of the criteria listed in the “high” column of Table 3 are met.

Although this area gets moderate use during the fall hunting season, it is large enough to absorb many people while retaining a high opportunity for solitude. Lake Alice is a favorite backcountry destination throughout the summer and early fall, but even here there are ample opportunities for solitude much of the time. Primitive recreation activities sought in the area include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting.



This area is distant from major population centers and most of the trailheads and other backcountry entry points are themselves distant from paved highways. The roads that border the area, with the exception of a few gravel-surfaced forest roads, are primitive, low volume roads. Lake Alice is a major focal point for recreation in the area. Though a short, moderate hike from the Hobble Creek trailhead to the lake, it is a long distance along the access road from the forest boundary, and many more miles to the isolated community of Cokeville, so this area offers a strong feeling of vastness and remoteness.

Special features and values—high. Lake Alice is a large natural lake impounded behind a landslide. Its deep, clear water and scenic vistas, as well as its location a mile and a half from the Hobble Creek campground and trailhead, make it a destination for fisherman, campers, and hikers in the summer and early fall. Bonneville cutthroat trout inhabit the lake and its tributary creeks; Lake Mountain (accessed via a closed road now serving as a trail) offers scenic views above Lake Alice.

Commissary Ridge offers an environment and setting different from much of the forest; it is gentler than the Wyoming and Salt River Ranges to the north, and has vegetation that is important to wildlife, including aspen and curl-leaf mahogany.

Commissary Ridge is one of several high north-south trending ridges in the area; a trail runs most of its length and gives access to high points such as Indian Mountain and Graham Peak, as well as to basins holding small lakes and scenic campsites. Extensive stands of aspen, long parallel ridges, and prime habitat for a variety of wildlife and sensitive fish species add to the special nature of this area. The South Fork of Fontenelle Creek has been found eligible as a potential Wild River. The Lander Cutoff of the Oregon Trail passes through the northern part of the area; the wagon ruts from this historic immigrant route can still be seen in places. The Hams Fork and Fontenelle River are known for their importance during the 1820-1840 fur trapping era.

Manageability—high. The area is large and remote enough to be easily managed to retain and enhance its backcountry setting and character and is therefore manageable as wilderness. Most of the area is shielded from the sights and sounds of human settlement. Forest system roads give access to many trailheads at the margins of this area and very little of it is affected by lack of public access across private land. Criteria for this factor (Table 5) rate in the “high” category.

AVAILABILITY.

This area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would be facilitated by such designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat (the recent fisheries treatments in LaBarge Creek, for example, would not be compatible with wilderness designation).

Constraints and encumbrances on the land within this area: the land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential; subsurface rights are held in places by oil and gas leasees. The state of Wyoming manages surface waters in the state, and the use of small electric motors is allowed on Lake Alice. The amount of motorized use on the lake is minimal, but the continuation of this use could be considered incompatible with wilderness designation. A boundary adjustment could resolve this issue.

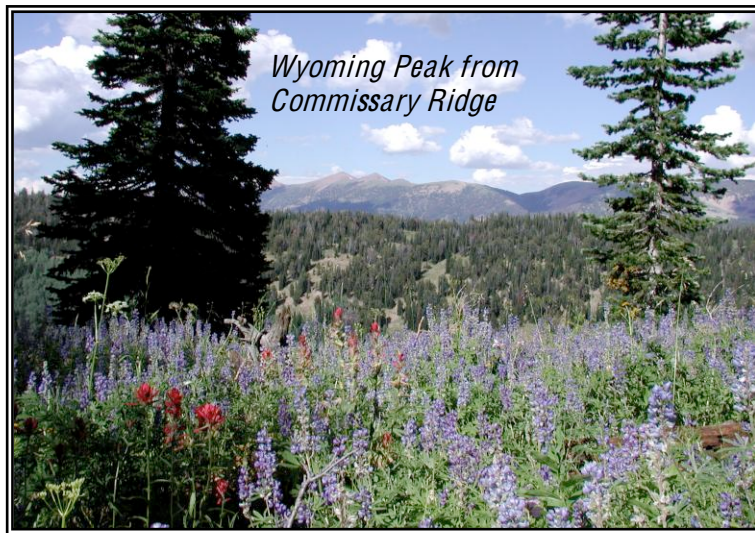
Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: the Lake Alice – Commissary Ridge area is largely managed for backcountry recreation now, so expected changes should the area be designated in the future are slight.

NEED.

The area offers moderate to high elevations and largely forested land with some open slopes, cliff bands, and ridges above treeline. It includes unique geographic features that are well known by local and regional visitors, including Lake Alice and Commissary Ridge. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System this area would likely continue to attract visitors from the local area and region. The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations; access to it is by unpaved roadway with few developments. Visitors without some sense of adventure would be unlikely to seek it out.

Proposed wilderness for this area would contribute to the local and national distribution of wilderness by including lower-elevation habitats underrepresented in protected areas (including sagebrush, grasslands, aspen, mountain shrub lands). Wilderness designation for this area would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses but would meet the need for

primitive recreation in this part of the forest.



The area provides fine opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences. Wilderness designation would assure the non-motorized and non-mechanized forms of outdoor recreation would continue.

04-03-20 PINE KNOLL (11,741 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character – moderate; low in some places. The breakdown of acreage in each summer/fall ROS physical setting shows that none of the area is Primitive; 80% is SPNM, and the remaining 20% within influence zones of nearby forest roads. There are some areas where the native vegetation has been altered by livestock grazing and trailing, and areas with evident soil loss. Terraces on steep slopes exist in a few places and various installations exist (electronic communications towers, livestock association corrals). Rights to mine salt have been conveyed in the eastern part of this area near U.S. 89.

Opportunity for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. The area has only one

system trail, in Water Canyon, and there are many non-forested areas where nearby U.S. 89 is evident in sight and sound. However, recreation use is low, and there are ridges and trailless areas for cross-country travel where solitude can be found.

This area is distant from major population centers though accessible via improved forest road and paved highway. This area does not offer a strong feeling of vastness and remoteness, but there are places where one can feel entirely alone.

Special features and values—low. Water Canyon and Pine Knoll are the major features of this area; both are typical of the surrounding mountains. There are no known wildlife or plant species of concern; the area is grazed by sheep and this use and its long-term effects are evident in most of the area.

Manageability—moderate. The area is not large; its borders include some areas of open terrain that would be hard to secure from incompatible uses. The area boundary comes quite close to some heavy-use forest roads (Smiths Fork) and U.S. 89, but there is vegetative and topographic screening in places.



AVAILABILITY.

Part of this area is available for potential wilderness designation. There is an existing salt mining lease on the west side of the area but this is only 160 acres. This area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by such designation include non-motorized backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Other resource uses that would not be compatible

should the area be added to the Wilderness system include motorized and mechanized recreation, mechanical fuel treatments, timber harvest, and the construction of permanent facilities.

Constraints and encumbrances on the land within this area: the land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

Potential effects of wilderness designation on adjacent lands: There is no private land or other jurisdiction near the Pine Knoll area with the exception of the ROW for U.S. 89. Any

recommendation for wilderness in this area would omit the ROW or potential borrow pits, and other areas needed for highway maintenance.

NEED.

The area offers moderate elevations and largely open slopes, forested hills, and sagebrush parks with grass and wildflowers, although the amount of mule's ear in some places indicates disturbance and the non-forest vegetation is not in a pristine state. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System this area would likely continue to attract few visitors, and from the local area, as it does now. Visitors in search of classic mountain scenery would be unlikely to seek it out.

Proposed wilderness for this area would contribute to the local and national distribution of wilderness by including lower-elevation habitats underrepresented in protected areas (sagebrush, grasslands, aspen, mountain shrub lands). Wilderness designation for this area would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses.

04-03-21 TUNP RANGE (6,498 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character – moderate. The Tunp Range is primarily SPNM with areas on the margins influenced by nearby forest roads and 4WD routes. Some of the old jeep trails in the area that are now managed as non-motorized trails; much of the Tunp Range retains a primitive character, although alterations to the native vegetation from livestock grazing can be seen and there is evidence in places of illegal motor vehicle use.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Except during hunting season, there is a good chance of seeing no other parties. The degree of challenge typical in the area is similar to other dispersed recreation areas on the forest.

Special features and values—low. The open vistas from Tunp Ridge are the primary features.

Manageability—moderate. This area would be reasonable to manage as wilderness because it is remote and far from high-development level roads. It does contain many open areas and the boundaries would be difficult to secure.



AVAILABILITY.

The Tulp Range is available for consideration as wilderness. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat, current levels of livestock grazing, natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

Constraints and encumbrances on the land within this area: the land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

NEED.

This area would likely continue to attract a few visitors from the local area if designated wilderness. It is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations; access is by unpaved roadway. Proposed wilderness for this area would contribute to the local and regional distribution of wilderness by including lower-elevation dry-site habitats underrepresented in protected areas (sagebrush, grasslands, aspen, mountain shrub lands). This relatively undisturbed area offers good wildlife habitat that is important for elk and deer, during migration in particular.

Wilderness designation for this area would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses.

04-03-22 RILEY RIDGE (11,981 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 80% of the area is within the SPNM setting, 10% in SPM, and 10% in the influence of open roads and classified as roaded natural. Numerous 4WD routes are found in the area and nearby; energy exploration and development has left its mark on the area.



*Pines and sagebrush
southeast slope*

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—low. This is a small area from which the sights and sounds of nearby gas field development are evident, it is isolated from larger wild lands by forest roads, and there is existing motorized

trail use in the area.

Special features and values—low. No special features or values related to wilderness have been identified in this area. The area includes part of Deadline Ridge, north of LaBarge Creek, which is of historic interest, and the headwaters of Big Fall Creek, a BTNF special area designated for its hydrologic features.

Manageability—low. This area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to its small size and proximity to areas with incompatible management (both within the BTNF and on nearby private and BLM lands); open country and terrain would make it difficult to prevent incompatible recreation uses or to screen visitors to the area from nearby oil and gas operations.

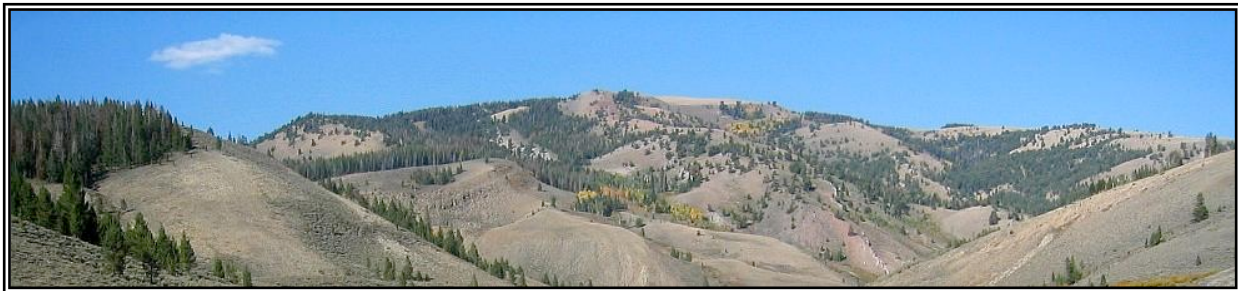
AVAILABILITY.

The area is unavailable for potential wilderness designation because of commitments to other uses (existing energy leases, long cherry stems surrounding existing forest system roads).

NEED.

Proposed wilderness for this area would contribute to the distribution of wilderness by including habitats underrepresented in existing protected areas (sagebrush, grasslands, mountain shrub lands). Wilderness designation for this area would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses in the area.

04-03-23 NORTH MOUNTAIN (5,972 ACRES)



View from Snider Basin area

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 85% of the area is SPNM, with one SPM corridor accounting for the rest of the acreage.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—low. This is a small area from which the sights and sounds of nearby gas field development are evident, it is isolated from larger wild lands. There is a primitive road that leads to the summit (shown as a trail on

forest maps).

Special features and value—moderate. North Mountain is a local landmark with access to the top; the area contains some crucial winter range for bighorn sheep. Views across the upper Green River basin to the Wind River Range are outstanding.

Manageability—low. This area would be difficult to manage as wilderness due to its small size and proximity to areas with incompatible management (both within the BTNF and nearby private and BLM lands).

AVAILABILITY.

The area is unavailable for potential wilderness designation because of commitments to other uses (existing energy leases).

NEED.

Proposed wilderness for this area would contribute to the distribution of wilderness by including habitats underrepresented in existing protected areas (sagebrush, grasslands, mountain shrub lands). Wilderness designation for this area would be unlikely to reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses in the area.

04-03-24 SOUTH WYOMING RANGE (97,905 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 15% of the area is Primitive, 60% SPNM, and 20% SPM, with the remainder included in zones of influence near roads. For the most part the area is natural and appears undisturbed. Changes to vegetation vigor, species mix and amount of exposed soil in the higher elevations (due to past sheep grazing) would not be evident to the casual visitor. The most obvious alterations to the natural character of this area come from a few places where pioneered ATV routes are creating permanent scars. Electronic structures are visible on Coffin Mountain.

The area extends from McDougal Gap to the southern end of the Wyoming Range and west to the corridor of the Greys River. This area is steep and rugged, with a few trails giving access to the crest. It is managed for sheep grazing, wildlife habitat, and backcountry recreation, including a trail to Wyoming Peak, the highest point in the range. An exploratory oil and gas drill hole in Marten Creek lies slightly within the area; the road has been closed and the drill pad has been revegetated.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. Except for early in the hunting season there is a good chance of seeing no one else on all but the most popular trails. There are some areas that offer cross-country travel and require navigation skills, but these are high, open parks from which landmarks are easily seen. Steep and rough terrain, creek fords, and essentially wild country offer a high degree of challenge in most areas, yet one

is never more than ten miles from a trailhead. The southern Wyoming Range is very remote from highways and communities, but once you are there, it is a relatively narrow range from which



forest roads, timber harvest areas, and other nearby activities can be seen. Because the range is steep and narrow, it is possible to reach the crest from a road and trailhead within three to four miles in most places.

Special features and values—high. Wyoming Peak, at 11,378 feet, is the highest point in the range (photo at left). Trails from Middle Piney and Shale Creeks lead to the site of an old lookout tower on top. Several other peaks exceed 11,000 feet. Marten and Box Canyon Creeks, both within this

area, are eligible for potential wild river status, for their outstanding attributes of scenery and recreation. The Wyoming Range National Recreation Trail passes through the area from McDougal Gap to the Middle Fork of South Piney Creek, which is its southern end. Part of the area is range for native bighorn sheep.

Roaring Fork Lakes is a beautiful area above the Wyoming Range Trail, though it has been damaged in recent years by illegal use of ATVs. The combination of dry, bare rock slopes and wet meadows at high elevation typify the range; Lunch Creek Meadows is one of the major wet meadows near the crest. Whitebark pine in this area exists largely in pure stands isolated by large meadows; its has so far resisted insects and blister rust that have caused high mortality elsewhere on the BTNF.

This area has distinctive scenic character. Numerous cascades and waterfalls and scenic vistas from the highest peaks characterize the Wyoming Range. Multi-colored bands of sedimentary rock add interest to mountainsides, and the distant views from high points such as Wyoming Peak are spectacular.



Manageability—high. This area is large and remote enough to be managed as wilderness. The boundary comes quite close to existing forest roads but there is some vegetation and topographic screening in many areas and the roads appear distant from the top of the divide. Most of the area is shielded from the sounds of human settlement; the upper Green River valley is visible from the crest. Forest system roads give access to many trailheads in the area and very little of it is affected by lack of public access across private land.

AVAILABILITY.

The South Wyoming Range area is available for potential wilderness designation. The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat, and possible alterations to Middle Piney Lake that may result in an enlarged pool.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. Much of the area is managed for backcountry recreation now, so expected effects on adjacent lands should the area be designated in the future are slight.

NEED.

The South Wyoming Range offers forested lands, exposed bedrock, and high ridges above treeline. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System this area would likely continue to attract visitors from the local area and region, similar to the Gros Ventre Wilderness to the north. The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations, though access points are many and reached via unpaved roadways on both sides of the Wyoming Range.



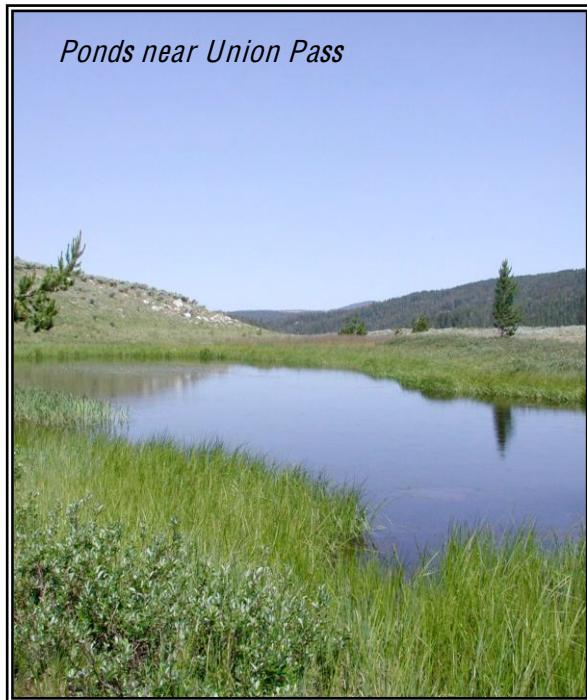
Proposed wilderness for this area would contribute to the distribution of wilderness by representing the southern part of the BTNF in an area dominated by steep mountains of sedimentary rock; considerable whitebark pine is in the area. Wilderness designation would not significantly reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses but would meet need for primitive, non-motorized forms of recreation. The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already; wilderness designation would assure that non-motorized, non-mechanized forms of recreation would continue in a setting similar to what exists now. The few motorized trail opportunities in the area would be eliminated.

Wilderness designation may help assure the ability of certain biotic species, including bighorn sheep, to compete with increasing public use and development that affects their habitat. It would continue to provide a sanctuary for this species.

04-03-25 UPPER GREEN RIVER – SEVEN LAKES (26,025 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each Recreation Opportunity Spectrum physical setting shows that about xx% the area is Semi-primitive Non-motorized and xx% is Semi-primitive Motorized or within the influence zone of nearby open roads. Non-native species that alter the composition of natural plant and animal communities are few; developments that degrade the free-flowing condition of rivers and streams are absent. Water quality is high and watershed conditions are healthy and functioning properly.



Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. This area is distant from major population centers and just getting to the margins of the area requires a long drive over gravel and dirt roads. The area provides a feeling of being alone or remote from civilization, and away from trailheads and mainline trails, there are places within the area where there is little chance of meeting another party. It is contiguous with the Bridger and Fitzpatrick Wildernesses. There is an opportunity to use self-reliance skills in navigation and backcountry survival. Physical ability, orienteering, and outdoor skills are necessary to safely recreate in much of the area.

Special features and values—high. Features of interest include the many potholes and ponds, Seven Lakes, glacially scoured granitic terrain, extensive areas of high-elevation grassland,

popular campsites and routes into Seven Lakes Basin and Triple Divide Peak, and Roaring Fork Basin. Roaring Fork Creek is a candidate Wild and Scenic River. Union Pass, while not part of the area with wilderness potential, is a historic landmark nearby. Part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through this area. Important habitat for big game and other wildlife is found here. Grizzly bears and wolves are beginning to make use of the area, moving from the north and west; pronghorns use the area as summer range and as a migration corridor between the upper Green River and the Wind River valley.

Manageability—moderate. The area is contiguous with two existing wildernesses on the east and has topographic features that would be useful to help delineate any future wilderness. However, much of the terrain and the open nature of the western part of the high country would make it difficult to manage as wilderness and prevent illegal uses. Parts of the area are valued by 4WD and ATV riders for its remoteness, scenery, and access to lakes; these uses would be displaced if the area were made wilderness, but terrain features make it possible to designate part of the area without changing motorized use on the most popular open routes.

AVAILABILITY.

The area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in

wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

NEED.

The Union Pass area offers a variety of landscapes and recreation opportunities not found in great abundance within the BTNF, including high elevation lakes and ponds, some of which are accessible by vehicle. If added to the National Wilderness Preservation System these areas would likely attract some of the same visitors from the local area and region who use them now.

Wilderness for this area would contribute to the local and national distribution of wilderness by including high-elevation grasslands and lake basins that are different in character from the steep, bedrock-dominated wildernesses nearby. Wilderness designation may reduce visitor pressure on other wildernesses since Seven Lakes is a scenic attraction and would be easily accessible from the Union Pass road whereas similar terrain in the Bridger Wilderness requires a longer and steeper approach. The area provides opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences already so wilderness designation is needed only to assure that it would continue, though only for non-motorized and non-mechanized uses.

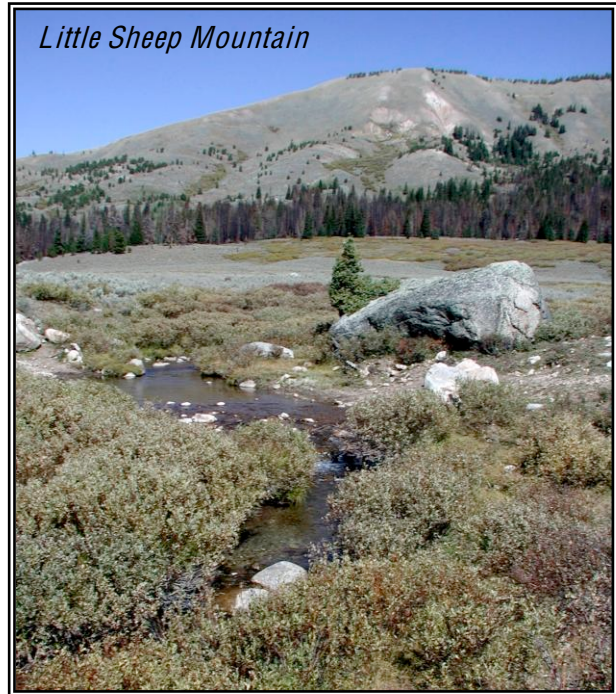


04-03-26 LITTLE SHEEP MOUNTAIN (13,690 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—low. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that about half of the area is SPNM and half is SPM or within the influence zone of nearby roads. Much of the area is undisturbed, with little recreation use and few trails. There is a steep, primitive road leading to a lookout site at the summit of Little Sheep Mountain, currently used as a hiking trail. None of the area is far from an open forest road, including the Green River Lakes road with its attendant traffic.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Considering the size of the area and its proximity to roaded areas, the opportunity for solitude is high and primitive recreation can be found. Access is difficult; the Moose-Gypsum Road is rough in places and trails are few. The view from the summit of Little Sheep Mountain is a spectacular attraction.



Special features and values—moderate. The primary feature of interest is the summit of Little Sheep Mountain from which views of the Green River, Tosi Basin, and northern Bridger Wilderness can be had after a relatively short hike. Part of the Green River corridor, a candidate Wild and Scenic River, is within the area.

Manageability—low. This area would be difficult to manage as wilderness because it is isolated from other backcountry areas by roads.

AVAILABILITY.

Parts of the area are not available for wilderness because of isolation from larger primitive areas, and commitment by the BTNF to other resource values, including management of vegetation to improve habitat for migrating pronghorns. This area offers a scenic viewpoint with views of the nearby Green River and Bridger Wilderness and offers a counterpoint to the large, remote, and rugged wilderness lands nearby.

NEED.

The need for wilderness designation in this area is not great; it would not reduce pressure on the nearby Bridger Wilderness if designated. Wilderness for this area would not contribute unique landforms or biotic communities nor add appreciably to the local and national distribution of wilderness.

04-03-27 NEW FORK (10,186 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—moderate. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that about 40% of the area is SPNM, and 60% SPM or within the influence area of nearby roads. Though this area is adjacent to the Bridger Wilderness, it is narrow and penetrated by existing roads, some of which are being considered for future closure, but they remain open at this time. Past timber sale areas are evident in some places, but they are growing back and for the most part they do not detract from the natural appearance. The area includes foothills to the Wind River Range, with open grassy slopes, aspen, and conifer forest; it is favored by elk for calving and provides habitat for many other wildlife species, including grizzly bears. Non-native species that alter the composition of the plant and animal communities are few; water quality is high, and developments are absent outside of the road network. Lights, the sight of buildings, and sounds of traffic on the nearby roads are evident from many parts of this area, but they are not highly intrusive.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. The area does not include mainline trails so recreation use is relatively light except for the area immediately surrounding New Fork Lakes. Boulder Basin and other little-used parts of the Bridger Wilderness are accessible through this area.

Special features and values—moderate. Other than the scenic valley of New Fork Lake, most of this area is typical for the west slope of the Wind River Range. It is known as a place for wildlife and few people, and as a local recreation area.



New Fork area (foothills) from Mosquito Lake

Manageability—low. This area would be difficult to manage as wilderness because of its front country nature and proximity to the Green River Lakes Road and New Fork Lake. A number of open roads penetrate the area, giving access to hunters, firewood gatherers, and other recreation uses. There are not good topographic or vegetation screening opportunities to describe a boundary for an area that could be managed as wilderness.

AVAILABILITY.

Most of the area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

NEED.

The area is remote to large population centers and tourist destinations, but the high use levels in the Bridger Wilderness indicate this is not a deterrent to recreation. Adding this sliver of country to the Bridger Wilderness would not be expected to reduce crowding elsewhere. Though important wildlife habitat, the area is already being managed to enhance the habitat, and fire projects that could continue to benefit wildlife may be constrained if this area were added to the wilderness. Part of this area is also considered wildland-urban interface and fuels treatment necessary to protect private structures would be constrained by wilderness designation here.

04-04-28 SWEENEY CREEK (24,688 ACRES)

CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 20% of the area is Primitive, 75% SPNM, and 5% SPM, most of this area being around existing high-clearance roads at the western edge of the area. In the Sweeney Lakes area natural processes operate largely without human influence in this area, though along with the rest of the Wind River Range, the effects of off-site air pollution are a concern. Several lightning-ignited fires have occurred in the area and have been managed for their ecological benefits. From some viewpoints development in the Green River Basin can be seen, lights associated with energy development being the most prominent. Water quality is high and the only developments in the area are trails leading into the



Bridger Wilderness. North of Fremont Lake and near Half Moon Lake, sights and sounds of human activity are more evident – developments on the lake shore, motorboats, etc.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—moderate. Near the lakes and along main line trails there is considerable recreation use. The terrain allows for many places to get off the trail and away from others if desired.

Special features and values—high. This area includes the undeveloped shores of some of the major glacial lakes along the Wind River front, including Fremont, Half Moon, Fayette, and Burnt Lakes. The terrain and views for which the Bridger Wilderness is known also exists in the Sweeney Lakes area nearby; granitic outcrops, mountain lakes, and views of the crest of the Wind River Range.

Manageability—moderate. Most of this area could be managed as wilderness, with the exception of the western boundary where it lies adjacent to resorts, private developments, and areas of intense recreation use. Most of the wildland-urban interface within this part of the forest is not within the area with wilderness potential.

AVAILABILITY.

Most of the area is available for potential wilderness designation. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire. Land and resource uses that would not be compatible should the area be added to the wilderness system include motorized recreation, fuels treatments, timber harvest and salvage, commercial uses other than livestock permittees, outfitter-guides, and other uses typically found in wilderness, the construction of permanent facilities or expansion of existing resort areas into the area, and intensive resource alterations that may be necessary for fish and wildlife habitat. Boundary adjustments could accommodate incompatible uses on the margins of this area.

The land is entirely within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service has a high degree of control over the surface of the area to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential.

NEED.

The area is adjacent to the Bridger Wilderness, which receives high recreation use in spite of being remote to large population centers. Adding parts of this area to the Bridger Wilderness would be unlikely to divert use from other attractions; Sweeney Lakes are already popular for camping and being outside the wilderness they allow for larger parties and thus provide an opportunity for recreation that is not found in the wilderness. Much of the area is already being managed for backcountry recreation, wildlife habitat and watershed purposes.

04-03-29 BIG SANDY – SWEETWATER (69,018 ACRES)

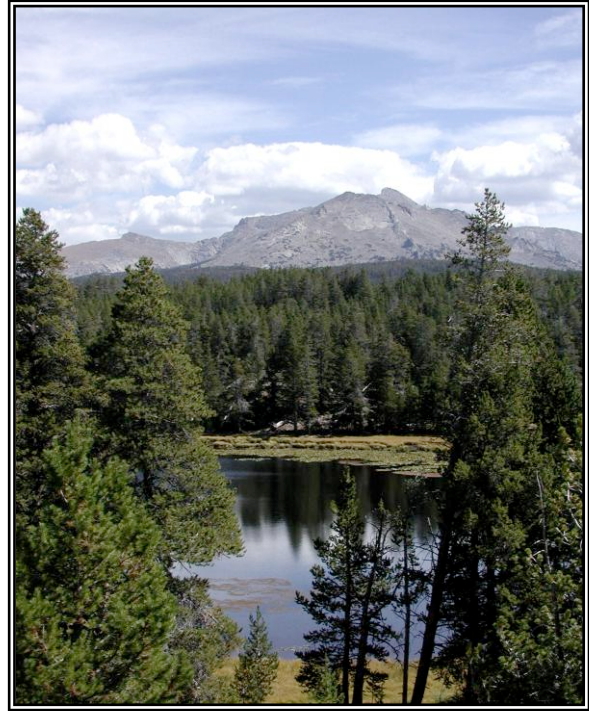
CAPABILITY.

Natural and undeveloped character—high. The breakdown of acreage in each ROS physical setting shows that 20% of the area is Primitive, 75% SPNM, and 5% SPM. In winter, most of the area is SPM, with part of the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail running from Irish Canyon to Sioux Pass. Other than the Big Sandy area, this is a low-use part of the Wind River Range, and much of it appears undisturbed. Exceptions exist in some where alterations to native vegetation have occurred from domestic livestock grazing and where off-route use of motor vehicles has left scars in wet meadows.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation—high. Much of the area is remote and wild, especially between Sweetwater Needles and Sioux Pass on the south and the canyon of the East Fork River on the north. The central part of this area is penetrated by high-clearance roads and jeep trails, but these generally do not receive heavy use; once away from the main roads and trails it is possible to gain a high degree of solitude. Challenge and the

need to route-find are high in this area as well. Except for the Big Sandy corridor and the Sweetwater River trailhead and campground (on BLM), most of the access to this area is by primitive roads, many of which are marginally passable even in dry weather.

Special features and values. The south end of the Wind River Range is known for scenic views of scoured bedrock, the headwaters of the Sweetwater River, popular lakes outside of the wilderness, including Boulter Lake, and relatively gentle terrain with many wet meadows. Granite pinnacles and outcrops are of interest to climbers; large wet meadows and pothole complexes contrast with dry grasslands and sagebrush, offering high-quality habitat for wildlife.



Lower Temple Creek area

Manageability. Parts of this area would be easily managed as wilderness, particularly the Boulter Lake area, Sweetwater Needles – Blair Creek, and south toward Sioux Pass. Other parts are not far from the roads and jeep trails that penetrate the country, and would be difficult to manage as wilderness, with proximity to roads, open country with few obstacles for uses that would not be compatible with wilderness, and adjacent land uses on BLM. The Big Sandy area receives high use, including camping near roadways, and in some places there is neither topography nor vegetation to serve as a reasonable boundary.

AVAILABILITY.

Parts of the area are available for potential wilderness designation, but other parts are committed to forest uses that would be incompatible, including the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail. Terrain allows for mountain bike access to Boulter and nearby lakes; also these lakes are destinations for camping and day use by groups that may exceed party size limits that apply in the Bridger Wilderness. Fuels treatments to protect structures in the Big Sandy area could be restricted if nearby parts of this area were included in wilderness. Resource uses that would continue as is or be facilitated by designation include backcountry recreation, retention of wildlife habitat and current levels of livestock grazing, retention of natural scenery, watershed values and water quality, and allowance of natural processes that could change vegetation patterns, such as fire.

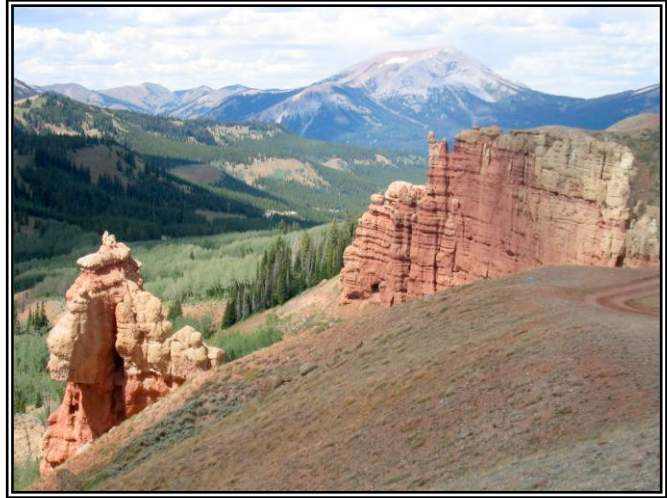
NEED.

The area is adjacent to the Bridger Wilderness, which receives high recreation use in spite of being remote to large population centers. Adding parts of this area to the Bridger Wilderness would be unlikely to divert use from other attractions. The area is already being managed largely

for backcountry recreation and very low use; the few places that are popular for recreation offer a contrast to the kinds of use acceptable in the wilderness (Boulter Lake). Addition of this area to the Bridger Wilderness would not be likely to reduce the pressure on major destinations from Big Sandy, but would include some features and habitats that are generally underrepresented in protected areas, including sagebrush/grassland, potholes, and extensive riparian areas.

RARE-II Area 3006 Little Cottonwood Creek

Little Cottonwood Creek was identified as an Inventoried Roadless Area in 1983, although at 4,874 acres it does not meet size criteria for an area of wilderness potential. It does include a unique and special geologic feature, the Red Castles (below). Although not eligible for consideration as wilderness, this area could be administratively designated as a way of recognizing the area.



Red Castles. Note the primitive road on the right.

SUMMARY OF CAPABILITY FACTORS

The following table (see Table 6, next page) summarizes the ratings given to each area with wilderness potential discussed in this document. It is intended only to provide a snapshot of the ways in which each area meets capability criteria. The ratings could serve as a basis for alternative scenarios involving wilderness recommendations, but the inherent characteristics of each area is one of several factors that must be considered, including public input and desires. This table is not intended to serve as a basis for eliminating areas from further consideration.

Capability factors on pages 4–8 of this document were defined in terms of high, medium and low. These ratings were then converted into numerical form in order to better display their differences in table form. In the table below, High = 3, Medium = 2 and Low = 1. The highest possible score is 12, the lowest is 4.

Table 6. Areas with wilderness potential and their relative score in capability.

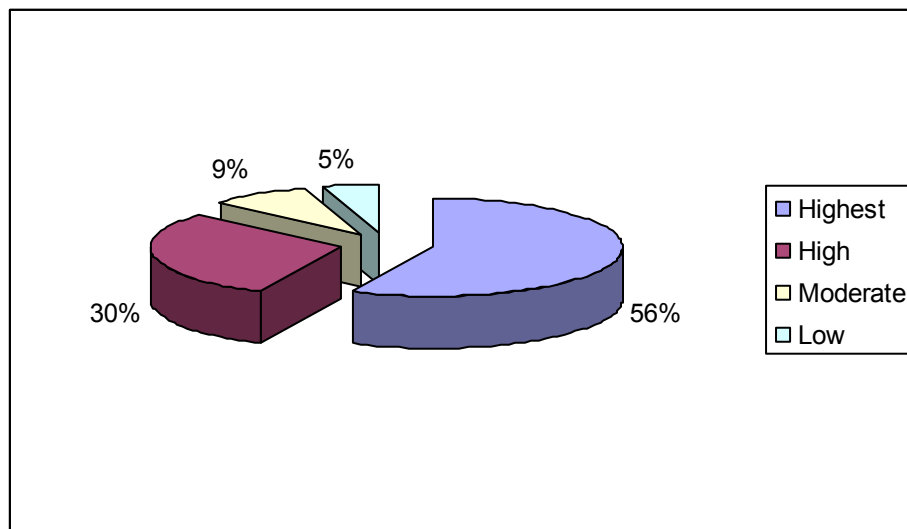
Area	Naturalness and undeveloped character	Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation	Special features	Manageability	Score
Lk Alice–Commissary	3	3	3	3	12
Pine Knoll	1	2	1	2	6
Tunp Range	2	2	1	2	7
Salt River Range	3	3	3	3	12
Riley Ridge	2	1	1	1	5
North Mountain	2	1	2	1	6
South Wyoming Range	3	3	3	3	12
Grayback	3	3	3	3	12
Muddy Cr–S Fisherman	1	1	1	1	4
Noble Basin	2	3	1	1	7
Monument Ridge	2	2	2	2	8
Munger Mountain	2	1	2	1	6
Tepee Creek Ridge	2	2	2	2	8
Raspberry Ridge	2	2	2	2	8
Shoal Creek	3	2	3	3	11
Camp Creek	2	2	2	2	8
Cache Creek	2	1	1	1	5
Curtis Canyon	2	1	2	1	6
Grizzly Lake	2	3	3	3	11
Little Sheep Mountain	1	2	2	1	6
Upper Green–Seven Lakes	3	3	3	2	11
Spread Cr–Gros Ventre R	2.5	2.5	3	2	10

BTNF Evaluation of Areas with Potential as Wilderness 2008

Area	Naturalness and undeveloped character	Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation	Special features	Manageability	Score
Pacific - Blackrock Creek	3	2	3	2	10
Gannett Hills-Spring Cr	2	2	2	2	8
Palisades	3	3	3	3	12
Phillips Ridge	2	2	2	2	8
New Fork	2	2	2	1	7
Sweeney Creek	3	2	3	2	10
Big Sandy – Sweetwater	3	3	3	2.5	11.5

Displaying the areas with wilderness potential in groupings by their cumulative ratings gives a picture of the relatively large amount of non-wilderness backcountry within the BTNF that has high capability as wilderness. Figure 1 below shows the total acreage and percent of the areas with wilderness potential that fall into these high categories, as well as the smaller percentage of acreage with wilderness potential that has low to moderate capability factors.

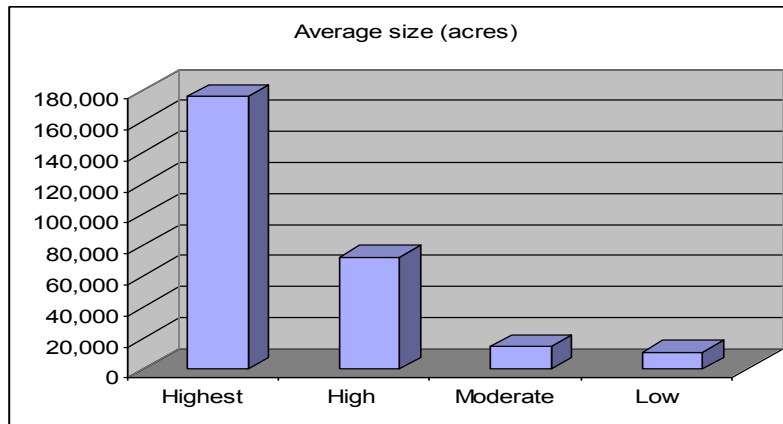
Figure 1. Areas with wilderness potential grouped into capability categories.



Highest	880,395 acres
High	458,030
Moderate	131,695
Low	74,359

The capability ratings show that naturalness and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are directly related to the size of the area. Those areas that scored highly are the largest areas with wilderness potential, as illustrated in Figure 2. Most of the low to moderately capable areas are relatively small, close to human activities, and isolated from other wild areas by roads or other developments.

Figure 2. Comparison of average area size with its capability as wilderness.



AREAS WITH WILDERNESS POTENTIAL AND FOREST PLAN REVISION

Possible management scenarios for areas with wilderness potential under the revised forest plan will respond to the inherent wilderness values of each area, public opinion, and prior existing rights to permit holders or commitments made to other forest uses (availability). Desired conditions from the draft plan revision document that would change the character of these areas the least are shown in Table 7 below.

BTNF Evaluation of Areas with Potential as Wilderness 2008

DESIRED CONDITION	DESCRIPTION
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS	Those parts of the forest meeting national criteria for potential wilderness and determined to be capable, available, and needed for additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The forest's inventoried roadless areas, Congressionally designated Wilderness Study Areas (Palisades and Shoal Creek), and numerous large backcountry areas are potential candidates.
AREAS WITH NO PUBLIC USE TO PROTECT SPECIAL RESOURCES	Seasonally closed big game winter ranges and the small area around Kendall Warm Springs are currently the only areas closed for this purposes.
UNROADED BACKCOUNTRY	Remote, unmodified, natural areas with little obvious on-site management other than signing, trail work and field patrols; no motorized travel takes place here. High to moderate probability of solitude; some evidence of others but these areas generally have an open, uncrowded character.
ELIGIBLE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS	Rivers found eligible through a systematic inventory for potential designation as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Average corridor width is ½ mile, ¼ mile on either side of the river.
RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS	Areas designated for their research value as representations of specific habitat types in the Middle Rocky Mountains. There are four RNAs within the forest: Osborn Mountain, Gros Ventre, Afton Front, and Swift Creek. Other areas on the forest could be considered.
NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS	A nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. To be nationally significant, the feature or site must be a prime example of a type of biotic community or geologic feature. The only National Natural Landmark within the BTNF is Two Ocean Pass, in the Teton Wilderness. Several potential landmarks have been identified within the Forest
BACKCOUNTRY AREAS THAT INCLUDE SOME OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE	Predominately natural areas with designated motor vehicle routes, on forest system roads and trails. Not all trails within the area are motorized and there are places within these semi-primitive motorized areas where one can find quiet and solitude.
FRONT-COUNTRY RECREATION AREAS NEAR COMMUNITIES	Predominately natural in appearance with minor improvements to accommodate significant recreation use. May have a dense trail network or other facilities; semi-primitive in appearance but without size or remoteness typical of such settings—examples are Cache Creek, and some of the Teton Pass area.

AREAS WITH WILDERNESS POTENTIAL
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
Summary table 7/10/07

Area Name	RARE II number	Current ID number	Acres from last inventory [1]	GIS calculated acreages from same inventory	Differences in acres due to GIS	Current area with Wilderness potential (acres) [2]	Net change in acreage due to management actions; other comments
Lake Alice - Commissary Ridge	3001	04-03-01, 04-03-02, and 04-03-05	179,920	156,305 and 10,243	-13,372	149,423 and 10,960	-6165 acres due to timber harvest and map protocol
Nugent Park - Hams Fork	3001A	04-03-03 and 04-03-04	21,590	21,199	-391	6854	-14,345 acres due to correcting open road layer and map protocol
Salt River Range	3002	04-03-06	259,270	238,766	-20,504	239,480	714 acres added due to correcting road layer and map protocol
Riley Ridge	3003	04-03-07	17,600	4,763	-12,837	14,090	9,327 acres added due to correcting road layer and map protocol
North Mountain	3004	04-03-08	8,564	9,809	1,245	5,309	-4499 acres due to correcting road layer and map protocol
South Wyoming Range	3005	04-03-09	76,191	85,706	9,515	96,538	10,832 acres added due to correcting road layer and map protocol
Little Cottonwood Cr	3006	n/a	4,874	5,459	585	0	No area larger than 5,000 acres resulted upon applying corrected road layer.
Grayback	3007	04-03-10	315,647	300,928	-14,719	318,466	17,538 acres added due to correcting road layer and mapping protocol.
Monument Ridge	3008	04-03-11	17,380	17,706	326	16,419	-1,287 acres. Reflects buffer around boundary roads and private land
Munger Mtn.	3009	04-03-12	12,900	12,813	-77	9,834	-2,979 with the omission of area south of Fall Creek Rd, which bisects this area.

BTNF Evaluation of Areas with Potential as Wilderness 2008

Gros Ventre	3010	04-03-13 04-03-14 04-03-15 04-03-32 04-03-33	435,320	139,133 includes Shoal Creek WSA	-35,011	140,704	1544 acres added to what remains roadless; -285,413 acres from original mapping due to legislation (Gros Ventre Wilderness)
Little Sheep Mtn	3011	04-03-16	17,300	14,851	-2,449	12,096	-2,755 acres due to timber harvest and correction of map layer
Mosquito Lake – Seven Lakes	3012	04-03-17	30,014	51,967	21,953	11,993	-39,974 acres due to timber harvest, exclusion of extrusion and correction of road map.
Spread Creek – Gros Ventre River	3013	04-03-18	172,821	165,972	-6,849	215,146	49,174 acres added due to map protocol
Pacific - Blackrock Cr	3014	04-03-19	26,370	24,236	-2,134	22,100	-2,136 acres due to following map protocol
Teton Corridor	3015	n/a	28,156	277 (TH areas)	0	0	All that remains of this area are three trailheads. 27,879 acres added to Teton Wilderness
Gannett Hills – Spring Creek	3901	04-03-20	46,400	45,449	-951	38,443	Removed a non-contiguous area
Palisades	3902	04-03-21	81,872	76,783	-4,984	80,903	4,015 acres added due to corrected road layer.
Phillips Ridge	3903	04-03-22	9,900	10,110	210	9,433	-677 acres due to corrected road layer and applying protocol
West slope Winds	3904	04-03-23 04-03-24 04-03-25	[3]	143,020	n/a	108,328	-34,692 acres; much of the original RARE-II area is now part of the Bridger Wilderness.

Summary of inventoried roadless areas and areas with wilderness potential.

[1] All of these acreages are from the 1983 BTNF roadless area re-evaluation.

[2] Areas with wilderness potential determined using R4 protocol for inventory and refinement of GIS maps. Changes are still being made that will result in new figures (for example, motorized lakes along Wind River front have not yet been removed from areas with wilderness potential).

[3] No acreage figure for this area was included in the 1983 document; however, most of the roadless area was added to the Bridger Wilderness (Wyoming Wilderness Act, 1984).

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS – RARE-II ONLY
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
Summary table

Area Name	RARE II number	GIS calculated acreages	Notes and comments
Lake Alice - Commissary Ridge	3001	166,548	Excludes area east of Middle Ridge and a small area near Big Park, E side of Absaroka Ridge and a wide corridor south of LaBarge Creek
Nugent Park - Hams Fork	3001A	21,199	Mapped as solid roadless except for formerly private lands
Salt River Range	3002	238,766	Excludes Poison Mdw, much of Clear Creek and lower Spring Creek, South Three Forks Cr to Meadows Creek east of the Way Trail, lower White Cr, lower Murphy Cr, and Squaw Creek. These are already mostly cut over.
Riley Ridge	3003	4,763	GIS acres show less than 5,000 – this may be a candidate for a technical correction.
North Mountain	3004	9,809	Mapped as solid roadless with no exclusions.
South Wyoming Range	3005	85,706	Excludes upper Greys from Tri-Basin Divide to lower Kinney Creek, and much of the east slope in a wide corridor along the Bare Pass Road and the Cottonwoods.
Little Cottonwood Cr	3006	5,459	Mapped as solid roadless
Grayback	3007	300,928	Excludes Bug Creek, Blind Bull summit area, Blind Trail to Bull Hollow in the Little Greys, a large area west of Cliff Creek from Lime to Cabin Creeks, and much of the east side from the upper Hoback River to North Horse Creek, and Maki Creek.
Monument Ridge	3008	17,706	Mapped as solid roadless
Munger Mtn.	3009	12,813	Mapped as solid roadless
Gros Ventre	3010	139,133 includes Shoal Creek WSA	Much of this area is now part of the Gros Ventre Wilderness (286,413 acres according to GIS); another 32,374 is the Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Area. Excludes North Beaver Creek to the Rim, N Fk Fisherman Creek, and south half of Curtis Canyon area.
Little Sheep Mtn	3011	14,851	Excludes private land and area already entered for timber via Moose-Gypsum Road
Mosquito Lake – Seven Lakes	3012	51,967	Excludes corridor of Green River Lakes Road and much of the cut areas between upper Bacon Creek and Lake of the Woods
Spread Creek – Gros Ventre River	3013	165,972	Excludes large areas already entered for timber or oil/gas exploration, including closed roads in N Fk Fish Creek, Spread Creek, etc.
Pacific - Blackrock Cr	3014	24,236	Mapped as solid roadless
Teton Corridor	3015	277 (TH areas)	This RARE-II area essentially became part of the Teton Wilderness, except for trailheads
Gannett Hills – Spring Creek	3901	45,449	Mapped as solid roadless
Palisades	3902	76,873	Excludes lower N Fk Fall Creek (but not all cutover areas) and Mosquito – Mill Creek area
Phillips Ridge	3903	10,110	Excludes area SE of power line ROW
West slope Winds	3904	143,020	Some of this RARE-II area became part of the Bridger Wilderness, leaving scattered sections. Exclusions from roadless in Boulder Basin, New Fork Lake area, and Sweetwater River.

RARE-II compared with CURRENT INVENTORY
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
Total acreage per area

Area name	GIS calculated acreages from RARE-II inventory	Current area with Wilderness potential
Lake Alice - Commissary Ridge	166,548	160,383
Nugent Park - Hams Fork	21,199	6854
Salt River Range	238,766	239,480
Riley Ridge	4,763	14,090
North Mountain	9,809	5,309
South Wyoming Range	85,706	96,538
Little Cottonwood Cr	5,459	0
Grayback	300,928	318,466
Monument Ridge	17,706	16,419
Munger Mtn.	12,813	9,834
Gros Ventre	139,133	140,704
Little Sheep Mtn	14,851	12,096
Mosquito Lake – Seven Lakes	51,967	11,993
Spread Creek – Gros Ventre River	165,972	215,146
Pacific - Blackrock Cr	24,236	22,100
Teton Corridor	277	0
Gannett Hills – Spring Creek	45,449	38,443
Palisades	76,873	80,903
Phillips Ridge	10,110	9,433
West slope Winds	143,020	108,328
	1,535,600	1,506,519