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Cover Photo: Convict Lake during the winter. Photo by Richard Perloff.

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Appendix A – Timber Suitability and Management

Determination of Suitability for Timber Production

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

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

Lands that May be Suitable for Timber Production

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

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by statute, executive order, regulation or where the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service has withdrawn the land from timber production.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

Forest lands that remain after this initial screening are termed “lands that may be suitable for timber production,” and do not vary by alternative. Based on this initial suitability analysis, the Inyo National Forest has 85,025 acres that may be suitable for timber production as shown in Item C on the last row of Table A-1.

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

Land Classification Category	Acres
A. Total National Forest System land	1,990,042
B. Lands not suited for timber production due to legal or technical reasons	1,905,017
a. Land withdrawn from timber production	1,555,616
b. Nonforested lands and/or lands where adequate stocking is not assured	349,400
c. Lands where irreversible resource damage is likely	0
C. Lands that may be suited for timber production	85,025

The planning directives (FSH 1909.12 chapter 61.11) list the following areas as lands on which timber production is prohibited or lands withdrawn from timber production: National Wilderness Preservation System, designated wild river segments, research natural areas, and other designated areas where timber production is specifically prohibited. These areas along with inventoried roadless areas were removed as *lands not suited for timber production due to legal or technical reasons* (Table A-1). While there are exceptions to the removal of inventoried roadless areas in the Roadless Rule (294.13(b)(4)), the inventoried roadless areas on the Inyo National Forest do not meet the “substantially altered” exception. The Pacific Crest Trail Management Area is included in lands suited for timber production as timber harvest and related management actions would be designed to be compatible with desired conditions and objectives for a naturally appearing landscape surrounding the trail.

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

The following Regional Dominance Types (CALVEG Forest Types) are recognized as capable of adequate restocking within 5 years: Eastside Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Mixed Conifer Fir, Red Fir, and White Fir. All other CALVEG Forest Types are currently regarded as not capable of the same level of reasonable assurance and are excluded. On the Inyo National Forest, slopes exceeding 35 percent are excluded from timber production.

Lands Suitable for Timber Production

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

- Recommended wilderness areas included in each alternative.
- The corridor (approximately one quarter-mile on each side) surrounding wild river segments of eligible wild and scenic rivers.
- Riparian conservation areas.
- Eligible or suitable wild river segments.

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

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

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

The Inyo National Forest includes approximately 70,608 to 85,025 acres that are suitable for timber production, depending on the alternative (see Table A-2 for specific information). Lands suitable for timber production are lands where this use is a management objective. Site-specific project designs incorporate actions to meet a variety of objectives, such as riparian area enhancement, habitat maintenance or development, scenic stability, and integrity.

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

Land Classification Category	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative B-modified	Alternative C	Alternative D
C. Lands that may be suitable for timber production	85,025	85,025	85,025	85,025	85,025
D. Lands where management objectives limit timber harvest	0 ¹	12,792	12,792	14,417	12,792
a. Recommended wilderness areas	0	11	11	1,636	11
b. New eligible wild river segments	0	4,399	4,399	4,399	4,399
c. Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs)	0	8,382	8,382	8,382	8,382
E. Lands not suitable for timber production	1,905,017	1,917,808	1,917,808	1,919,434	1,917,808
F. Lands suitable for timber production (total)	85,025	72,234	72,234	70,608	72,234

It is important to note that between the draft environmental impact statement and the final, several corrections were made to the determination of suitable lands. Approximately 4,000 acres

¹ Previous existing land where management objectives limit timber harvest were removed in step B in Table A-2 above to facilitate comparison of alternatives for this analysis.

administered by the Inyo National Forest omitted by mistake in the draft environmental impact statement have been added to the final for the determination of suitable lands. Also, eligible wild river segments that were missed in the draft environmental impact statement have been removed from suitable lands under *lands where management objectives limit timber harvest* in the final environmental impact statement (Table A-2)).

Other changes made in the final environmental impact statement include the removal of new eligible wild river segments from suitable lands, updated wilderness boundaries in Alternative C, and the removal of riparian conservation areas from suitable lands. Timber production is defined as the purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use (36 CFR 219.19). The determination that riparian conservation areas are not suitable for timber production is based on this definition and consideration of the five criteria stated above, especially number five which states that timber production is compatible with the desired conditions or objectives for the land designed to fulfill requirements of (36 CFR 219.8 to 219.10).

In the final environmental impact statement, timber management activities along with prescribed burning and other management tools, are used to make progress towards desired conditions, maintain healthy riparian vegetation resilient to wildfire and maintain habitat conditions for at-risk plant and animal communities while restoring highly diverse ecosystems that provide for ecological integrity. Plan components are established to provide for timber harvest for purposes other than timber production that protect riparian conservation area values including soils, riparian vegetation, at-risk species habitat and water quality. The change in timber production suitability classification affects 8,382 acres with no predicted change in operational timber harvest between alternative A and alternative B-modified.

Planned Timber Sale Program

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

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

Sustained Yield Limit

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

The sustained yield was calculated on the acreage of the dominant forest types (by acreage). A representative productivity class was determined by evaluating the full range of forest inventory analysis plots for each modeled forest type. The modeling process used two forest stand

development models, Conifers and the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS). Conifers was used to simulate the growth and development of seedling conifers for the first two decades and FVS was used beyond that timeframe. Thinning was simulated, based on a stand density index density management regime that maintained stand-level index values between estimated full stocking and threshold of imminent mortality bounds. Mean annual increment and periodic annual increment values were calculated by FVS. The length of the simulation was extended through the culmination of mean annual increment and the associated cubic feet per acre value was identified for each forest type.

The total sustained yield limit is 40 million cubic feet (MMCF) per decade.

Projected Timber Sale Quantity

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

The estimated quantity of timber and all other wood products expected to be sold from the plan area for the plan period is called the "projected wood sale quantity." The projected wood sale quantity consists of the projected timber sale quantity as well as other woody material such as fuelwood, firewood, or biomass also expected to be available for sale. The projected wood sale quantity includes volume from timber harvest for any purpose based on expected harvests that would be consistent with the plan components. The projected wood sale quantity is also based on the planning unit's fiscal capability and organizational capacity. The projected wood sale quantity is neither a target nor a limitation on harvest.

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

In Table A-3, timber products include volumes other than salvage or sanitation volumes that meet timber product utilization standards, while other estimated wood products include fuelwood and other volumes that do not meet timber product utilization standards.

Alternative A is generally maintaining the existing standards and guidelines; therefore, it is used as a baseline and derived from "Cut/Sold" reports (5-year average). Yields were estimated by simulating intermediate harvests (using FVS with Forest Inventory Analysis data), compliant with the alternative's goals and objectives. Volumes displayed in the previous table were derived by multiplying simulated harvest volumes per acre by the anticipated area treated shown in Table A-4. As displayed above, more volume per acre is available for removal to meet restoration objectives than is generally being removed under the existing management direction. Implementation of alternatives B, modified alternative B, and D would be expected to expand the size of projects over alternative A. Because alternative C constrains the amount and size of harvested trees, as well as incorporates the provisions of the settlement agreement for the Sierra

Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, timber production is estimated to be less while requiring higher costs in project design.

Table A-3. Planned timber sale program, decadal volume outputs in millions of cubic feet per decade by alternative, Inyo National Forest

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

Table A-4. Acres of vegetation management practices implemented per decade, Inyo National Forest

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

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

Vegetation Management Practices

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

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

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

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

Methodology

The sustainable yield is substantially higher than the current capacity of the Inyo National Forest to implement given current appropriations, as well as current regulatory and management constraints. The projected area treated in the table immediately above was established based on projected fiscal and personnel capabilities in conjunction with management objectives and limitations of each alternative.

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

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

Silvicultural Treatments Used to Achieve Plan Objectives

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

Reforestation

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

Site Preparation

These treatments are designed to enhance the success of regeneration efforts. A variety of methods may be used to reduce competing vegetation, planting obstacles, and fuel levels. Ground-based equipment and/or hand tools may be used to reduce tree and shrub levels, providing a more favorable environment for developing seedlings. Selective herbicides may be applied to suppress competing plants, reducing competition for soil moisture and sunlight. Fire may be used to reduce surface fuel or to consume woody material piled by machine or hand. One or more of these activities may be used to prepare sites for reestablishing seedlings.

Seedling Establishment

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

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

Seedling Stocking Criteria

The stocking criteria for lands suitable for timber production are indicated in Table A-5. They are designed to provide for the attainment of the long-term desired conditions, as well as provide sufficient trees to meet the potential forest product yields over time. The values apply after regeneration harvests, as well as after disturbances, including, for example, areas affected by high-severity fire.

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

Table A-5. Stocking criteria for suitable lands by forest type

Forest Type	Region 5 Site Class*	Trees per Acre Minimum	Trees per Acre Recommended
Jeffrey pine	0-1	150	200
Jeffrey pine	2	125	200
Jeffrey pine	3	100	150
Jeffrey pine	4-5	75	125
True fir	All	200	300
Mixed conifer	All	150	200

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

Release

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

Precommercial Thinning

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

Timber Harvest

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

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

Thinning treatments would emphasize variable density thinning to restore heterogeneity, decrease overall forest density, decrease surface fuel continuity, and increase understory cover, density, and vigor, particularly of sun-loving plants. The approach would be similar to that described in General Technical Reports 220 and 237 (North, Stine, OHara, et al. 2009) and (North 2012b), emphasizing restoration of heterogeneity. Some areas would be thinned more and some areas less or not at all. Thinning could occur across a range of diameters, between small- to medium-diameter trees. Some small openings would be created while clumps of trees would be retained in some areas. There would be retention and creation of heterogeneity in the understory as well, as described in the desired conditions. Some patches of high surface fuel would occur, and other areas would have little to none.

Group selection is the projected method used to regenerate portions of forest stands. All, or most, of the trees are removed, followed by the establishment of seedlings. The size of the

opening is variable, but is designed to provide sufficient site resources for favorable seedling establishment and growth.

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

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

Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hazard tree removal: The abatement of tree hazards, generally near roads, trails, and facilities. Tree hazards include dead or dying trees, dead parts of live trees, or unstable live trees (due to

structural defects or other factors) that are within striking distance of people or property (a target). Hazard trees have the potential to cause property damage, personal injury or fatality in the event of a failure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix B – Wilderness Recommendation Process

Overview

The Inyo National Forest is required as part of the land management plan revision process to “identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation” (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219.7(v)). The process occurs in four primary steps: inventory, evaluation, analysis, and recommendation. Each step requires public participation.

The inventory step identifies all lands in the plan area that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System using the criteria in Section 71 of Forest Service Handbook FSH 1909.12-2015-1, Chapter 70 – Wilderness (Wilderness Recommendation Handbook). The evaluation step examines the wilderness characteristics of lands in the inventory using the criteria in section 72 of the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook. The analysis step further analyzes the effects of recommending wilderness designations for evaluated areas or portions thereof that are included in one or more of the plan alternatives.

The recommendation step concludes the process with documenting the forest supervisor’s decision and identifying which areas, if any, are recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The preliminary administrative recommendation will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation. Plan implementation is not dependent upon subsequent action related to recommendations for wilderness designation.

Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be analyzed as recommended wilderness (FSH 1909.12, Sec. 73). Inclusion in the inventory or one or more alternatives not selected is not a designation that conveys or requires a particular kind of management. Areas that are not recommended for wilderness are available for inclusion in other management areas in the forest plan.

Inventory

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

Preliminary Inventory Map

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

1. Identified all lands that met the roads improvements criteria, as outlined in Chapter 70, 71.22(a). Roads improvements data were developed through the travel management planning process. The objective maintenance level of each road was used. The Forest Service analysis of roads improvements incorporated the travel management decisions on the Inyo National Forest. The undeveloped areas on the preliminary inventory map were unroaded, contained decommissioned or unauthorized routes, or contained objective maintenance level 1 roads. Motorized trails were included

in the preliminary inventory because they met the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook's definition of unroaded.

2. Excluded lands that met the roads improvements criteria but had less than half a mile across between roads. These areas are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
3. We excluded lands that met the roads improvements criteria but had "power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structures," as outlined in chapter 70, 71.22(b)(9). The Wilderness Recommendation Handbook allows areas with other types of improvements, such as timber harvest areas, historic mining areas, or range improvements, to be included in the inventory as long as they are not substantially noticeable.
4. Created a draft preliminary inventory map based on the above steps, identifying polygons in the following categories:
 - a. Areas 5,000 acres or greater.
 - b. Areas less than 5,000 acres and noncontiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on both National Forest System lands and adjacent lands of other Federal ownership.
 - c. Areas between 1,000 and 4,999 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership.
 - d. Areas less than 1,000 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership.
5. Included all areas 5,000 acres or greater (chapter 70, 71.21(1)).
6. Included areas between 1,000 and 4,999 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership (chapter 70, 71.21 (3)).
7. Reviewed areas less than 5,000 acres and noncontiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and lands of other Federal ownership. All these areas were excluded because they were not of sufficient size to make their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable (chapter 70, 71.21(3)).
8. Reviewed areas less than 1,000 acres and contiguous to existing designated wilderness, primitive areas, or recommended wilderness on National Forest System lands and on lands of other Federal ownership. Most of these areas were very small and had been purposefully excluded from previous Congressional wilderness designations. These areas were excluded unless we determined that they were practicable additions in shape and size.
9. Excluded improvements in the polygons that did not meet the criteria in chapter 70, 71.22(b).
10. Updated preliminary inventory maps based on the above steps.

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

- Inyo National Forest (North):
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804531.jpg

- Inyo National Forest (South):
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804526.jpg

The maps display two categories of areas that are part of the preliminary inventory:

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

Table B-1 provides the preliminary number of acres that meet the wilderness inventory criteria, the number of acres that did not meet the wilderness inventory criteria, and the total undeveloped acres considered in the preliminary inventory.

Table B-1. Preliminary wilderness inventory acres for the Inyo National Forest

Preliminary Inventory Category	Acres
Total undeveloped area considered in the preliminary wilderness inventory	791,409
Meet wilderness inventory criteria	508,544
Did not meet wilderness inventory criteria	192,855

Public Input on the Preliminary Inventory Map

The Forest Service posted the preliminary inventory map (map version 3.1, dated June 4, 2014) to the Pacific Southwest Region’s planning website on June 4, 2014 (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3803608>). During a public workshop and Tribal forum held in mid-June, the preliminary inventory maps were introduced, and the public was invited to provide input on the maps through June 30, 2014. The tools used to inform the public about the upcoming workshops included news releases to individuals and the media, emails to parties on the schedule of proposed actions database list, radio spots, and the Pacific Southwest Region’s planning website. The public input primarily focused on whether roads existed on some of the undeveloped lands on the Inyo National Forest.

Public input also included a comprehensive citizen-developed inventory of areas that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The citizen inventory included a total of 456,157 acres on the Inyo National Forest.

Final Inventory Map

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

- Fixed mapping errors.
- Enlarged one undeveloped area.
- The citizen-developed inventory by Forest Service staff. Of the 456,159 total acres in the citizen inventory, 440,446 acres were consistent with what Forest Service staff identified. The areas that were not consistent with the Forest Service inventory did not meet the inventory criteria and were not included in the final inventory. On the Inyo National Forest, 97 percent of the citizen inventory was included.

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

- Inyo National Forest (North):
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815404.pdf
- Inyo National Forest (South):
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3815405.pdf

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

Table B-2 provides the final number of acres that meet the wilderness inventory criteria, the number of acres that did not meet the wilderness inventory criteria, and the total undeveloped acres considered in the final inventory. The final inventory dataset and the dataset used for the evaluation (see “Evaluation” section) are the same except for some small corrections made in the evaluation dataset after the final inventory was completed. For this reason, there are some small discrepancies between the acreage totals shown here and those calculated for the evaluation dataset.

Table B-2. Final wilderness inventory acres for the Inyo National Forest

Final Inventory Category	Acres
Total undeveloped acres considered in the final wilderness inventory	795,190
Meet wilderness inventory criteria	614,516
Did not meet wilderness inventory criteria	180,674

Table B-3 provides the details related to the final number of areas that meet the wilderness inventory criteria and the areas that did not meet the wilderness inventory criteria.

Table B-3. Final inventory area details for the Inyo National Forest

Final Inventory Details	# of Areas
Meet wilderness inventory criteria, larger than 5,000 acres	53
Meet wilderness inventory criteria, between 1,000 and 5,000 acres, contiguous to existing designated wilderness	25
Did not meet wilderness inventory criteria, between 1,000 and 5,000 acres	39
Did not meet wilderness inventory criteria, less than 1,000 acres, not contiguous to existing designated wilderness	321
Did not meet wilderness inventory criteria, less than 1,000 acres, contiguous to existing designated wilderness	126

After the draft environmental impact statement was released, a GIS mapping error in the final inventory map was discovered that resulted in approximately 4,000 acres of land the Inyo National Forest administers for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest missing from the inventory. This resulted in an addition to the wilderness area that merged two areas (Polygon numbers 1350 and 1351) into one area large enough to bring forward to the evaluation. This area was named polygon 1550, evaluated per the directives (a motorized trails evaluation and a built features evaluation), and the evaluation was updated accordingly. See Figure B-1 for details about this update.

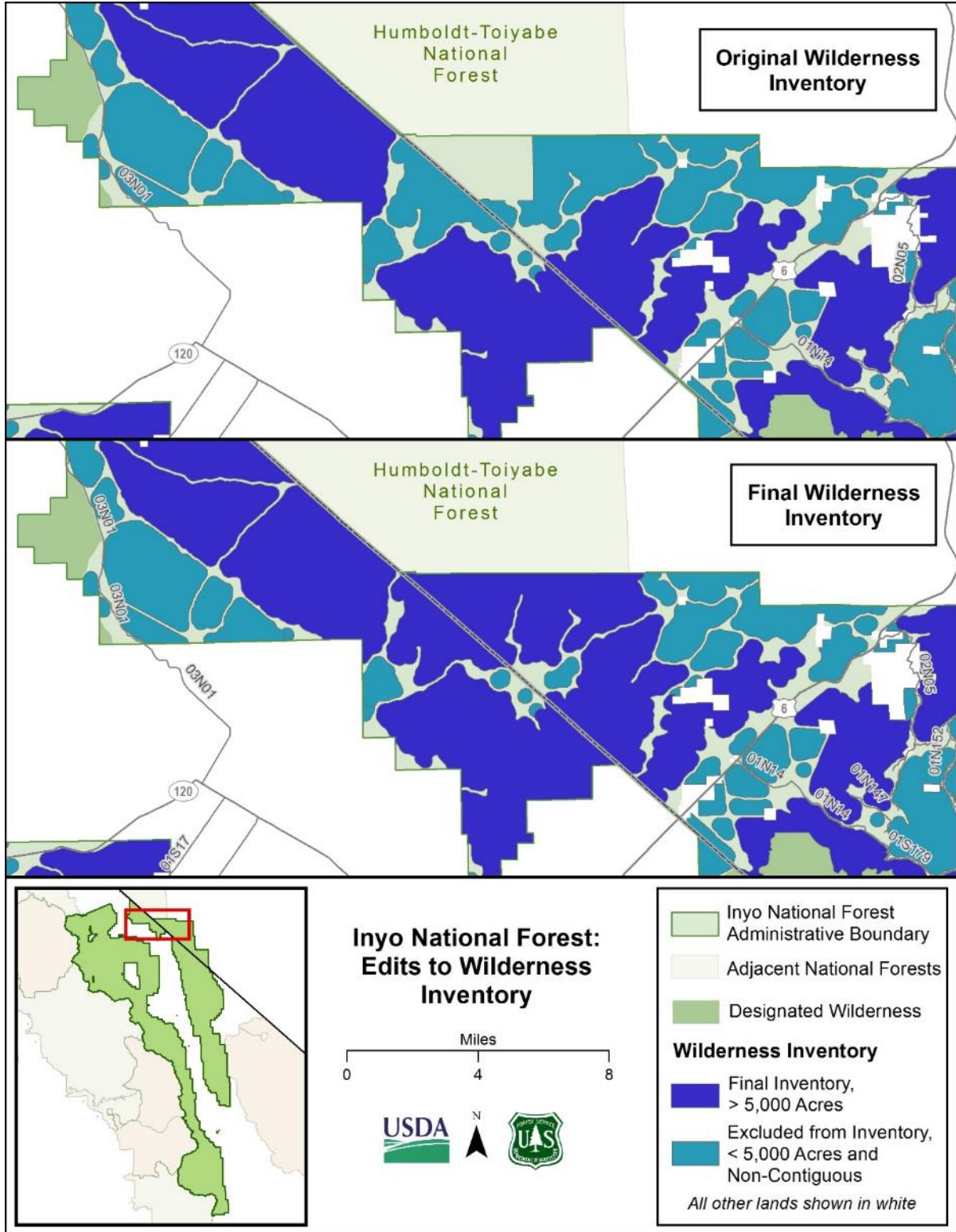


Figure B-1. Updates to wilderness inventory merging polygons 1350 and 1351 into polygon 1550, a 4,000-acre area

Evaluation

The evaluation step examines the wilderness characteristics of lands in the inventory using the criteria in section 72 of the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook.

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

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

Consideration of Motorized Trails

We examined the evaluation polygons to determine whether wilderness characteristics were affected by authorized motorized trails. Motorized trails were authorized as part of the Inyo National Forest transportation system through recent travel management decisions.

The following process was used to examine motorized trails:

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

Based on this process, we found that the wilderness characteristics of approximately 99,332 acres across the Inyo National Forest were affected by authorized motorized trails. The maps with the identified areas affected by motorized trails were posted online for public review and input between September 5, 2014 and September 24, 2014.

Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics

An interdisciplinary team examined the wilderness characteristics of each area using the criteria in section 72 of the Wilderness Recommendation Handbook:

1. The degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, considering factors such as:
 - a. Whether the composition of plant and animal communities appears natural (e.g., past management activities have created a plantation-style forest with trees of a uniform specie and age and planted in rows).
 - i. Extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention.
 - ii. Extent to which improvements included in the area represent a departure from apparent naturalness.
2. The degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The word “or” means that an area only has to possess one or the other. The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Considerations include:

- b. Impacts that are pervasive and influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude within the evaluated area. Factors to consider may include topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, degree of permanent intrusions, and pervasive sights and sounds from outside the area.
 - c. The opportunity to engage in primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Factors may include the degree of challenge or risk while using outdoor skills.
3. The degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values are not required to be present in an area, but their presence should be identified and evaluated where they exist.
 4. The degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.
 - a. Shape and configuration of the area.
 - b. Legally established rights or uses within the area.
 - c. Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.
 - d. The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area.
 - e. Management of adjacent lands.

Public Input on the Evaluation

Public input was gathered in a number of ways throughout the process and was considered in the development of the evaluation narratives.

In September 2014, maps were posted to the "Talking Points" website at <https://my.usgs.gov/ppgis/studio/launch/16850> and the public was asked to provide any information between September 5, 2014 and September 24, 2014 to help document the wilderness characteristics of the areas. Stakeholders provided information via this website through general written comments and also by highlighting specific points or areas on the map and attaching comments specific to those areas.

Comments regarding the wilderness evaluation were also received through the project website, email, and postal mail during the scoping period. The wilderness evaluation process and maps were also part of the public workshops and tribal forums held on the Inyo National Forest in September 2014.

From June to November 2015, additional public input on the evaluation process was received and reviewed, along with input on initially selected areas for analysis as recommended wilderness (see "Analysis" section). Draft evaluation narratives were refined to include any new, relevant information, to improve consistency and clarity in the evaluation narratives, and to add more detail regarding wilderness characteristics in the evaluation narratives.

In December 2015, the public was given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft wilderness evaluation narratives for areas under consideration for analysis in the alternatives, as well as maps and tables, prior to the completion of the draft environmental impact statement. This resulted in further adjustments to the wilderness evaluation narratives. For more information on feedback received, see the "Analysis" section below.

Summary of Public Input

Several stakeholders were under the impression that the final wilderness inventory maps represented the recommendations for additional designated wilderness. In addition, there was a perception that the

“Talking Points” map did not display all existing roads or other developments. These perceptions had a noticeable influence on the input received.

Public input generally fell into the following categories:

1. Views on recommending additional wilderness areas.
 - a. Stakeholders opposed to recommending additional wilderness areas generally cited the lack of wilderness characteristics in areas with motorized trails, mountain bike trails, or other improvements.
 - b. Stakeholders in favor of recommending additional wilderness areas generally cited an area’s natural qualities, opportunities for primitive recreation, or other features of value.
2. Wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
 - a. The motorized recreation community expressed concern that the evaluation process would override and nullify decisions on the national forest transportation system made through the recent travel management process.
 - b. Wilderness advocacy organizations wanted to see an assessment of whether the areas in the final inventory contained underrepresented ecosystems in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
 - c. Some stakeholders were concerned about excluding the areas with motorized trails identified on the “Talking Points” map from being evaluated for wilderness characteristics.
 - d. Some stakeholders wanted to see a broader evaluation process, ranging from being more inclusive of all roadless areas to reconsidering designated wilderness boundaries.
3. Impacts or management issues from additional wilderness designations. There were:
 - a. Concerns with the agency’s ability to manage additional wilderness.
 - b. Concerns that additional wilderness would reduce the amount of California state off-highway vehicle grants coming to the forests and reduce the off-highway vehicle community’s volunteer and financial contributions to maintaining motorized trails.
 - c. Concerns that additional wilderness would limit areas on the forest open to multiple-use recreation and would harm the tourism economies of gateway communities.
 - d. Concerns that additional wilderness would limit a forest’s ability to conduct fuels treatments or fire suppression activities, especially adjacent to communities or private lands.
 - e. Concerns that additional wilderness would affect the ability of people who are disable or elderly to access the national forests.
 - f. Concerns about restrictions on livestock grazing.

How Public Input was Incorporated

Motorized Trails

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

The presence of authorized motorized trails in an inventory area is not by itself a sufficient basis for not conducting an evaluation of the area. The evaluation narrative for each inventory area contains a summary

of the motorized trails within the area and describes the effects those trails have on the wilderness characteristics and manageability of the area.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Recommending Additional Areas

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

Underrepresented Ecosystem Types

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

Broadness of the Evaluation Process

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

Management of Recommended Wilderness

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

Other Factors and Management Issues

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

Explanatory Notes on Roads and Motorized Trails

Roads

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

1. Level 1 roads are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at

this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are to “prohibit” and “eliminate” all traffic. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps.

2. Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for non-motorized uses.
3. Level 2 roads are open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 “No Traffic Signs,” may be posted at intersections. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log-haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to “discourage” or “prohibit” passenger cars. “Accept” or “discourage” strategies may be employed for high clearance vehicles.

Cherry Stem Roads

Throughout the descriptions of polygons, there are references to cherry stem roads. A cherry stem road refers to a dead-end road that appears to protrude into a polygon, but the boundary of the polygon is drawn around the road to exclude it from the interior of a polygon. The setback to cherry stem these roads was established at 200 feet from the centerline on either side of the road. This buffer was used on all authorized roads that were adjacent, or within evaluated polygons.

Authorized Motorized Trails or Authorized Forest System Roads

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

Evaluation Maps and Narratives

This section evaluates the wilderness characteristics of all areas in the final inventory of lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. A series of maps are provided first, followed by evaluation narratives. The map section includes an index map (Figure B-2). The relevant sectional maps are referenced in each polygon narrative.

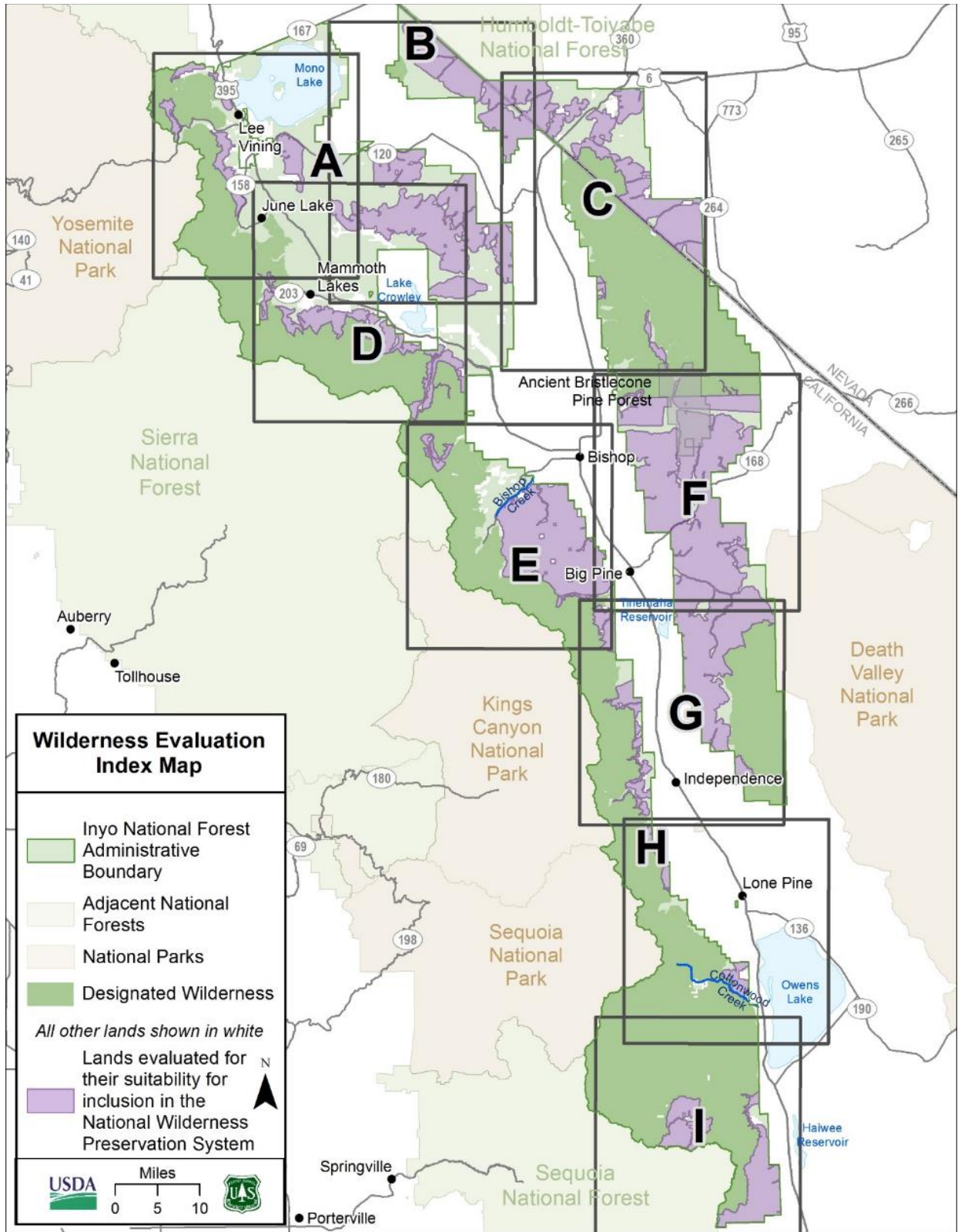


Figure B-2. Map index for Inyo National Forest lands evaluated for their suitability to be recommended for wilderness designation

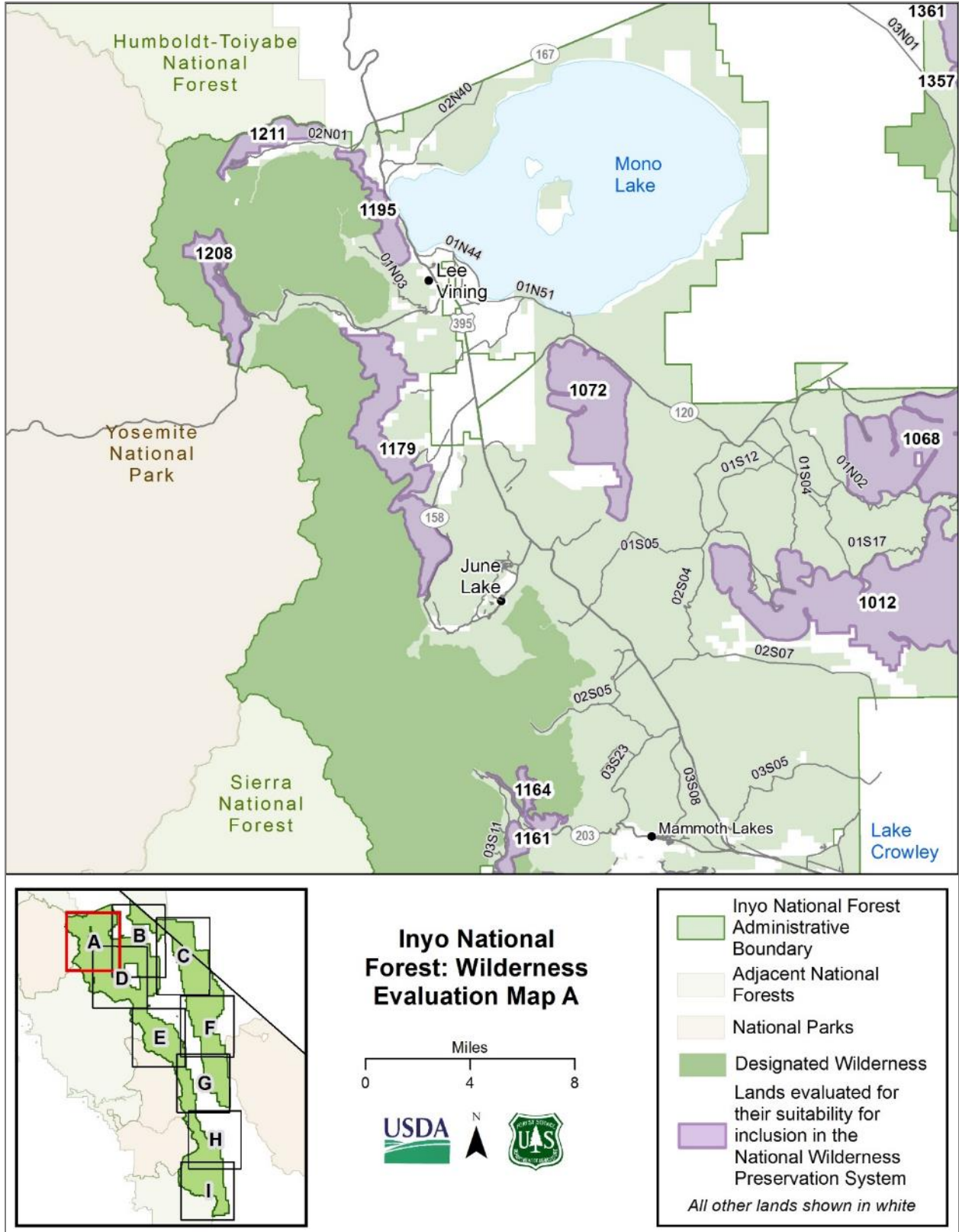


Figure B-3. Inyo National Forest evaluation map A

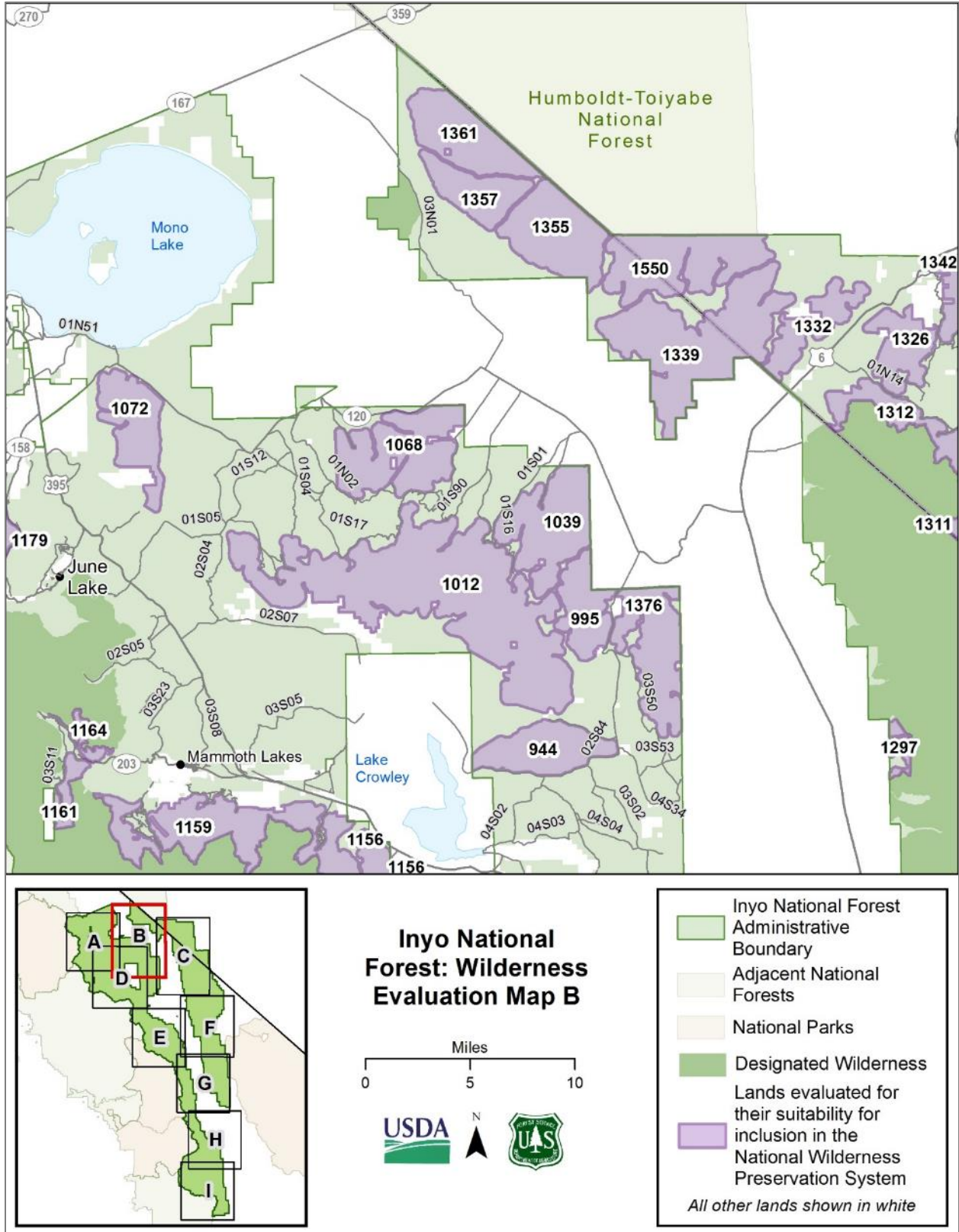


Figure B-4. Inyo National Forest evaluation map B

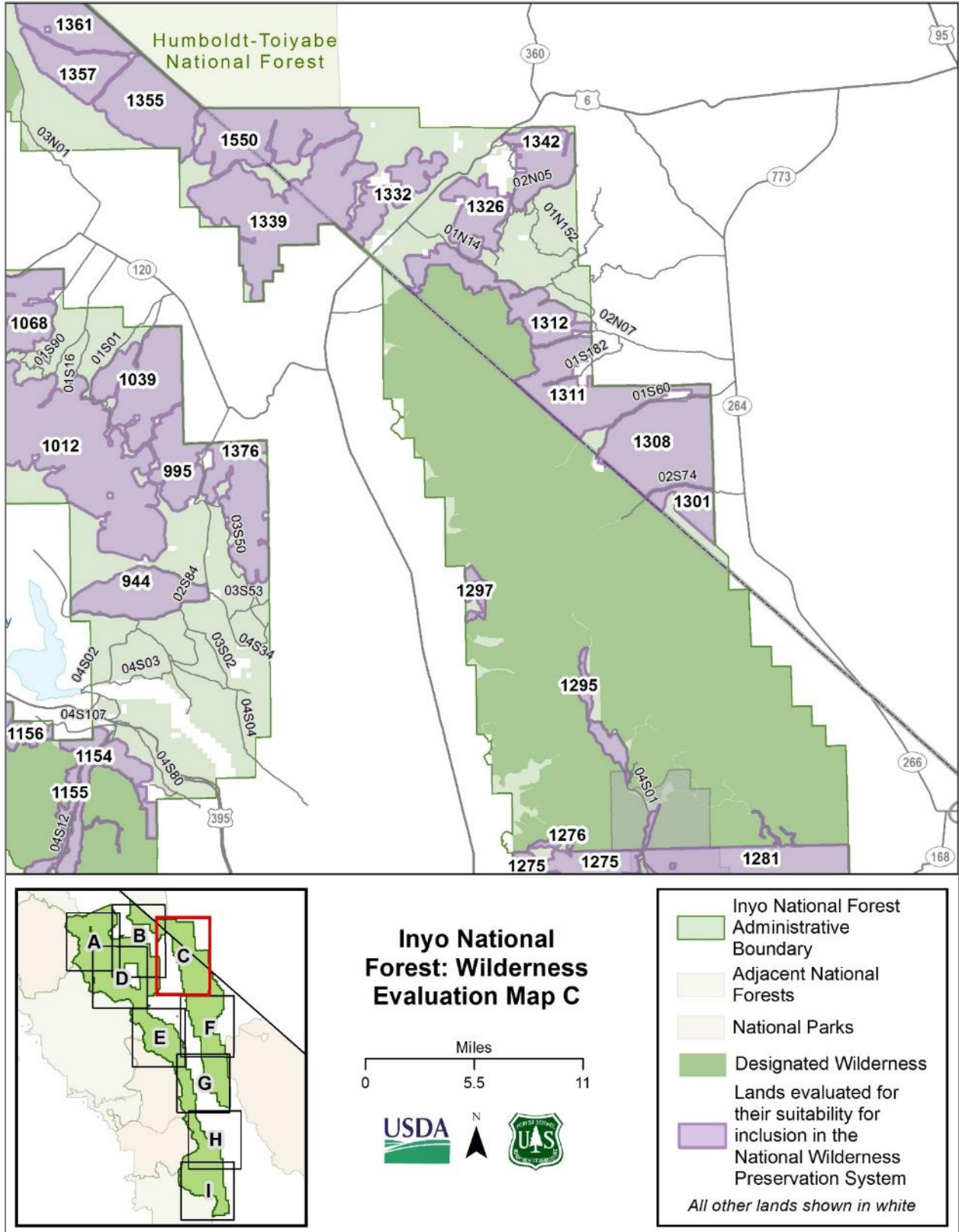


Figure B-5. Inyo National Forest evaluation map C

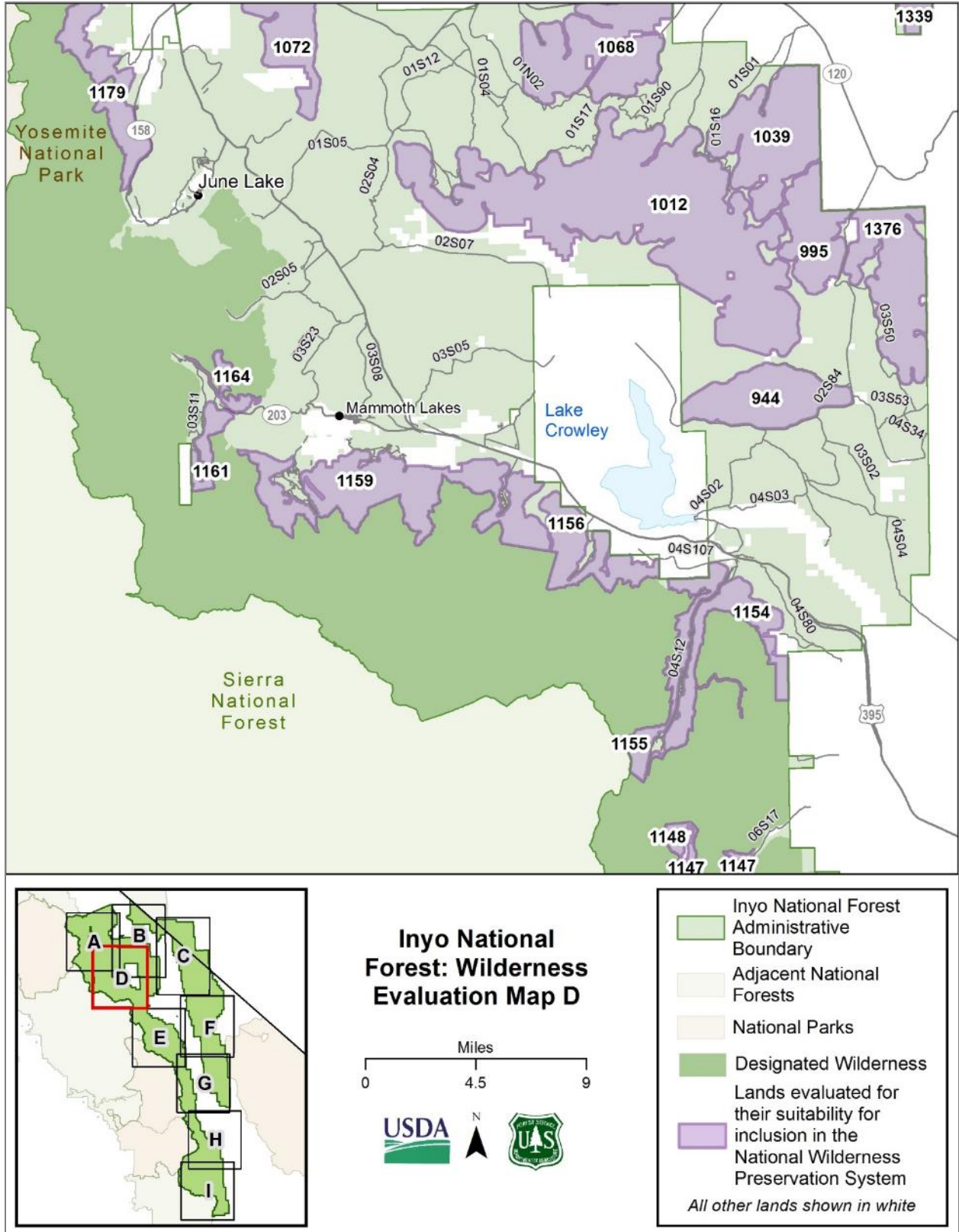


Figure B-6. Inyo National Forest evaluation map D

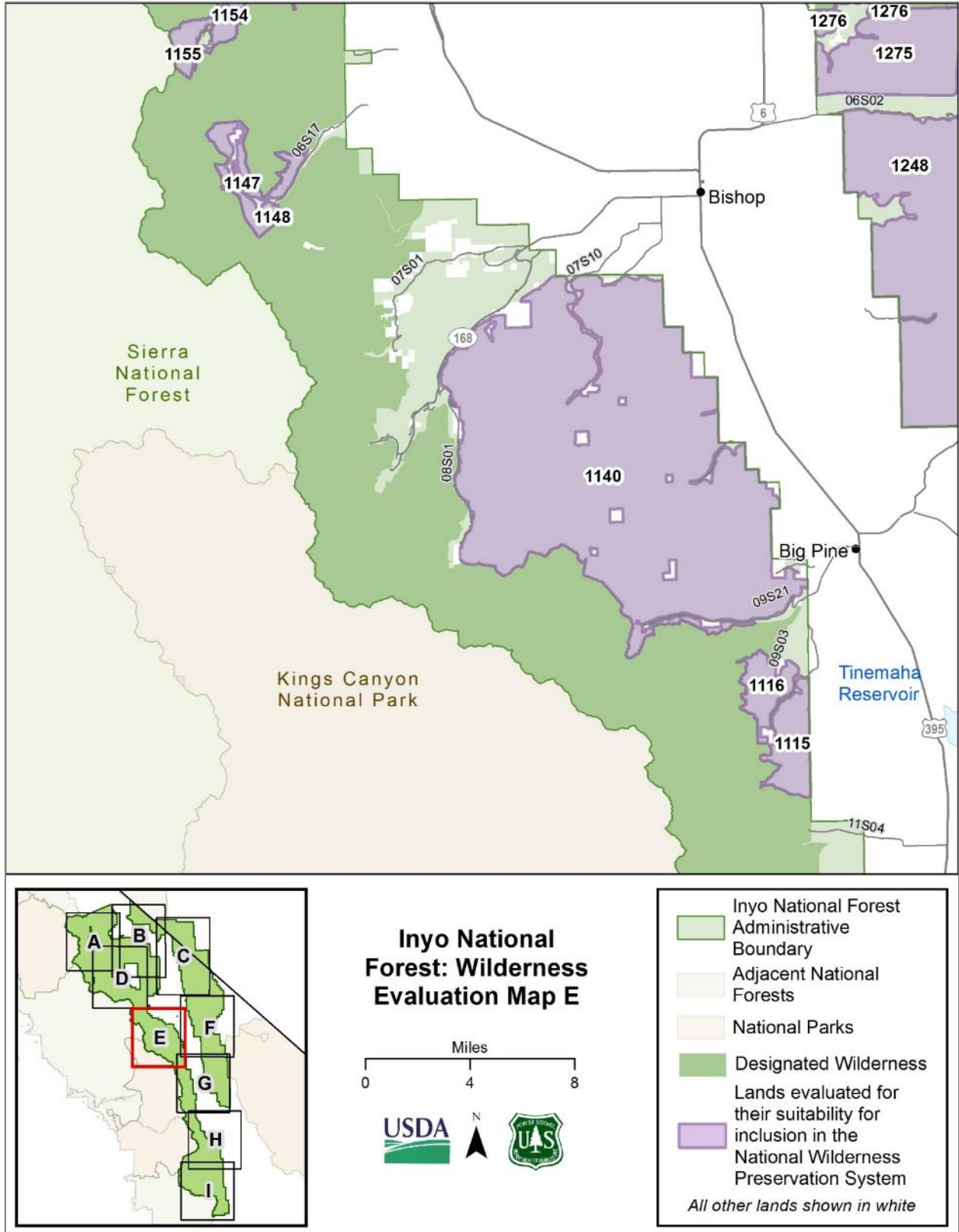


Figure B-7. Inyo National Forest evaluation map E

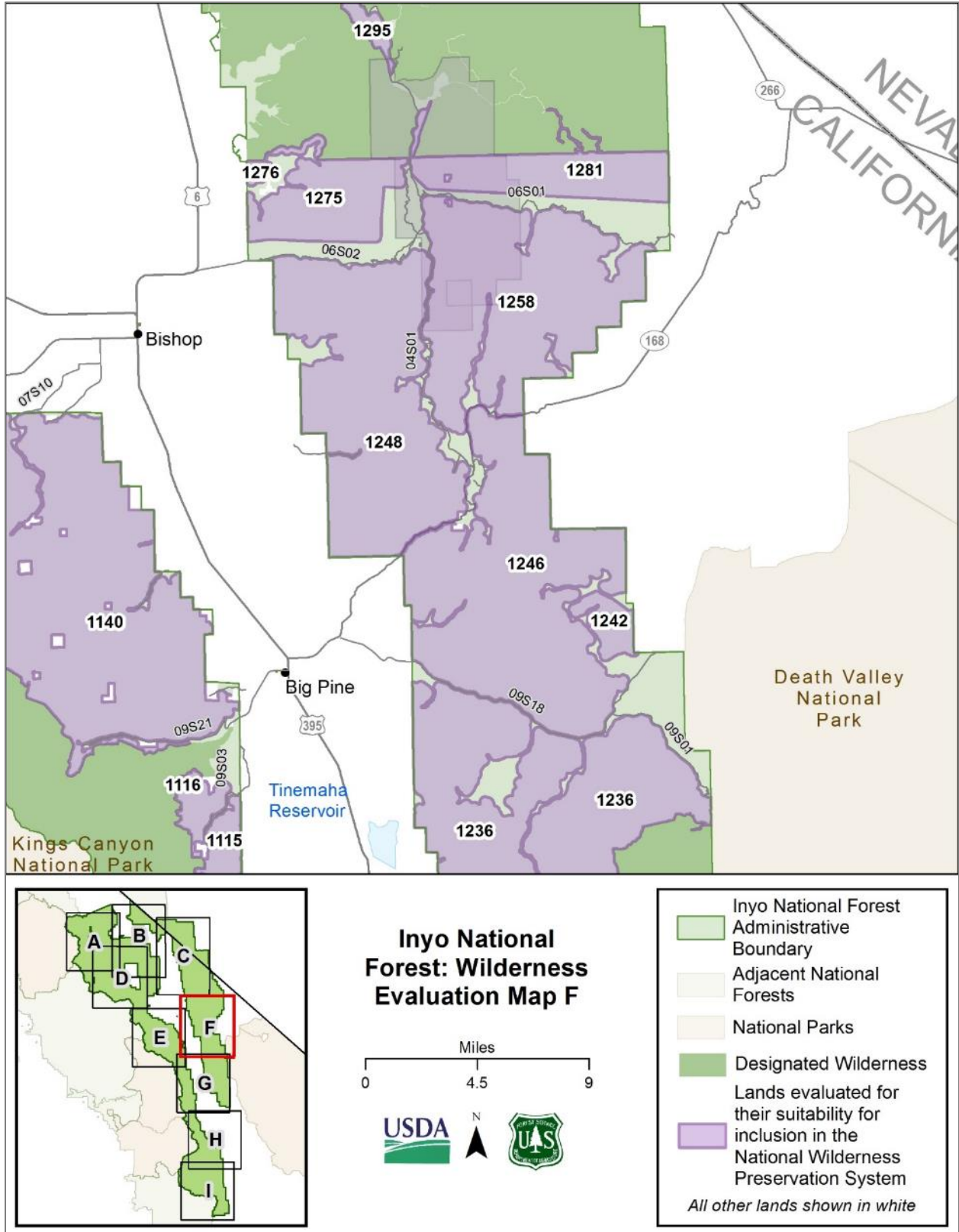


Figure B-8. Inyo National Forest evaluation map F

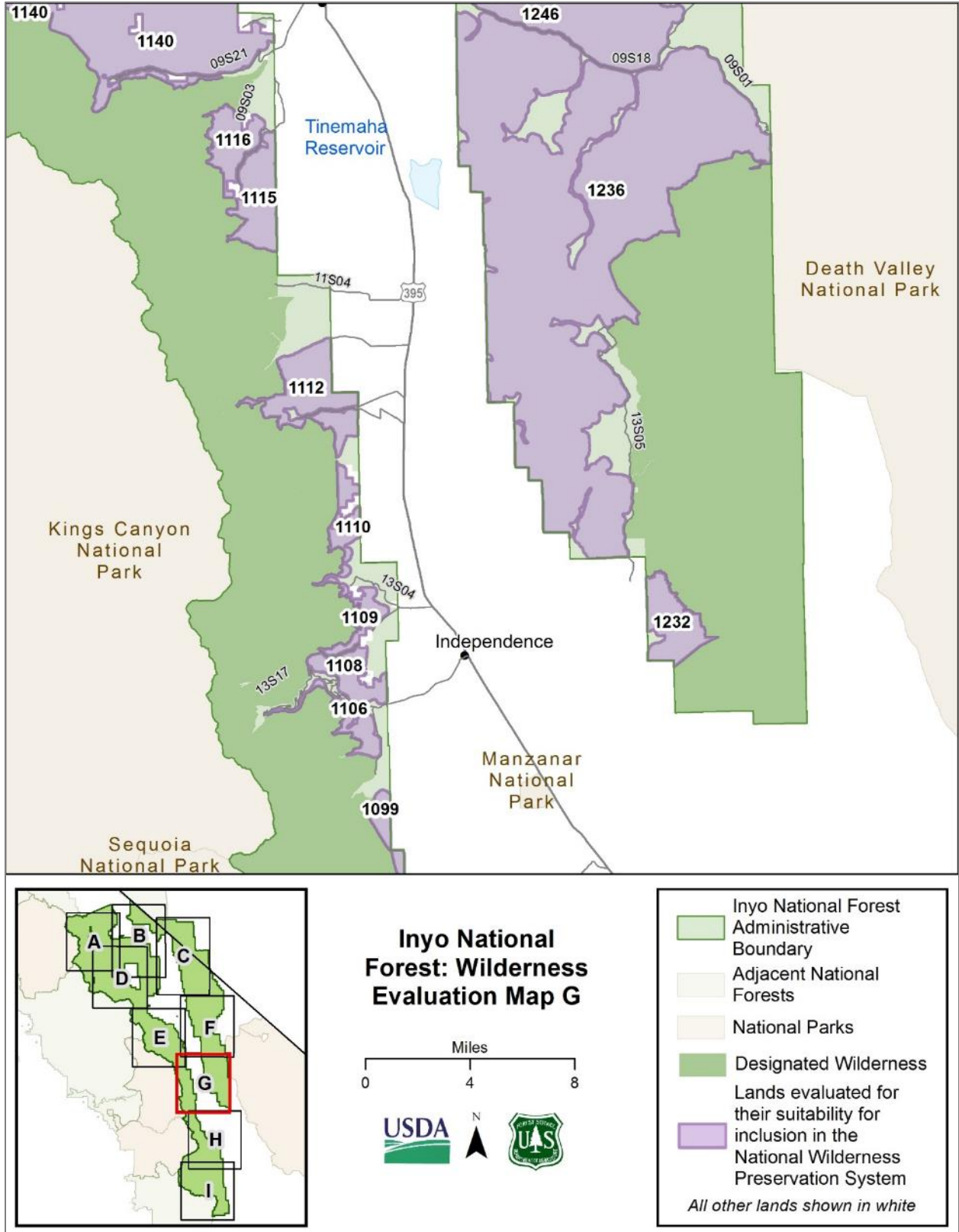


Figure B-9. Inyo National Forest evaluation map G

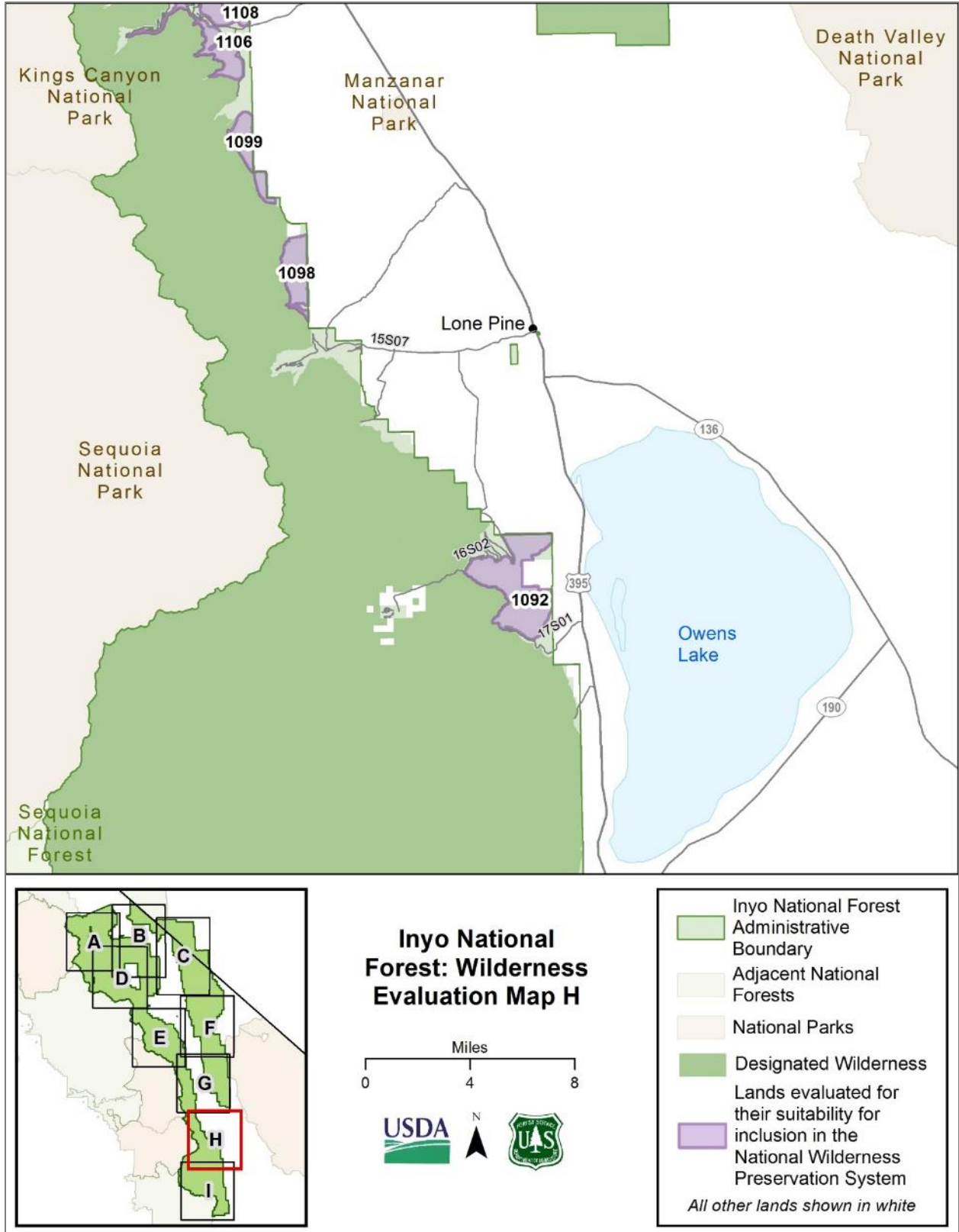


Figure B-10. Inyo National Forest evaluation map H

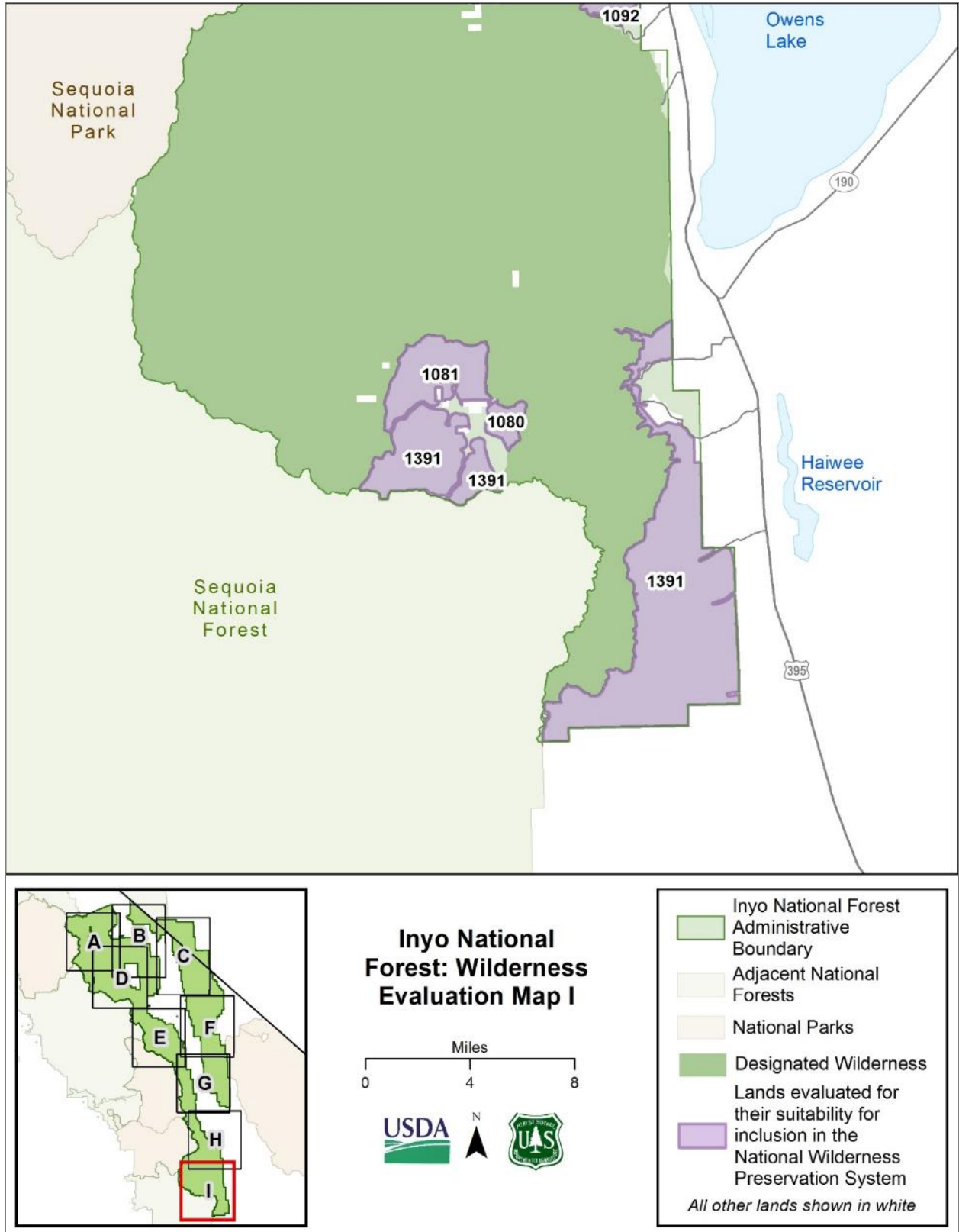


Figure B-11. Inyo National Forest evaluation map I

Evaluation Narratives

Polygon 944 (Watterson Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 944 (Watterson Canyon) is east of Crowley Lake and north of the Benton Crossing Road and Watterson Canyon (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It consists of 7,629 acres, ranging in elevation from 7,000-7,600 feet. The polygon is elongated and bisected by motorized trail.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

The area is largely undeveloped and soils are likely in desired condition, except for site-specific localized effects. Air quality is excellent. Riparian vegetation may be present in canyons. There are no perennial or intermittent stream channels present. There are no meadows. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence and expansion of cheatgrass, an invasive plant species. Extensive past and current grazing has occurred in the area; the area is currently grazed by sheep.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is highly variable, but generally includes broad, open, sandy canyons with minimal vegetation cover, providing little screening. A motorized trail nearly bisects the area, and the Benton Crossing Road (a moderate use paved road) is along the southern and eastern boundary. There is a power line along the northern boundary that may be visible from the area. The potential for encounters with other users is low and mostly concentrated on the motorized trail and roads around boundaries. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to the motorized trail and proximity to roads. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and a power line outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

Priority habitat for sage-grouse. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there are documented cultural sites that include prehistoric lithic scatters, rock rings, and milling features.

Manageability

There is one motorized trail that runs north to south, splitting the polygon nearly in half. The area is surrounded by roads, including Benton Crossing Road (a moderately traveled, high speed paved road on the south and east), lightly traveled dirt roads (including a power line on the north), and a motorized trail

through the center. The polygon occurs within priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management.

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

This area is undeveloped. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,635 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 2,970 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to the motorized trail that runs through the middle of the area and the high speed paved Benton Crossing Road along the southern and eastern boundaries. Sights and sounds of motorized use and a power line outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable due to the location of the roads, motorized trails, power lines, and forest boundary. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence and expansion of cheatgrass, an invasive plant species. The polygon occurs within priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management.

Polygon 995 (Kelty Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 995 is in the Glass Mountains, Kelty Canyon area west of Benton Crossing Road (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). It consists of 5,806 acres, ranging in elevation from 6,800 to 8,800 feet. The polygon is somewhat elongated, north to south.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is highly variable, but generally includes moderate, open slopes and broad canyons. Topography and vegetation provide some screening. The distance from impacts and developments varies, including authorized forest system roads along the southern and western boundaries, a few cherry stemmed roads, a moderately used paved road along the eastern boundary, an extensive network of

authorized motorized trails to the west, and Highway 120 is 2 miles to the northeast. Sights and sounds of paved and forest system roads and motorized trails outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

None were noted.

Manageability

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

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

The area provides contiguous habitat for wildlife. Air quality is excellent. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads and motorized trails. Sights and sounds of paved and forest system roads and motorized trails outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,056 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,639 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1012 (Glass Mountains)

General Description

Polygon 1012 (Glass Mountains) consists of 40,368 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000 to over 11,000 feet and is in the Glass Mountains (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). This area includes Glass Mountain at 11,123 feet in elevation.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 13,003 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Two of these groups, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland and inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, have substantial acreage in this polygon. An additional 17,288 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and rocky mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This large polygon is bordered by an extensive road and motorized trail system that is popular for dispersed recreation. Many authorized forest system roads shape the polygon with several narrow and/or elongated portions. On the eastern side, an authorized motorized trail runs north to south through the polygon, limiting opportunities for solitude in this area. There is some screening due to topography and vegetation. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas.

Several management activities have occurred or are occurring, including historic logging, multiple grazing allotments, woodcutting, outfitting and guiding, dispersed camping, and hunting. The distances from impacts vary greatly, but generally are up to 3 miles from nearest road or trail system from the interior of the polygon. There are likely areas within the polygon that are free from sounds of motorized use. The area receives low to moderate amounts of recreation use. There is some over snow vehicle use on the eastern side. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the interior portion of the polygon including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration and some degree of challenge due to remoteness and steep terrain.

Other Features of Value

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

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

Manageability

This polygon intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area; Indiana Summit Research Natural Area and Sentinel Meadow Research Natural Area; and priority sage-grouse habitat. The area is surrounded by an extensive forest system road and motorized trail system that provides access for management activities and is popular for dispersed recreation. The western portion of the polygon near Indiana Summit Research Natural Area and Bald Mountain Springs, and west of McGlaughlin Creek is elongated and narrow. The eastern portion of the polygon has an extensive network of motorized trails within the boundary of the polygon. There is also one motorized trail in the southwestern portion of the

polygon. Both sage-grouse and Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat areas may require management under the Endangered Species Act. There are three water rights in the area. There is outfitting and guiding under special use authorizations occurring in the area. There is one private land inholding (40 acres west of Wilfred Canyon). The communication site on top of Glass Mountain is a highly developed, permanent facility that is accessed by helicopter. Public comments indicate there are trails used by mountain bikers in the area.

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

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation within the interior portion of the polygon. Some portions of the polygon have authorized motorized trails within the boundary and some areas the boundaries are near an extensive network of forest system roads that limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the interior portion of the polygon.

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

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

Polygon 1039 (Black Mountain and Sawmill Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1039 (Black Mountain and Sawmill Canyon) consists of 11,026 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000 to 8,900 feet. It is east of the Glass Mountains (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B) and includes Sawmill Canyon and Black Mountain at 8,895 feet elevation. Roads and a private land parcel protrude into the polygon. The area is bounded by the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management and a private land parcel on the northern and eastern sides.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2,240 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent of these groups is inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 8,450 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Topography and vegetation provide screening and distance from developments in the interior portions of the polygon. However, in other areas, State Highway 120 is evident. The potential for encounters with other users is mostly concentrated near the boundaries, due to the extensive network of forest system roads, including several cherry stemmed into the polygon and partially divide the polygon into many small sections, and in areas near authorized motorized trails. Sights and sounds of roads and motorized trails outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, hunting, photography and general forest exploration. There is some private property within the polygon.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

A few cherry stemmed roads and a private land parcel protrude into the area at several locations. The northern and eastern boundaries are the straight line forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management. The polygon intersects with Glass Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. There are three water rights.

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

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

Polygon 1068 (Dexter Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1068 (Dexter Canyon) consists of 12,311 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 8,800 feet. It is south of Highway 120, east of Sagehen Peak, and includes Dexter Canyon (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B).

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

Other Features of Value

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

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

Manageability

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

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

There are few invasive plant species. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Air quality is excellent. Proximity to motorized recreation, private land parcels, and Highway 120 limit opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is one motorized trail that runs north to south and nearly splits the polygon in two. Cherry stemmed roads and private land parcels (including one inholding) protrude into the polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable is unlikely. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 7,779 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,677 acres.

Polygon 1072 (Mono Craters)

General Description

Polygon 1072 (Mono Craters) consists of 7,574 acres ranging in elevation from 7,200 to 9,172 feet (Crater Mountain). It is south of Mono Lake and Highway 120 (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A) and includes Mono Craters, the youngest mountain range in the United States. Most of the polygon is within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. It is elongated and roads protrude into the polygon along the western boundary. The southern portion is bounded by private land (U.S. Pumice), leaving a small finger (East Craters Sand Flat) included in the inventory in the southeastern corner.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4,330 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent of these groups is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. The remainder of the polygon consists of pumice flats with its dry forb vegetation type.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is little screening in the area, with visibility toward the Mono Basin and Highways 120 and 395. There are several cherry stemmed roads that protrude into the polygon along the western boundary and Highway 120 is the northern boundary. The polygon is surrounded by an extensive road system. There is a commercial operation on the private land along the southern boundary (U.S. Pumice). There is a special use permit road for a small road segment on the southern end. Snowmobile use and mountain biking are current uses. Proximity to the road system and a commercial operation on private land limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to

opportunities for solitude in some areas. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, photography and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

The Mono Craters are a unique volcanic feature. This is priority habitat for sage-grouse.

Manageability

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

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

Grazing allotments are present but use is low. There is evidence of historic mining activity. There are few developments noted. The United States Geological Survey has monitoring equipment in the area that is maintained by helicopter. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,330 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to a commercial operation, roads, and highways. Sights and sounds of motorized use and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The potential to reshape to polygon to make it more manageable is limited due to proximity to roads and the narrow shape of the polygon. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1080 (Anderson Point)

General Description

Polygon 1080 (Anderson Point) consists of 1,137 acres with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 8,800 feet. It is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness, between Monache Meadows and the South Sierra Wilderness, west of Cow Canyon and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (Figure B-11, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 442 acres consist of an ecological group, intermountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

This is a small polygon contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness and bounded by the Monache off highway vehicle area along the western boundary. The cherry stemmed road is regularly used by the grazing permittee and hikers.

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

Grazing management and watershed restoration is evident in the area. There are developments related to range improvements. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 442 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads (Monache off highway vehicle area) and developments, primarily along the western boundary. Sights and sounds of recreation, motorized use, and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are no unique features. There is no potential to reshape this small polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1081 (Bakeoven Meadows)

General Description

Polygon 1081 (Bakeoven Meadows) consists of 5,413 acres ranging in elevation from 8,000 to 9,600 feet. It is east of Kingfisher Ridge and surrounded by the Golden Trout and South Sierra Wildernesses (Figure B-11, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I). One road and private land parcel protrude into the southern boundary of the polygon. The western, northern, and eastern boundaries are contiguous with the Golden Trout and South Sierra Wildernesses.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

Other Features of Value

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

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

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

Manageability

The polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. The western, northern, and eastern boundaries are contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness. There is a private land inholding (with cabins) along the southern boundary, with road access. One cherry stemmed road provides access to dispersed camping along South Fork Kern River and there is the potential for vehicle incursions off of the

cherry stemmed road. There is a state wildlife reserve along the boundary in the southeastern corner (section 34, T20S, R35E). There is proposed fuel reduction through vegetation treatments in this area. Two water rights are present and there is a grazing allotment.

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

Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 408 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,000 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to the Monache OHV area, dispersed recreation along the South Fork Kern River, and private inholdings with developments, primarily along the southern boundary as well as an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries and cherry stemmed roads that shape the polygon. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in a large portion of this relatively small polygon. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1092 (Slide Canyon)

General Description

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

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, white fir, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It does not intersect or overlap with any other designated areas and includes steep terrain. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the abundance of cheatgrass, an invasive plant species. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. The condition of riparian vegetation associated with the perennial stream channel, Cottonwood Creek, and canyons is not known. Soils are likely meeting desired conditions. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area). There are Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions within this area.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is near roads, including Horseshoe Meadow Road (moderately use paved road that access campgrounds and trailheads). The area is within one mile of Cottonwood Power Plant and Highway 395. Owens Valley and Highway 395 are visible and can be heard from much of the area. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads, the Cottonwood Power Plant, and Highway 395. There may be some opportunities for solitude within the canyons. Sights and sounds of development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is nothing notable that limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

Slide Canyon runs east through the polygon.

Manageability

This polygon is bounded between the Golden Trout Wilderness boundary and the forest boundary. There is a private land parcel that protrudes into the polygon.

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

There are Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure (water diversions) within the area. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 37 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,000 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by the abundance of invasive cheatgrass. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads, the Cottonwood Power Plant, and Highway 395. Sights and sounds of development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is nothing notable that limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable, due to its small size and boundary that is drawn tightly between the Golden Trout Wilderness boundary and the forest boundary.

Polygon 1098 (Escarpment from George Creek to Hogback Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1098 (Escarpment from George Creek to Hogback Creek) consists of 1,476 acres with elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between George Creek and Hogback Creek (Figure B-10, Inyo National Forest evaluation map H). The polygon is between the John Muir Wilderness to the west and Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (Bureau of Land Management) to the east. A motorized trail dissects the northwestern boundary. In addition, the eastern boundary is a straight line due to the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management (Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 5 acres consist of an ecological group that has less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. It contains steep terrain. The invasive plant species cheatgrass is abundant. Fish stocking has also altered native aquatic assemblages. Riparian vegetation occurs in the perennial George Creek and canyons. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area). A motorized trail dissects the northwestern boundary and a road forms the southern boundary. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure may be in the area. No other developments were noted.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude are limited in this small area that is bordered by roads, including a cherry stemmed road from the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (Bureau of Land Management) to the east and a motorized trail along the northern and southern boundaries. The Owens Valley and Highway 395 are visible from parts of the area. Sights and sounds of development, roads, and motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas.

Other Features of Value

There are no other features of value documented.

Manageability

The polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. This is a small polygon contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness and is drawn to the forest boundary.

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

Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 5 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by the presence of invasive cheatgrass. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads, motorized trails, and visibility to Highway 395. Sights and sounds of development, roads, and motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is no potential to reshape this small polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1099 (Escarpment – Shephard Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1099 consists of 1,092 acres with elevations ranging from 5,800 to 9,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between Shephard Pass Trailhead and Bairs Creek (Figure B-10, Inyo National Forest evaluation map H). The polygon is between John Muir Wilderness on the west and Bureau of Land Management land on the east. There is one road that protrudes into the polygon along the western boundary.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area includes steep terrain. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass is abundant). Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. There is riparian vegetation associated with the perennial stream channel (Shepard Creek). Soils are likely meeting desired conditions. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is near roads on Bureau of Land Management lands. There is one short cherry stemmed road that protrudes into the polygon. The Owens Valley and Highway 395 are visible and can be heard from much of the area. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads and visibility to Highway 395. Sights and sounds of development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

None were noted.

Manageability

The majority of the polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. This small polygon that contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness and is drawn to the forest boundary.

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

There are no known developments. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads and visibility to Highway 395. Sights and sounds of development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. There is no potential to reshape this small polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1106 (Escarpment – Onion Valley South)

General Description

Polygon 1106 (Escarpment-Onion Valley South) consists of 1,408 acres ranging in elevation from 5,500 to 11,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment south of Onion Valley and Independence Creek (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). The polygon is shaped by road and recreation developments in Onion Valley, Independence Creek, the John Muir Wilderness boundary along the western boundary, and cherry stemmed roads that protrude into the polygon along the eastern boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 52 acres consist of an ecological group, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. Ecosystem types include sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. The small area is surrounded by roads, including one cherry stemmed road in the middle of the polygon. Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are highly visible from most of the area, except within the canyons. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the abundance of invasive cheatgrass and past vegetation alteration from historic mining activities. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Pinyon Creek, a perennial stream channel, and canyons are in the polygon. Soils are likely meeting desired conditions. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is near a concentrated recreation area (Onion Valley), which has campgrounds, trailheads, and the Seven Pines Recreation Residence Tract. In addition, Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are highly visible from most of the area, except within the canyons. Proximity to roads, a concentrated recreation area, and motorized road system (including a cherry stemmed road) limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Use in the area includes hiking Pinyon Creek, hunting, pinyon pine nut gathering, and cross-country skiing. Steep terrain limits access to the area.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The western boundary is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. The polygon intersects with the Independence Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. The polygon is surrounded by roads, including one road that protrudes into the middle of the polygon.

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

Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 52 acres. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to developed recreation, motorized road system (including a cherry stemmed road), and visibility to Highway 395 and private land development. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is limited potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1108 (Escarpment – Onion Valley North)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4 acres consist of an ecological group, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. The polygon intersects with the Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (majority of the polygon along the western portion of the polygon). The polygon is surrounded by roads and a private land parcel (Boron Springs) protrudes into the southeastern corner of the polygon. It is within the 2007 Inyo Complex (a 30,000-acre fire) and 2008 flood and mudflow event (Oak Creek); catastrophic events that impacted the hydrologic and soil conditions in the area. There are water diversions (including diversions and ditches near Tub Springs), old ranch foundations, fences and corrals. In addition, there are three prehistoric sites (lithic scatters). There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the abundance of invasive cheatgrass and presence of salt cedar. Fish stocking has also altered native aquatic assemblages. Water diversions have manipulated the species composition. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is near a concentrated recreation area (Onion Valley), which has campgrounds, trailheads, and the Seven Pines Recreation Residence Tract. In addition, Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are highly visible from most of the area, except within the canyons. Proximity to roads, a concentrated recreation area, and motorized road system limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas of this small polygon. The area currently receives low to medium use, primarily focused around Seven Pines Recreation Residence Tract, Independence Creek and Rex Montis Mine Road. Hunting is a popular activity during the fall months.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by abundant invasive cheatgrass, some salt cedar, changes to the hydrologic and soil conditions from the 2007 Inyo Complex fire and 2008 flood and mudflow event, and developments (water diversions, old ranch foundations, fences and corrals). Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4 acres. Fish stocking in the lower and upper reaches of Independence Creek has altered native aquatic assemblages. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited in this small polygon due to proximity to roads, a concentrated recreation area, and motorized road system, as well as visibility to Highway 395 and private land development. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas of this small polygon. There is limited potential to reshape this small polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1109 (Escarpment – Oak Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1109 (Escarpment-Oak Creek) consists of 1,318 acres ranging in elevation from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between North Fork Oak Creek and South Fork Oak Creek, southeast of Baxter Pass Trailhead (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). This polygon is shaped by roads and private land parcels that protrude into the area, along the northern and southeastern boundary. The western portion follows the John Muir Wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 68 acres consist of an ecological group, Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem type is xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. The polygon is bordered by roads and a private land parcel (Bright Ranch). The polygon intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (the majority of the area along the western portion of the polygon). The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions on North Fork and South Fork Oak Creek, which need to be maintained. The polygon is within the 2007 Inyo Complex (approximately 30,000 acre fire) and 2008 flood and mudflow event (Oak Creek); catastrophic events impacted the hydrologic and soil conditions in the area. South Fork Oak Creek jumped into a new channel during the flood event, and the channel morphology of both North Fork and South Fork Oak Creek were significantly impacted. Following these events, erosion rates in the area were accelerated. Riparian vegetation is recovering, but is not likely at pre-fire and pre-flood canopy and density levels. There are invasive plants in the riparian areas. There is abundant invasive cheatgrass and salt cedar is present in the polygon. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted in those areas. The air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area).

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Highway 395 and the private land developments in the Owens Valley are visible, except within the canyons and deep stream channels. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to the heavily traveled paved road along the southern boundary, another paved road along the northern boundary, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads to the east and north. There is a private land parcel (Bright Ranch) with developments adjacent to the polygon and there are also two shooting ranges nearby. Sights and sounds of private land developments, shooting ranges, and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in this small polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation may be limited in areas currently authorized for active restoration treatments involving motorized tools. There are some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The western boundary is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. Hydrologic conditions in the area are somewhat unstable (large gullies on Oak Creek), although are recovering and stabilizing. The polygon is bordered by roads and a private land parcel (Bright Ranch). The polygon intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area (the majority of the area along the western portion of the polygon). The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions, which need to be maintained. Roads and private land parcels protrude into the boundary along the northern and southeastern boundaries. There is a shooting range near the polygon.

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited in this small polygon due to proximity to roads and shooting ranges, as well as visibility to Highway 395 and private land development. Sights and sounds of private land developments, shooting ranges, and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in this small polygon. There are some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness

Preservation System comprise 68 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by changes to hydrologic and soil conditions from the 2007 Inyo Complex fire and 2008 flood and mudflow event. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10. The area has Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water diversions on both North Fork and South Fork Oak Creek. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1110

(Escarpment between Sawmill Creek and Baxter Pass Trailhead)

General Description

Polygon 1110 (Escarpment between Sawmill Creek and Baxter Pass Trailhead) consists of 1,650 acres with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 10,000 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment south of Sawmill Creek and north of Baxter Pass Trailhead (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). It is shaped by roads and private land parcels that protrude into the area along the eastern boundary, and nearly split the polygon in two. The western portion follows the John Muir Wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 36 acres consist of an ecological group that has less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The ecosystem type is sagebrush. A small portion of the area is within Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat. The area is characterized by steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. The area intersects with Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area along the northern portion of the polygon. The polygon is surrounded by roads. A road and private land parcel protrude into the middle of the polygon splitting it nearly in half. There are four roads near or cherry stemmed into the polygon. Bureau of Land Management land (eastern boundary) is adjacent and is undeveloped. It is within the 2007 Inyo Complex (a 30,000-acre fire). The Inyo Complex wildfire burned through the area at moderate to high intensity in 2007, which impacted hydrologic and soil conditions in the area. Erosion rates in the area were accelerated following the fire, but are recovering. Riparian vegetation around the springs is recovering, but is not likely at pre-fire canopy levels. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Owens Valley PM10 planning area). There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass is abundant). Grazing is occurring in the area. A few historic structural remains occur in the area. Known sites include several prehistoric sites (milling slicks and lithic scatter) and a historic rock structure, a stone foundation near Baxter Pass. No other developments were noted.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is near roads and within 1.5 miles of Highway 395, which are visible and can be heard from much of the area. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries and some cherry stemmed into the polygon. One road nearly bisects the polygon. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. The area is popular for hunting and receives low to medium use during the fall months. The area receives a low amount of use other times of the year.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries and some cherry stemmed into the polygon. One road nearly bisects the polygon. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 36 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass), as well as changes to the hydrologic and soil conditions from the 2007 Inyo Complex fire. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1112

(Escarpment between Goodale Creek and Sawmill Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1112 consists of 4,949 acres with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 10,500 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment south of Goodale Creek and north of Sawmill Creek, and near Division Creek Powerhouse and the Sawmill Pass Trailhead (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). Along the western boundary, this is shaped by the John Muir Wilderness boundary.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is dissected by motorized trails and is near forest roads and the Division Creek Powerhouse. In addition, Highway 395 is also visible, except within the lava flow area, and can be heard from much of

the area. Proximity to motorized recreation (roads and trails), the Division Creek Powerhouse, and Highway 395 limit opportunities for solitude. A portion of the area is popular for motorized recreation (four wheel drive), dispersed camping, mineral prospecting and hiking (western portion, near Armstrong Canyon). Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There may be some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The Sawmill Pass Trail is in the area and receives some hiking use. Hunting is a popular activity in the fall.

Other Features of Value

The polygon includes rare narrow leaved cottonwood, Panamint Mountain lupine, and Big Pine biscuit root. A small portion of the area is Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat. Springs in the area may contain rare springsnails. There are scenic lava flows and a scenic entrance to Spooky Canyon. The area includes outstanding spring wildflower displays. There has been little cultural resource survey work in the area. There are approximately twenty documented sites that include prehistoric rock shelters, lithic and artifact scatters, as well as portions of the Division Creek Power Plant, town site, and construction camp within the area.

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to motorized roads and trails, Division Creek Powerhouse, Highway 395. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There may be some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are some developments, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Division Creek Powerhouse and water diversion dam. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,721 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 540 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by the presence of invasive plant species (Russian thistle and cheatgrass). Invasive plant species are present within riparian areas and fish stocking has also altered native aquatic assemblages. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable, as the western portion, contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, contains motorized trails.

Polygon 1115 (Escarpment – Tinemaha Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1115 (Escarpment-Tinemaha Creek) consists of 3,485 acres with elevations ranging from 5,600 to 6,400 feet. The southwestern and southern boundaries are contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). It includes Birch Creek, Tinemaha Creek and Red Mountain Creek, and is near Red Lake Trailhead. Roads along the northwestern boundary separate this area from the John Muir Wilderness boundary (there is a gap between this portion of the polygon and the John Muir Wilderness boundary). The John Muir Wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude motorized trails and the forest boundary along the eastern boundary (private land parcel and Bureau of Land Management land).

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The ecosystem type is sagebrush. The area contains gentle slopes. There has been moderate human impact to plant communities and there is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence of invasive plant species (cheatgrass and Russian thistle are abundant and increasing). This area contains several unauthorized or gated authorized roads. Use in this area is very limited, and impacts to wildlife are minimal. Motorized trails that run east to west dissect this polygon in three locations. The polygon intersects with the Tinemaha Inventoried Roadless Area along the southern portion of the polygon, south of motorized trails and Red Mountain Creek. Historic fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Grazing has occurred in this area. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There are three motorized trails that run east to west and dissect the polygon in three locations, which limit opportunities for solitude. In addition, the topography is gentle slopes, with not much screening. Highway 395 is visible from much of the area. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to the motorized trail system and Highway 395. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Nothing was noted related to primitive and unconfined recreation, although there may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,935 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 540 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by the presence of invasive plant species (cheat grass and Russian thistle). Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to the motorized trail system and Highway 395. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Polygon 1116 (Escarpment – McMurry Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1116 consists of 2,437 acres with elevations ranging from 6,800 to 8,500 feet. It is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between Little Pine Creek to the north and Tinemaha Creek to the south (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest Evaluation Maps evaluation map G). It is southwest of the Crater Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Bureau of Land Management) and includes McMurry Meadow. The western boundary is shaped by the John Muir Wilderness boundary and private land parcels on the northern and southern boundary.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is moderate to gentle, with some screening from slopes, canyons, and drainages. There are very few trees that provide screening. There is an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the northern half of the polygon and authorized forest system roads along the boundary that limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in this small polygon. The area receives low to moderate amounts of recreation use, primarily focused around the roads, motorized trails, and Birch Lake Trailhead.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,478 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 911 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and proximity to authorized forest system roads along the boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in this small polygon. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted by the presence of invasive cheat grass and Russian thistle. Fish stocking has altered native aquatic assemblages. Air quality is excellent. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable due to the location of roads, motorized trails, and the forest boundary.

Polygon 1140 (Coyote)

General Description

Polygon 1140 (Coyote) consists of 75,299 acres with elevations ranging from 4,800 to 10,400 feet. It is southeast of Bishop Creek Recreation Area, southwest of Bishop, west of Big Pine, and north of Big Pine Creek Recreation Area (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map E). The southwestern portion of the polygon is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. There are private land inholdings and roads that protrude into this polygon. The western boundary follows Highway 168 and recreation developments in Bishop Creek, as well as the John Muir Wilderness boundary along the southwestern portion of the polygon. The southern boundary follows road and recreation developments in Big Pine Creek and the eastern boundary follows the forest boundary (Bureau of Land Management and private land).

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is some screening due to topography and vegetation. There is some visibility to developments in Owens Valley (including Highway 395), as well as the Bishop Creek Recreation Area and the Big Pine Creek Recreation Area. The polygon is close to recreation developments along the western (Bishop Creek) and southern (Big Pine Creek) boundaries. Housing developments and recreation from local neighborhoods occur nearby.

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

Other Features of Value

Many rare plant and sensitive plant species, including Father Crowley's lupine, Inyo beardtongue, Big Pine biscuitroot, and Morefield's cinquefoil are found in the polygon. Springs within the area may contain rare springsnails. Coyote itself is a unique geologic feature, including a high plateau extending from the Sierra Nevada, with mixed carbonate and granitic geology and relict moraines. The area includes outstanding views of glaciers, the high Sierra, Big Pine Creek, Bishop Creek and the White Mountains. Most of the area is unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there are two known prehistoric sites with lithic scatter and a rock cairn of indeterminate age.

Manageability

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

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

Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 21,951 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 27,271 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the center polygon, three large authorized forest system roads cherry stemmed the boundaries of the polygon in the northern, southern, and eastern portions, and a high use paved road along the western boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation, recreational shooting, and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the polygon. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are developments related to historic mining activity, range improvements, and a landing strip that is still evident on the ground. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1147 (Pine Creek East)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 296 acres consist of an ecological group, intermountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include sagebrush and subalpine forest. The area includes steep, rock/talus slopes with sparse vegetation. There are extremely steep rocky canyon walls with loose scree slopes between sheer ridges and rock walls. The air quality is excellent. Perennial stream channels include Morgan Creek and Pine Creek, tailings ponds have limited hydrologic function of the creek. The area intersects with Wheeler Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area and is an important Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep lambing area. A paved road and a developed mining site are nearby. The evidence of mining activity is substantially noticeable, including an old town site, portal, mill remains, powder magazine building, roads, platforms, towers,

mining debris, and tailing piles. Tram towers and other mining structures are in various places along Morgan Creek. The Pine Creek mining complex operators indicate they have re-vegetated mine areas that may be within this polygon with a grass seed mix designed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide feed for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Included in the area are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking, but also self-reproducing. There are reduced frog populations due to the trout. Stocked fish do not allow for connectivity of isolated frog populations. There is a mapped meadow on Morgan Creek.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The polygon is near Pine Creek Road, a paved road that provides access to Pine Creek Trailhead and pack station. There is a four wheel drive trail along Morgan Creek that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to these features. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. The area receives a moderate amount of recreation use in the summer months, with very little use in the winter. Climbing in the crags in the southern and eastern parts of the area is a popular activity and occurs year around. The area also is a popular viewing area for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, particularly in the winter and spring.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to a paved road along the eastern boundary and an authorized forest system road and private land road to the south and west of this small polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to mining activity that is visible from approximately 50 percent of the area, including a patented tungsten mine to the south and west; with highly visible and intrusive human materials in and near the polygon, including several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes and equipment, some of which may need costly rehabilitation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 296 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1148 (Pine Creek West)

General Description

Polygon 1148 (Pine Creek West) consists of 1,756 acres with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 13,000 feet. The western and southern boundaries are contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, in the Pine Creek area, and near Pine Creek Mine, Pine Creek Trailhead, and Pine Creek Pack Station (Figure B-7, Inyo National Forest evaluation map E). The polygon is shaped by Pine Creek Road (including trailheads and pack station), private land with a patented mining claim, a four wheel drive road along Morgan Creek, and the John Muir Wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 136 acres consist of two ecological groups, intermountain basins big sagebrush shrubland and Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which have less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The polygon is near Pine Creek Road, which is a paved road that provides access to Pine Creek Trailhead and pack station. There is a four wheel drive trail along Morgan Creek that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads, Pine Creek Mine, and a four wheel drive trail that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are designated trails in the area, including trails to Gable Lakes and Pine Lake that receive low to moderate use.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The northern, western, and southern boundaries are contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness. Pine Creek Road, trailheads and a pack station are in the southeastern corner of the polygon. There is private land (patented tungsten mining claims) and a four wheel drive road in Morgan Canyon, along the eastern boundary of the polygon. There is also a private inholding at the end of Pine Creek Road (Pine Creek

Mine). These features substantially limit apparent naturalness. The John Muir Wilderness boundary was drawn to exclude these features.

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

There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to mining activity that is visible from the majority of this small polygon, including a patented tungsten mine, several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes and equipment. Some of the mining structures may need rehabilitation requiring mechanized tools. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 136 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads, Pine Creek Mine, and a four wheel drive trail that provides access to patented mining claims (private land). Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1154 (Rock Creek East and Sand Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1154 (Rock Creek and Sand Canyon) consists of 5,243 acres with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. The eastern and southern boundaries are contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, east of the Rock Creek Recreation Area, and near Swall Meadows, a private community to the east (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It is shaped like a horseshoe, as it follows the John Muir Wilderness boundary.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography has steep slopes with mostly open forests, so screening is limited. Within the western and northern portions of the horseshoe-shaped polygon there is a network of authorized motorized trails. The

western portion is bordered by a paved road that includes concentrated recreation areas (Rock Creek) with campgrounds, trailheads, picnic areas, and resorts. The eastern portion does not contain authorized motorized trails, but is bordered by the communities of Swall Meadows and Paradise, and is within 1-2 miles of old Highway 395 (east of the area). The area receives year round recreation use, with higher use during the summer months focused around the developed recreation facilities in Rock Creek, as well as Wheeler four wheel drive trail, mountain biking in Sand Canyon and climbing activity on granite crags. During the winter months, there is some cross-country skiing that occurs, including recreation use associated with Rock Creek Resort, which is open year round. Proximity to communities, concentrated recreation area, and motorized trails limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon and proximity to a paved road with highly developed recreation sites along the western boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in this small polygon. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 537 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 2,100 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1155 (Rock Creek West)

General Description

Polygon 1155 (Rock Creek West) consists of 3,498 acres ranging in elevation from 7,600 to 9,600 feet. The western and southern boundaries are contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, west of the Rock Creek Recreation Area, and near Aspen Springs and Toms Place (private communities to the north) (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). The polygon is elongated and narrow, between Rock Creek Road and the wilderness boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 112 acres consist of two ecological groups, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland and Great Basin foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland, which have less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,100 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and

Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The area includes steep slopes above Rock Creek Canyon with mostly open forests. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, subalpine and alpine forest. There are unnamed perennial stream channels throughout this area, as well as numerous intermittent channels. It intersects with the Rock Creek West Inventoried Roadless Area. No invasive plants species are documented. There are introduced trout, maintained by fish stocking and self-reproducing. Stocked fish affect connectivity of isolated frog populations. The area is near a residential community which has led to habituation of wildlife, such as black bears. The condition of riparian areas and meadows is unknown. The air quality is excellent.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography has steep slopes above Rock Creek Canyon with limited screening. The area is near a concentrated recreation area (Rock Creek), which has a paved forest highway, campgrounds, trailheads, picnic areas, a pack station, and resorts along the eastern boundary. The northern boundary borders private communities in Little Round Valley, including Aspen Springs and Toms Place. Highway 395 is near the northern boundary. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to a paved road along the eastern and northern boundaries with highly developed recreation areas and developments including recreation facilities. Sights and sounds of developed recreation, roads, highways, and communities outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most this small polygon. The area receives year round recreation use, with higher use during the summer months focused around the developed recreation facilities in Rock Creek. During the winter months, there is some cross-country skiing and recreation use associated with Rock Creek Resort. The lower portion of Rock Creek Road to the Sno-Park is plowed in winter. The John Muir Wilderness boundary excludes these features.

Other Features of Value

The entire area has outstanding views of high peaks in Rock Creek and many lakes, as well as outstanding examples of glacial moraines and large Sierra junipers. The area contains habitat for listed species, including Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but it contains prehistoric and historic sites including prehistoric lithic scatter and a multicomponent site with lithics, historic refuse, and a partially dismantled log cabin.

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to a paved road along the eastern and northern boundaries with highly developed recreation areas and developments including recreation facilities. Sights and sounds of developed recreation, roads, highways, and communities outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small

polygon. Fish stocking that altered native aquatic assemblages. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 112 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,100 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1156 (McGee Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1156 (McGee Creek) consists of 5,129 acres with elevations ranging from 7,400 to over 10,500 feet. The southern boundary is contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, southwest of Crowley Lake and Highway 395, extending north and west of McGee Creek and south of Lower Hilton Lakes Trailhead (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). It includes McGee Mountain at 10,871 feet in elevation. The polygon has three segments due roads that protrude into the area.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography of this polygon has mostly steep, open slopes along McGee Mountain above low-angled alluvial run-out toward Crowley Lake, with visibility to recreation activities, development, roads, and highways. It includes open forests and shrublands, so screening is limited. There are many developments near the polygon, including campgrounds and trailheads (Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service), and old Highway 395 and current Highway 395 just northeast of area. There is a four wheel drive road along the northwestern boundary. A paved forest highway in McGee Creek, which provides access to a pack station and trailhead, is cherry stemmed into the polygon, nearly splitting it in half. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to Highway

395, Crowley Lake residential community, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads, highly developed recreation facilities along the boundary, and authorized forest system roads (including a paved road) that nearly split the polygon into three sections. Sights and sounds of developed recreation, roads, and highways outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high, particularly in the lower elevations and eastern portions. There is a lower potential for encounters on McGee Mountain. The area has higher use during the summer, but it is also popular for winter motorized recreation in the winter. There is a heli-ski competition that has been authorized under special use permit on McGee Mountain. There is a hang gliding launch in the McGee Mountain area (Road 4S47), and there is some mountain bike use on routes along the eastern side of area. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, cross-country skiing, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge.

Other Features of Value

There is priority habitat for sage-grouse and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep critical habitat. It contains water birch (riparian community tracked by California Fish and Wildlife) and views of Crowley Basin.

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity Highway 395, Crowley Lake residential community, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads, highly developed recreation facilities along the boundary, and authorized forest system roads (including a paved road) that nearly split the polygon into three sections. Sights and sounds of developed recreation, roads, and highways outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,236 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,700 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable due to the location of the roads, developments, and the forest boundary.

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

General Description

Polygon 1159 (Mammoth Escarpment-Lakes Basin, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek and Convict Lake) consists of 14,833 acres with elevations ranging from 7,500 to over 10,000 feet. The western and southern boundaries are contiguous with the John Muir Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment southwest of Mammoth Lakes to southeast of Convict Lake (Figure B-6. Inyo National Forest evaluation map D).

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The Mammoth Escarpment rises from gentle slopes of sagebrush-bitterbrush to very steep, often precipitous terrain. Ecosystem types include alpine, Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush and subalpine forest. At lower elevations, open shrublands dominating the moraines contain scattered pockets of aspen that add to the diversity of the landscape. There are many perennial streams in the area such as Mammoth Creek, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek, and streams in the Lakes Basin between the lakes. Mammoth Creek is on the state list of impaired or threatened water bodies for metals below this area. There are some intermittent stream channels. It includes the Lakes Basin, Sherwin Lakes, Laurel Lakes and Convict Lake. Air quality is nonattainment for PM10 (Mammoth PM10 planning area). Several mapped meadows are present and there is riparian vegetation throughout the area. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Laurel McGee, San Joaquin and Sherwin Inventoried Roadless Areas.

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

Other noticeable developments include a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Snow Survey Course with associated improvements in the Mammoth Pass area, United States Geological Survey installations in the Laurel Pond and Mammoth Pass areas and historic mining activity (i.e., old railroad cars, buildings, adits, roads, trails and tailing piles). The major paved roads and highly developed sites in a portion of the area have led to fragmented habitat and habituation of wildlife such as bears and small mammals. Evidence of civilization includes the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Airport and Highway 395. Other portions of the polygon are less impacted by development and roads.

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Topography is variable, but includes some steep slopes. There are mostly open views to Long Valley and Mammoth Lakes. Within the Lakes Basin, there is screening from large trees. There are many developments near the polygon, including developed recreation facilities and concentrated recreation use, paved roads and highways (including Highway 395 just north of area in the eastern portion of the polygon), and the Town of Mammoth Lakes with homes and businesses prominent. There is a motorized trail, which accesses Laurel Lakes (four wheel drive experience and popular dispersed camping destination) that nearly splits the polygon. There is also a motorized trail that nearly bisects the polygon near Convict Lake. Several paved forest highways (Lakes Basin and Convict Lake) cherry stem the

polygon. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and proximity to roads and development. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation, roads, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in many locations and a large portion of the polygon. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high. It is extremely high during summer months, especially near Mammoth Lakes Basin, Convict Lake, and system trails in Sherwin Creek. The area is also popular for winter recreation, including over snow vehicles, cross-country skiing and backcountry skiing. There is winter backcountry and over-snow vehicle use in the Sherwin Bowls area and at the base of the escarpment. Several public comments indicate Solitude Canyon as an area with opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

The area includes Yosemite toad, Yuba Pass willow (sensitive species), Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep designated critical habitat, and priority habitat for sage-grouse. The upper watershed supplies water for Town of Mammoth Lakes. The area's mixed carbonate and granitic geology create unique geologic and ecological diversity. About a quarter of the area has been surveyed for cultural resources, with roughly 40 documented cultural resource sites, primarily prehistoric sites with lithic scatters, isolated artifacts and an extensive prehistoric village site.

Manageability

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

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

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

The polygon has or is near substantial developments and improvements, including campgrounds, trailheads, resorts, boat ramps, pack station, recreation residences, private land communities, motorized trails, roads and highways. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, including those that split the polygon, and proximity to many authorized forest system roads cherry stemmed to nearly split other sections of this polygon, and highly developed recreation areas, recreation residences, and developed communities. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation, roads, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in many locations and a large portion of the polygon. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,664 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 2,200 acres. There is limited potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1161 (Reds Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1161 (Reds Meadow) consists of 1,656 acres ranging in elevation from 7,500 to 9,000 feet. The southern and eastern boundaries are contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness (Figure B-6, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D), on the back side of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and west of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This is a concentrated recreation area that includes developed campgrounds, trailheads, pack stations and access to Devils Postpile National Monument. It is a narrow and elongated polygon, which encompasses the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and development and areas of prior wilderness designation. Ecosystem types include red fir and sagebrush. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail goes through the southwestern corner of the polygon, near Rainbow Falls. U-shaped valleys, steep precipitous slopes, and basaltic outcrops characterize the area. This place is predominantly mid-elevation to high elevation red fir forest. It includes the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is valley with surrounding slopes. There is some screening from mid-elevation red fir forest. This area is the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and developments, and the Ansel Adams Wilderness. There are many developments near the polygon, including campgrounds, day use sites, trailheads, resorts, pack stations, a paved road, and a National Park Service

ranger station with employee housing. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to developed recreation facilities (campgrounds, trailheads, pack stations, and resorts) and a high use paved road. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. The Reds Meadow Valley may see nearly 2,000 visitors per day during the peak summer season, limiting opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The potential for encounters with other visitors is high, particularly during the summer months. The road is seasonally closed and infrequently used by snowmobiles during the winter months.

Other Features of Value

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

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to developed recreation facilities (campgrounds, trailheads, pack stations, and resorts) and a high use paved road. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. Mechanical fuels management activities may need to continue within the polygon to protect nearby high value areas. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1164

(Minaret Vista and San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail)

General Description

Polygon 1164 (Minaret Vista and San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail) consists of 1,017 acres ranging in elevation from 8,800 to 10,000 feet. The northern and eastern boundaries are contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness, northwest of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, west of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and northeast of Reds Meadow Road (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map D). The polygon is shaped by the Reds Meadow Road and the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary. It is a narrow and elongated polygon encompassing the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and development and areas of prior wilderness designation.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This area is the narrow buffer left between Reds Meadow Road, areas of concentrated recreation use, developments (Minaret Vista and Reds Meadow Information Station), motorized trails (San Joaquin four wheel drive trail) and the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is nearby.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to concentrated recreation use and developments. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

None were noted.

Manageability

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

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

The polygon is near developments, such as recreation facilities and paved forest road. There are no ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System in the area. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to concentrated recreation use, including motorized trails, winter motorized recreation and mountain biking, and roads. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas of this small polygon. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable due to the location of the road, developments, and the forest boundary.

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

General Description

Polygon 1179 (Lower Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake Loop) consists of 7,212 acres ranging in elevation from 7,600 to 9,000 feet. The western boundary is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment from Lower Lee Vining Canyon to Silver Lake (June Lake Loop) (Figure

B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is elongated north to south as the western boundary follows the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary and roads and private land parcels protrude into the polygon along the eastern boundary. The northern half of the polygon intersects with the Horse Meadow Inventory Roadless Area. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. It is designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. It includes highly diverse conifer forests and aspen. There are numerous perennial stream channels, such as Walker Creek, Gibbs Creek, and Parker Creek.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep, with many streams or drainages. Screening is minimal in some areas, but there is screening from topography along the western boundary of the polygon. This area is the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use, private land, and the Ansel Adams Wilderness. There are developed recreation facilities in Lee Vining Canyon and June Lake Loop. The southern portion of the polygon is along Highway 158 (June Lake Loop), and the northern portion is along Highway 120. Motorized winter recreation occurs in the area. Proximity to concentrated recreation use and highways limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The polygon is elongated north to south as it follows the western boundary follows the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary and roads and private land parcels protrude into the polygon along the eastern boundary. The polygon is near concentrated recreation use and facilities, and highways in the southern and northern portions of the area. The northern and southern boundaries overlap with a wildland-urban interface that surrounds recreation developments in Lee Vining Canyon and along the north shore of Silver Lake. The area overlaps a wildland-urban interface and there are needs for wildfire defensible space around developments and access roads. The area contains designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management under the Endangered Species Act. Fish barriers that need to be mechanically maintained are necessary to prevent introduced trout from invading frog (federally listed frog species) habitat in upper reaches. There is existing outfitting and guiding (pack station). The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power manages lands adjacent to the boundary. Motorized winter recreation is an existing use. There are five water rights in the area.

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

There were some developments noted within the area, including Walker Lake Dam, fish barriers and possibly Los Angeles Department of Water and Power infrastructure. The polygon is near developments, such as recreation facilities, residences, and highways. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 734 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 3,000 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to concentrated recreation use and highways. Sights and sounds of developed recreation and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Nonconforming uses, such as winter

Polygon 1195

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

General Description

Polygon 1195 (West of Mono Lake and Highway 395, North of Lee Vining) consists of 2,008 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000 to 9,600 feet. The western boundary is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness, along the Sierra Nevada escarpment between Lundy Canyon and Lee Vining, and between Highway 395 and the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is elongated north to south along the western boundary by the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary and private land parcels along the eastern boundary. The eastern boundary is within one mile of Highway 395.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 414 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,000 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and subalpine forest. The area is within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. It includes steep terrain along the escarpment that overlooks the Mono Basin and Highway 395. About half of the polygon intersects with Log Cabin Saddlebag Inventoried Roadless Area. There are numerous ephemeral and intermittent stream channels with riparian vegetation. There are no mapped meadows in the area. Soils are likely at the desired condition due to limited management activities in this area. This area is within the Mono Basin PM10 nonattainment area for air quality.

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Topography is steep terrain along the escarpment that overlooks Highway 395 and Mono Lake. There is very little screening with residential communities visible. Proximity to the highway limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the small polygon.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The polygon is near the highway, recreation developments, and private land inholdings. There is avalanche control infrastructure in the area.

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to Highway 395. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the small polygon. The area is an avalanche control zone for Cal Trans to address safety concerns along the highway. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 414 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 1,000 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1208 (Saddlebag Lake)

General Description

Polygon 1208 (Saddlebag Lake) consists of 2,516 acres ranging in elevation from 10,000 to 10,800 feet. It is contiguous with the Hoover Wilderness, north of Highway 120, and includes Saddlebag Lake (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is shaped (elongated from north to south) along the western, northern, and eastern boundaries by the Hoover Wilderness boundary (which excludes

the recreation developments). The southern boundary is Highway 120, just outside the entrance to Yosemite National Park.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 25 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This area is the narrow buffer left between areas of concentrated recreation use and developments and the Hoover Wilderness. There are many developments near the polygon, including campgrounds, day use sites, trailheads, and a resort. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to developed recreation, as well as Highway 120, the Tioga Pass entrance to Yosemite National Park, and Saddlebag Lake. Sights and sounds of developed recreation outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. Potential for encounters with other visitors is high during the summer months. When Highway 120 is closed during the winter months, the area receives little to no use.

Other Features of Value

The area is a habitat for the Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Saddlebag Lake lies within the polygon. There is habitat for the sensitive *Botrychium spp.* (moonworts). The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources. In addition to the large mining center, the sites include the remains of a historic sawmill and a historic cabin on the northern side of Saddlebag Lake.

Manageability

The polygon is elongated north to south as it follows the Hoover Wilderness boundary and follows the forest road accessing Saddlebag Lake. The southern boundary follows Highway 120 to the Yosemite National Park boundary at the Tioga entrance station. The polygon is within a concentrated recreation area with campgrounds and day use facilities, trailheads and a resort. The Hoover Wilderness boundary

excludes these features. Saddlebag Lake is a reservoir with a dam. There is a motorized ferry that operates during the summer months. There is also an accessible non-motorized trail. The area contains habitat for Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which may require management under the Endangered Species Act. Two water rights are present.

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to developed recreation, as well as proximity to Highway 120, the Tioga Pass entrance to Yosemite National Park, and Saddlebag Lake. Sights and sounds of developed recreation outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. There are developments within the area that are substantially noticeable, including developed recreation facilities and mining sites. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 25 acres. Sights and sounds may penetrate most of the small polygon. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1211 (Lundy Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1211 (Lundy Canyon) consists of 1,949 acres with elevations ranging from 7,600 to 10,400 feet. It is contiguous with the Hoover Wilderness, north of Lundy Lake and Lundy Canyon (Figure B-3, Inyo National Forest evaluation map A). The polygon is elongated from east to west as it follows the forest boundary along the north, Hoover Wilderness boundary on the west, and Lundy Canyon Road on the south.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 80 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is severely steep rocky slopes and gullies. There is some screening present, with some visibility down to developments in Lundy Canyon. There is southern exposure above a dammed lake and recreational developments. The area is near a concentrated recreation area and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission infrastructure. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to recreation use at Lundy Lake and the paved forest road. Sights and sounds of development, recreation use at Lundy Lake, and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to steep terrain. The area receives a high amount of recreation use during the summer months, with little to no use during the winter months. Potential for encounters with other visitors is low once away from developments on south side.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to a paved access road in the southern boundary, and to a highly concentrated, authorized recreation use area. Sights and sounds of development, recreation use at Lundy Lake, and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to steep terrain. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 80 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1232 (Willow Springs)

General Description

Polygon 1232 (Willow Springs) consists of 3,205 acres with elevations ranging from 4,400 to 6,800 feet. It is contiguous with the Inyo Mountains Wilderness, east of Mazourka Canyon Road and includes Willow Springs and Bee Springs (Figure B-9, Inyo National Forest evaluation map G). The boundary follows the Inyo Mountains Wilderness boundary on the east and the forest boundary on the west.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The terrain includes the steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains with canyons, steep slopes and drainages. The majority of polygon intersects with Paiute Inventoried Roadless Area. There is an authorized motorized trail that bisects the polygon along the wilderness boundary. Highway 395 and the town of Independence area can be seen in the middle distance (approximately 8 miles west). Mine sites on Bureau of Land Management lands are within a half mile of the western boundary. The area has historic mining found in many areas with mine prospects, tailings, roads, adits and buildings throughout the polygon. These mining features are substantially noticeable. Buildings and trailers are reported to be maintained at Black Eagle Mine. There is some cheatgrass and Russian thistle, but they are not widespread. There are unique desert springs flowing and in good condition. There have been some areas of historic timber harvest from mines. This area provides some contiguous habitat and connectivity for wildlife.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains with canyons, steep slopes, and drainages. There is some screening due to canyons and vegetation. There is a motorized trail, Betty Jumbo

Mine Road, along the eastern boundary that parallels the Inyo Mountains Wilderness boundary. There are authorized forest system roads cherry stemmed into a portion of the western boundary. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to the Betty Jumbo Mine Road, a highly visible authorized motorized trail along the eastern boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. There are some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including canyoneering, wildlife observation, spring wildflower observation, photography, and exploring old mine sites. Hikers park off of Betty Jumbo Road, a motorized trail that parallels the wilderness boundary to walk to Winnedumah Paiute Monument.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

The developments related to mining activity are widespread and substantially noticeable. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to motorized recreation (authorized motorized trails and Mazourka Canyon Road). Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of this small polygon. There are some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1236 (West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 32,500 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent of these groups are inter-mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub, and Great Basin xeric mixed

sagebrush shrubland. An additional 26,000 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Topography includes the steep western escarpment of Inyo Mountains, with steep slopes, canyons, extremely rugged terrain and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. There is some screening due to topography and vegetation. Screening is variable along the western escarpment due to topography, but there is little vegetation. There is some visibility of Highway 395. In the northeastern corner of the polygon there are views to Death Valley National Park. The western boundary (along the escarpment) is approximately one mile from the Owens Valley (roads, transmission lines, livestock grazing) and 3 to 5 miles from Highway 395. The northern boundary is bounded by the paved Eureka Valley Road and Saline Valley Road. The southeastern boundary is bounded by Mazourka Canyon Road (county road), which accesses mining claims and the communication site on top of Mazourka Peak. There are numerous authorized roads and motorized trails within this polygon, including through the middle of the polygon. Off highway vehicle recreation, dispersed camping, mineral exploration, and sightseeing are popular throughout this area, primarily during the spring and fall months. There is lower use in the summer due to heat. Opportunities for solitude are limited in some areas due to proximity to roads and motorized trail systems. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. In most of the area, the potential for encounters with other visitors is low to medium. Marble Canyon is a scenic destination for day hikers. The pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas provide some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including hiking, horseback riding, and deer hunting (fall). Backpacking opportunities are limited to the few areas with surface water. There are also opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, and enjoying nature. Winter snowpack sometimes allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations.

Other Features of Value

There are steep escarpments of the Inyo Mountains with complex geology. The Narrows of Marble Canyon is a unique geologic feature in the northeastern corner. The area includes vistas of the Sierra

Nevada range, prehistoric cultural resource sites and remnants of historic mining. Very little cultural survey work has been done in the area, but there are 20 documented cultural resource sites including prehistoric sites with rock rings and artifact scatters and historic sites associated with historic mining in Mazourka Canyon. The area includes habitat for Townsends big-eared bat, some in historic mining areas. There are many rare plants, including pinyon beardtongue, Inyo milkvetch, pinyon rockcress, Mojave fishhook, and cliffdweller (Forest Service sensitive species). The lowest elevation bristlecone pine forests occur here, in an ecological refugium that may be challenged as the climate continues to warm.

Manageability

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

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

There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are developments related to mining activity as well as range improvements. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 32,500 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 26,000 acres. Opportunities for solitude are limited in some areas due to proximity to roads and motorized trail systems. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1242 (North of Little Cowhorn Valley)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1,410 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 1,100 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is flat and rolling hills with some screening present from topography and trees. Potential for encountering other visitors is low. The eastern portion of the polygon follows the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management, and is contiguous with the Piper Mountain Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). The polygon is surrounded by a road system to the north, west, and south, and there is one road cherry stemmed into the northwestern corner. The Eureka Valley Road is within a half mile of the southern boundary of the polygon. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, general forest exploration, and photography during the summer, and deer hunting in the fall.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The polygon is surrounded by a road system and forms a finger-shaped extension to the Piper Wilderness. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

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

The combination of alkali flats and old growth pinyon-juniper is a unique feature of this area. Potential for encountering other visitors in this area is low. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. There are road systems that surround the area, including one cherry stemmed into the northwestern corner. The Eureka Valley Road is approximately half mile from the southern boundary of the polygon. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 14,100 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 1,100 acres.

Polygon 1246 (North of Eureka Valley Road)

General Description

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

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep to gentle slopes and there is some screening in the area from vegetation and canyons. There is very little visibility of developments. The northern boundary is Highway 168 and the southern boundary is Eureka Valley Road, a paved road and less traveled route to Death Valley National Park. There are numerous roads and motorized trails within and along the boundaries of the polygon. Opportunities for solitude are very limited in these motorized use areas. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Off highway vehicle recreation, dispersed camping, mineral exploration, and sightseeing are popular throughout this area, primarily during the spring and fall months. There is lower use in the summer due to heat.

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

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

This is a large polygon between the straight-line forest boundary along the western and eastern boundaries. There are numerous cherry stemmed roads and motorized trails within and along the boundaries. There is illegal off highway vehicle use occurring that is widespread along the western and southern portion of the polygon. The area includes one water right. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

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

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in areas away from roads and motorized trails. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to motorized recreation (roads and motorized trails). The potential for encounters is very low to medium. Most recreation use is around roads and motorized trails where opportunities for solitude are very limited. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 20,900 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 20,600 acres. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1248 (Redding Canyon, Black Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1248 (Redding Canyon, Black Canyon) consists of 38,756 acres with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet. It is west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Silver Canyon, north of Highway 168, and includes Redding Canyon, Black Canyon, Marble Canyon, and Black Mountain at 9,083 feet in elevation. The polygon follows the straight-line forest boundary along the western boundary, Highway 168 along the southern boundary, White Mountain Road along the eastern boundary and Silver Canyon along the northern boundary (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F).

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is extremely steep and rugged. There is screening from canyons and pinyon pine trees. The western boundary is generally within two miles of the Owens Valley, the southern boundary is Highway 168, the eastern boundary is White Mountain Road (a National Forest Scenic Byway), and the

northern boundary is Silver Canyon (road and transmission lines). There are numerous roads and motorized trails within this polygon, including some that run through the polygon. Off highway vehicle recreation, mineral exploration, and sightseeing are popular throughout this area. Opportunities for solitude are very limited in the areas near forest system roads and the extensive motorized trail system. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are some quiet places free from sounds of motorized use within the polygon, away from roads and motorized trails, especially in the canyons. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. Most of the use is around roads and motorized trails.

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

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in areas away from roads and motorized trails, especially in the canyons. The potential for encounters is very low to medium. Most recreation use is around roads and motorized trails where opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are very limited. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 15,818 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 20,000 acres.

Polygon 1258

(Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South)

General Description

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

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep with rugged slopes. There is abundant screening and very little visibility to developments or roads. The western half of the polygon is near a paved forest highway (White Mountain Road, which is a National Forest Scenic Byway), Highway 168, and roads and motorized trails, which limit opportunities for solitude in these areas. The northern boundary follows Wyman Canyon Road, which is a lightly traveled system road, but is a main route that connects to Silver Canyon Road on the west side of the White Mountains, and traverses to the east side of the White Mountains to Deep Springs Valley. Although there are some roads cherry stemmed into the eastern half of the polygon, these are more lightly traveled roads in this eastern section. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas.

The area receives low amount of recreation use, except near Schulman Grove and along the White Mountain Road on the western boundary of the polygon. Notable opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation exist in the western half of the polygon, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, where there are several trails including the Discovery Trail (National Recreation Trail) and Methuselah Trail. The western half of the polygon is a popular area for hiking, wildlife observation, dark skies observation, photography, exploring old mine sites, and enjoying nature. Overnight camping is not allowed in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, so there are no opportunities for backpacking in this

portion of the polygon. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the eastern portion of the polygon focus on hiking and hunting in the Birch Creek drainage, which has an unmaintained trail in the drainage. Most of the rest of the polygon is steep terrain and there are no trails, so there are opportunities for challenging cross-country trips. Winter snowpack allows cross-country skiing in higher elevations, but gaining access requires more than 10 miles ski into the area.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation exist in the eastern and western half of the polygon, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, where there are several trails including the Discovery Trail (National Recreation Trail) and Methuselah Trail. There are developments nearby, including Schulman Grove Visitor Center, and remnant historic mining features, primarily in the western half of the polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 12,458 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 17,200 acres. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1275 (North of Silver Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1275 (North of Silver Canyon) consists of 10,435 acres with elevations ranging from 4,800 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness, west of White Mountain Road, north of Silver Canyon, and within the White Mountains. It is a rectangular-shaped polygon, which follows the straight line boundary of the White Mountains Wilderness on the north and a power line corridor to the south (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F). The area is bounded by roads along the western boundary with a prominent cherry stemmed road and follows the White Mountain Road in the northeastern corner.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 6,168 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The

most prevalent of these groups are inter-mountain big sagebrush shrubland, inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe, and inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub. An additional 3,200 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited within the western portion of the polygon due to an extensive network of motorized trails and roads both within the polygon and near the boundaries. The White Mountain Road, a National Forest Scenic Byway runs along the boundary in the northeastern corner. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Along the western escarpment of mountains, there are some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including canyoneering, wildlife observation, spring wildflower observation, photography, and exploring old mine sites.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The western boundary is near roads and motorized trails, however, due to steep terrain there is little chance of vehicle incursion. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use. Off

highway vehicle recreation is a popular activity in the western portion of the polygon associated with the historic mining sites.

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited in the western portion of this polygon due to an extensive network of authorized motorized trails and roads both within the polygon and near the boundaries. Opportunities for solitude in the eastern corner are limited due to proximity to White Mountain Road. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in steep canyons. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 6,168 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,200 acres. There may be the potential to reshape the polygon to exclude the motorized trails, as well as connect the boundary to a natural feature. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1276 (Gunter Canyon)

General Description

Polygon 1276 (Gunter Canyon) contains 1,048 acres with elevations ranging from 4,800 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness, northwest of Gunter Canyon, within the White Mountains. It is a small polygon between Gunter Canyon Road and the White Mountains Wilderness, with the forest boundary on the west (with Bureau of Land Management) (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 764 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The polygon is a small and surrounded by road systems and historic mining activity. Part of the polygon encompasses the small buffer between an existing road system and White Mountains Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads cherry stemmed into the boundary of this small polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the polygon. It is a popular paragliding location.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value were noted.

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads cherry stemmed into the boundary of this small polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the polygon. There is an open pit mine and shafts in the area. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 764 acres. There may be the potential to reshape the polygon, but it would still be a very small area that is nearly contiguous with, but separated by a road from the White Mountains Wilderness.

Polygon 1281

(Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow)

General Description

Polygon 1281 (Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow) consists of 11,210 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness, east of White Mountain Road, and northeast of Schulman Grove. It parallels the White Mountains Wilderness boundary to the forest boundary on the east. It is an elongated, rectangular shaped polygon that runs west to east, east of White Mountain Road to the forest boundary, following the straight line White Mountains Wilderness boundary (Figure B-8, Inyo National Forest evaluation map F). The southern straight line boundary is the power line corridor.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area has steep to gentle slopes with some screening present due to topography, especially from vegetation and canyons. Wyman Road is approximately one quarter mile from the southern boundary. The western boundary is White Mountain Road. There is a motorized trail near Dead Horse Meadow that runs north to south and bisects the polygon. This motorized trail is cherry stemmed where it enters the White

Mountains Wilderness. The canyon areas are free from sounds of motorized use. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the 300 acre finger of the polygon that is near White Mountain Road (paved forest road that is a National Forest Scenic Byway). The motorized trail near Dead Horse Meadow is currently heavily damaged by rains and motorized travel is difficult. There may be some impacts to solitude in area near the route. Visitor use in the area is low with most of the use occurring during the summer and fall months.

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

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in much of the polygon that is free from sounds of motorized use, especially in the canyons. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the 300 acre finger of the polygon that is near White Mountain Road. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,419 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 6,300 acres. Within the motorized trail areas, there are limited opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. One of the motorized trail areas is near White Mountain Road (FR 4S01), a high use and speed road. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Polygon 1295 (White Mountain Road, Barcroft Research Station)

General Description

Polygon 1295 (White Mountain Road, Barcroft Research Station) consists of 2,265 acres ranging in elevation from 10,500 to 12,500 feet. It is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness, along the

White Mountain Road, between Patriarch Grove and White Mountain Research Station (Barcroft), near White Mountain Peak (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C).

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 657 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is near White Mountain Road (National Forest Scenic Byway) and Barcroft Research Station which limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the polygon.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value were noted.

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to White Mountain Road. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of the polygon. The boundaries drawn for the White Mountains Wilderness as part of the 2009 legislation excluded this area from wilderness designation due to existing uses and developments. There is likely a need for motorized access to maintain a powerline that runs through middle of this polygon. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 657 acres.

Polygon 1297 (North of Jeffrey Mine)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 903 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries, several cherry stemmed to form the boundary, and nearly splitting it into thirds. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of this small polygon.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value were noted.

Manageability

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

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

The boundaries drawn for the White Mountains Wilderness as part of the 2009 legislation excluded this area from wilderness designation due to roads and existing uses. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries, several cherry stemmed to form the boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of this small polygon. Motorized access may be needed to maintain an existing water system that carries irrigation water to Chalfant Valley. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 903 acres.

Polygon 1301 (Leidy Creek South)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2,224 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands and blackbrush. The area is largely undeveloped and a small portion of the polygon intersects with the Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. The connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. Brook and rainbow trout were introduced into previously fishless waters, and are self-sustaining populations that have displaced endemic species. There is a departure from apparent naturalness in spring channels due to

fish introductions. There is some departure from apparent naturalness due to invasive plant species, mining, and wild horses. Cheatgrass and halogeton are increasing. Pinyon pine has expanded due to fire suppression. There are no mapped meadows. Soils are likely at the desired condition. The air quality is excellent. The area is mostly open with little screening, except in the canyons on the west side. From the eastern portion of the polygon, private land development (Fish Lake Valley), power lines and Highway 264 are visible.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The topography is steep on the western boundary leading to the White Mountains Wilderness. Low angle open alluvial fans are found on the lower slopes on the eastern side. The area is quiet and free from sounds of motorized use in the western portion of the polygon, near the White Mountains Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an authorized forest system road in the northern portion and Highway 264 to the east. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of this small polygon. The potential for encounters is low. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the terrain.

Other Features of Value

No other features of value are noted.

Manageability

Management of the Paiute cutthroat trout population, which is federally listed as threatened, requires road and equipment access. The population is within White Mountains Wilderness, and the road access is along Leidy Creek, along the northern boundary of the polygon. There are two water rights.

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an authorized forest system road in the northern portion and Highway 264 to the east. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in much of this small polygon. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,224 acres. There is the potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1308 (Indian Creek to Leidy Creek)

General Description

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

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is steep terrain in the western portion of the polygon, but the eastern portion is relatively flat and with open alluvial fans. The southwestern portion of the polygon has steep terrain and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are lightly used roads along Indian Creek and Leidy Creek to the north. There is low to moderate potential for encounter with other visitors. There are likely opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remoteness and terrain. However, in the lower open eastern portion of the polygon, opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to Highway 264. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas.

Other Features of Value

Paiute cutthroat trout populations occur in the contiguous White Mountains Wilderness.

Manageability

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

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

There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation throughout most of the area, especially along the western boundary. However, in the lower open eastern portion of the polygon, opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to Highway 264. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 10,534 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,100 acres. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted in some areas by private land development, power lines, and Highway 264. There is the potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1311 (Chiatovich Creek)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 4,130 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent of these groups is inter-mountain basins montane sagebrush steppe. An additional 4,300 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

In the lower eastern portion, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the boundary and exposure in the alluvial fan areas. There is a portion of authorized motorized trails in the polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and Fish Lake Valley, power lines, and Highway 264 outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. The western portion of the polygon has steep terrain and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. There are areas free from sounds of motorized use near Middle, Chiatovich, Davis, and Indian Creeks. The potential for encounters is low in winter months. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remoteness and steep terrain, particularly along the western portion of the polygon.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

White Mountain Estates and associated infrastructure is along Middle Creek and Chiatovich Creek, near the forest boundary. There is one private land parcel along Indian Creek (inholding within the forest boundary). There are regularly used roads and motorized trails, as well as the private land parcels that protrude into the area, nearly bisecting the polygon. The area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management. Existing uses include grazing and guided hunting. There are three water rights.

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the boundary and exposure in the alluvial fan areas. There is a portion of authorized motorized trails in the polygon. Private land developments, authorized forest system roads and motorized trails in the eastern portion nearly bisect the polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and Fish Lake Valley, power lines, and Highway 264 outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 4,130 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 4,300 acres. There is the potential to reshape the polygon, contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness, to exclude the areas near the private land development, but sights and sounds associated with motorized use in cherry stemmed roads and motorized trails would still limit opportunities for solitude.

Polygon 1312 (Boundary Peak)

General Description

Polygon 1312 (Boundary Peak) consists of 8,133 acres with elevations ranging from 6,800 to 9,600 feet. It is contiguous with the Boundary Peak Wilderness and a small portion of the White Mountains Wilderness on the northwestern corner, east of the White Mountains, east of the Boundary Peak Wilderness, between Queen Valley to the north and Middle Creek to the south (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is elongated, following the boundary with the Boundary Peak Wilderness. It is narrow in some places due to the road system, and roads cherry stemmed to form the polygon.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper and subalpine forest. The entire polygon is within a mapped wildfire restoration zone. The topography includes steep canyons along the northern and

eastern sides of the White Mountains. There is steep terrain, especially south of Trail Canyon. The majority of the polygon intersects with the Boundary Peak Inventoried Roadless Area. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. It has a mostly natural fire regime. There are numerous perennial stream channels throughout the area including Trail Creek and Buffalo Creek. Dry Creek is a major intermittent channel. Soils are likely at the desired condition. There is localized soil compaction from wild horses and livestock in riparian areas. The air quality is excellent. Watershed restoration treatments in meadows on Trail Creek included meadow headcut treatments with filter cloth and rock. There is an historic mining dam on Trail Creek. There are many old structures related to mining activity in the Queen Canyon area, which substantially affect apparent naturalness. The invasive cheatgrass is stable. Brook and rainbow trout were introduced into previously fishless waters, are self-sustaining populations, and have displaced endemic species. Queen Canyon Road and mine area are likely visible from in the northeastern portion of the polygon. There is a major community development, White Mountain Estates, along Middle Creek, southeast of the polygon and forest boundary. There is a small private land parcel, Orchard Springs, northwest of the polygon.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

This polygon is narrow, elongated strip (typically one mile wide) contiguous with the Boundary Peak Wilderness. Most of the northern portion of the polygon is within one mile of Queen Canyon Road. The southern portion, south of Trail Canyon is generally more than one mile from a road and separated by a ridge as well. Many cherry stemmed roads protrude into the eastern boundary. The cherry stemmed road in Trail Canyon nearly splits the polygon in half. There are two motorized trails within the polygon. Old mining roads and mine ruins are scattered throughout the northern portion of the polygon, especially evident in Queen Canyon. Old mining roads will remain on the landscape for hundreds of years unless rehabbed prior to designation. There is a major community development, White Mountain Estates, along Middle Creek, southeast of the polygon and forest boundary. There is a small private land parcel, Orchard

Springs, northwest of the polygon. The area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management. Current uses in the area include grazing and guided hunting. There are also wild horses in the area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. There are six water rights.

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited in some areas due to authorized motorized trails within the polygon and proximity to authorized forest system roads around the boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Apparent naturalness is negatively impacted in the Queen Canyon area, in the northern portion of the polygon, due to substantial mining developments. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,388 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,500 acres. There is the potential to reshape the polygon to exclude motorized trails and developments that are substantially noticeable.

Polygon 1326 (Queen Valley)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2,027 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 3,000 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the boundary, Highway 6, which is visible from much of the area. The developments in Queen Valley Ranch (Hereford Valley Ranch), including roads, are also visible in some areas. Sights and sounds of development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude especially near the western portion of the polygon, where the presence of Highway 6 is highly evident. The area is remote with very little recreation use. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location and rugged terrain, but it is not very attractive due to lack of water.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

Private land parcels (Queen Valley Ranch and Montgomery Pass) and cherry stemmed roads protrude into the polygon. Highway 6 is within a half mile of the polygon and highly visible from much of the area. The area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management. There are no known water rights; however, the United States Geological Survey map shows an aqueduct and pond with levee. The area is a proposed critical habitat for sage-grouse.

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

There are many old structures related to historic mining in the Sugarloaf and Queen Canyon area, which substantially affect apparent naturalness. Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the boundary Highway 6, and private land developments. Sights and sounds of development and roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude especially near the western portion of the polygon. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,027 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,000 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1332 (Pizona South, Northwest of Highway 6)

General Description

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

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 2,300 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The most prevalent of these groups is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 2,800 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude are very limited due to proximity to Highway 6, which is highly visible and can be heard from within the area, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries. Roads, highways, or mining activities are within less than a mile in most of the area. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. There is low to moderate potential for encounters. The potential is lower in winter because snow and slippery soils on roads reduce access. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but not much draw due to lack of water. There are opportunities for mineral prospecting.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are very limited due to proximity to Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries. Sights and sounds of roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but not much draw due to lack of water. Apparent naturalness is substantially affected in areas by historic mining activities and pinyon pine removal by chaining. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,300 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 2,800 acres. The polygon has a narrow width due to the location of the private land parcel and short cherry stemmed roads. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1339 (Pizona-Truman Meadows)

General Description

The Polygon 1339 (Pizona-Truman Meadows) consists of 19,826 acres with elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. It is east of the White Mountains, southeast of Highway 6, and includes Queen Valley, Sagehen Flat, and Mustang Point at 9,689 feet in elevation (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is shaped by the forest boundary and roads, including several cherry stemmed to form the boundary.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It is priority habitat for sage-grouse. The topography includes moderate rolling hills, broad, open sagebrush flats, and ancient volcanic flows. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area. There are springs and canyons that have surface water, as well as riparian vegetation associated with springs. Highway 6 is visible from parts of the area and power lines are visible along the western boundary. Developments include mining claims and a recently authorized exploration plan of operation; watershed treatments in Truman Meadow; historic military operations in which replica towns were constructed and destroyed; a windmill. The allotments are closed. Watershed treatments related to the road are present in Truman Meadow. They are not substantial, but noticeable when driving the road. The invasive cheatgrass is stable. Pinyon pine has expanded in range. There are non-native aquatic species (gambusia fish, mosquito fish) in spring channels, affecting the natural distribution of macro-invertebrate species. Wild horses negatively impact meadows and riparian areas. Truman Meadow is stable. Work was completed on the road through the meadow to stabilize wet areas. There are good soil conditions, and the air quality is likely influenced by dust from Mono Basin to the west of this area. Mono Basin is in Non-attainment PM10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

There is some screening present due to topography and vegetation. Highway 6 is visible and can be heard in much of the polygon. Power lines are near part of the western boundary and there are some lightly used roads near some boundaries. There is one short segment motorized trail within the eastern portion that accesses Truman Springs. It provides access to a popular dispersed campsite. In addition, there are some motorized routes that are being used, and are being considered for addition to the forests trail system. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and power lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There is a low potential for encounters in the area. Although limited due to the lack of water, there are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location and rugged terrain.

Other Features of Value

The area includes dry alkali flats, which is a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest, and Great Basin springs. Wild horses occur in the area and there is priority habitat for sage-grouse. The rare plant, Parish's popcorn flower, grows within the polygon. There is a rare meadow feature for the area (Truman

Meadow). One significant prehistoric site has been formally documented in the area. There are a lot of historic sites in the area (remnant rock foundations, stage coach lines) as well as some prehistoric sites.

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited in the small area with the authorized motorized trail near the eastern boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area and power lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, Apparent naturalness is somewhat affected by historic mining activities, Highway 6, power lines, and past vegetation treatment conducted by the military. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 6,974 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 12,600 acres. There is limited potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1342 (Montgomery Pass)

General Description

Polygon 1342 (Montgomery Pass) consists of 6,144 acres with elevations ranging from 6,600 to 7,200 feet. It is east of the White Mountains, southeast of Highway 6, and east of Montgomery Pass (Figure B-5, Inyo National Forest evaluation map C). The polygon is shaped by roads and private land parcels that form narrow appendages and some straight line boundaries.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. There is limited seasonal surface water but riparian vegetation is found in the canyons. There are no meadows. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. The area is priority habitat for sage-grouse and occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area. The area does not intersect with inventoried roadless area. The polygon is surrounded by roads and private development. A gypsum mine is visible. Highway 6 is in the northwestern boundary and is visible from many parts of this polygon. Historic mining remnants are apparent. The invasive cheatgrass and halogeton are present and likely increasing. Pinyon pine has

expanded due in part to fire suppression. The polygon is dissected in the eastern portion by an authorized motorized trail. There are non-native aquatic species (gambusia fish, mosquito fish) in spring channels that affect the natural endemic distribution of macro-invertebrate species.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within the polygon, and proximity to Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. The most remote areas are one mile from roads and developments. There is one cherry stemmed road and motorized trail that protrudes into the polygon along the eastern boundary. In addition, there are some motorized routes that are being used, and are being considered for addition to the forests trail system. There is a moderate potential for encounters in the area. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to an authorized motorized trail within the polygon, and proximity to Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads around the boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon. There may be opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The most remote areas are approximately one mile from the road system. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 2,173 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 3,300 acres. There is limited potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1355 (Excelsior Mountains-Adobe Hills)

General Description

Polygon 1355 (Excelsior Mountains-Adobe Hills) consists of 10,297 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 7,600 feet. It is in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Lake, within the Adobe Hills (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is shaped by roads, the California-Nevada state line, and the forest boundary.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3,165 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The

most prevalent of these groups is inter-mountain basins big sagebrush shrubland. An additional 7,100 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland, which has less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The topography consists of low rolling hills comprised largely of pinyon-juniper woodland, which has expanded due in part to fire suppression. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior and Huntoon Inventoried Roadless Areas. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area overlaps the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area and apparent naturalness is negatively impacted due to wild horses. There is limited water with a few intermittent and ephemeral stream channels. The air quality is good; not excellent due to dust from Mono Basin, which is Non-attainment for PM10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area is remote, with low recreation use and has opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. Lightly traveled roads and transmission lines are visible from in some areas of the polygon. Recreation opportunities may be limited due to the lack of available water. There is some visibility down to Highways 6 and 120 from parts of this polygon and sounds of roads may be heard in some areas. Sights and sounds of transmission lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location. There is lower recreation use in winter.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

The polygon is bounded by lightly traveled roads and a power line corridor; however, the area is remote and has opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Available water is limited. The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless area. There is some visibility down to Highways 6 and 120 from parts of this polygon and sounds of roads may be heard in some areas. Sights and sounds of transmission lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,165 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 7,100 acres. There are limited opportunities to redraw the polygon.

Polygon 1357 (Excelsior Mountains)

General Description

Polygon 1357 (Excelsior Mountains) consists of 5,805 acres with elevations ranging from 7,000 to 7,500 feet. It is in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Hills (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is somewhat narrow and elongated.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. Pinyon pine has expanded due in large part to fire suppression. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to wild horses. Wild horse populations have expanded significantly in this area. Their effects are not natural in this ecosystem. There is limited water. No meadows or riparian areas are known. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is good but may be affected by dust from Mono Basin. Mono Basin is nonattainment for PM10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The majority of the polygon is managed as inventoried roadless areas. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration. The area has low recreation use due to remoteness and limited water. Roads and a power line corridor are visible and can be heard from some of the area due to minimal topographic relief. The interior of the polygon is within one mile of roads, which surround the polygon on all sides. Sights and sounds of transmission lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There is lower use in winter.

Other Features of Value

There are dry alkali lakes which are a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest. Populations of two different Forest Service sensitive species, Williams combleaf and Long Valley milkvetch, are found here. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. There are unique and interesting views to the dry lakebeds of Adobe Valley. The area remains largely unsurveyed for cultural resources, but there is a documented prehistoric site.

Manageability

The polygon is elongated and narrow and surrounded by a road system. The interior of the polygon is generally less than a mile from a road. There is also a transmission line along the western boundary. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use.

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

The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Roads and a power line corridor are visible and can be heard from some of the area. Sights and sounds of transmission lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. The area has low recreation use due to remoteness and limited water. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,030 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 2,800 acres. The area is bounded roads and a power line corridor. There is limited potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1361 (Excelsior Mountains-Huntoon Creek)

General Description

Polygon 1361 (Excelsior Mountain-Huntoon Creek) consists of 8,855 acres with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 7,800 feet. It is in the Excelsior Mountains and includes Huntoon Creek (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is somewhat narrow and elongated and follows the forest boundary and the California-Nevada state line.

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

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. It is priority habitat for sage-grouse. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands. The majority of the polygon intersects with Excelsior and Excelsior Mountains Inventoried Roadless Areas. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to the presence of wild horses that have expanded significantly in this area. There is limited water. Huntoon Creek is an intermittent stream that flows through the area. There are no meadows and there are limited or no riparian areas present. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is good but may be affected by dust from Mono Basin. Mono Basin is nonattainment for PM10.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This polygon is very remote, with opportunities for solitude. There is moderate screening. Transmission lines may be visible from some of the area and authorized forest system roads along the northern, western, and southern boundaries may be heard. Sights and sounds of transmission lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration with some degree of challenge due to the remote location. Currently, the area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. There is lower use in winter.

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

The polygon is somewhat narrow and elongated, particularly the southeastern half, due to the forest boundary. The polygon is primarily bordered by Federal land (Inyo National Forest, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management). The area is bounded by roads along the northern, western, and southern boundaries and the forest boundary along the eastern boundary. There is also a transmission line along the western boundary. There is one private land inholding (40-acre parcel) in the southwestern corner of the polygon. The land owner is unknown, as is access to the private land parcel. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. The area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require management. This area is adjacent to an inventoried roadless area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

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

This polygon is very remote, with opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation may be limited due to the lack of available water. Transmission lines may be visible from some of the area and authorized forest system roads along the northern, western, and southern boundaries may be heard. Sights and sounds of transmission lines and roads outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 3,066 acres. An ecological group with less than 15 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises an additional 5,700 acres. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. There may be the potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1376 (Watterson Meadow and Benton Range)

General Description

Polygon 1376 consists of 9,922 acres with elevations ranging from 6,800 to 8,000 feet. It is within the Benton Range, east of Banner Ridge, and includes Watterson Meadow (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B). The polygon is shaped by roads, a private land parcel and the forest boundary with Bureau of Land Management. It is bisected by motorized trails, which run east to west through the middle of the polygon.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 1,499 acres consist of ecological groups that have less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

There are authorized motorized trails within and bisecting the polygon. In addition, there is a paved road and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads along the boundary. A few forest system roads cherry stem to form the boundary. There are mining site developments that include prospects, tunnels, and shafts within the polygon, accessed by motorized trails and roads. There is a grazing allotment with fences and a windmill. There is a popular climbing area near Wildrose Summit with fixed anchors (bolts). There are few invasive plant species, which are stable. A mapped meadow is present in Kely Canyon and riparian vegetation is present in canyons. The air quality is excellent. Pinyon pine expansion has occurred in some areas.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

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

Other Features of Value

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

Manageability

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

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

Opportunities for solitude are limited due to proximity to roads and authorized motorized trails, and visibility to developments. A few forest system roads cherry stem to form the boundary. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in large portions of the polygon. There are likely some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Ecological groups with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise 1,499 acres. There is no potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable due to proximity to the road and motorized trail system, including the road system on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands.

Polygon 1391 (Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East)

General Description

Polygon 1391 (Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East) consists of 50,992 acres with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 9,400 feet. This U-shaped polygon (Figure B-11, Inyo National Forest evaluation map I) is 50,992 acres, and connected by a narrow sliver that follows the Kennedy Meadows Road along the southern boundary. It includes two distinct geographic areas divided by the South Sierra Wilderness. The western portion of the polygon includes the Monache and Blackrock area. The eastern portion of the polygon is east of the South Sierra Wilderness and referred to as South Sierra East. This polygon crosses the forest boundary between the Inyo (33,247 acres) and the Sequoia (17,745 acres) National Forests. The polygon was evaluated as one whole unit containing the portions on both forests.

National Vegetation Classification System data indicates 3,556 acres consist of an ecological group, intermountain basins big sagebrush shrubland, which has less than 10 percent of its national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System. An additional 14,021 acres consist of Great Basin pinyon-juniper woodland and Rocky Mountain aspen forest and woodland, which have less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Western Portion

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

Eastern Portion

South Sierra East, the southwest corner is contiguous with the Sacatar Trail Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management) and the western boundary is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. East of the South Sierra Wilderness, the area includes Olancho Trailhead, Haiwee Pass Trailhead, Talus Canyon, Long Canyon, Tunawee Canyon and Kennedy Meadows Trailhead. The polygon is elongated, following the boundary of the South Sierra Wilderness. The northern portion near Olancho and the southern portion near Kennedy Meadows are narrow due to the buffer between the road and the South Sierra Wilderness boundary. The majority of the polygon intersects with the South Sierra Inventoried Roadless Area. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, white fir and xeric shrublands and blackbrush. This polygon contains true Mojave Desert ecosystems which are largely intact including Joshua trees, cholla cactus, creosote, plus healthy canyon live oak ecosystems and pinyon-juniper. The topography is characterized as Eastern Sierra escarpment with steep slopes and forested canyons. Perennial streams include Hogback Creek, Haiwee Creek and Talus Canyon. Riparian areas contain canyon live oak and are in good condition. There are perennial (mostly) channels including Soda Creek and Snake Creek, and springs and meadows are present throughout the area. Vegetation is in good to excellent condition. The air quality is nonattainment for ozone (Tulare County).

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

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Western Portion

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

Eastern Portion

Within the eastern portion of the polygon (South Sierra East), there is screening from vegetation and topography. Highway 395 is visible along the eastern boundary, but not highly visible. Most of area is several miles from any development and there is little evidence of civilization. A portion is near developments at Walker Creek, Olancha Pass Trailhead, Sage Flat (private property), Kennedy Meadows Campground, and Tunawee (private property). There are some areas that have existing uses that limit opportunities for solitude: dispersed camping and off highway vehicle use on 19S01 (Walker Creek area); dispersed camping and trailhead at Olancha Pass Trailhead; sounds from private residences at Sage Flat; and Kennedy Meadows Campground. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. The potential for encounters with other visitors is low, based on the low number of current visitors to the South Sierra Wilderness. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding on several forest system trails that cross the polygon and access the South Sierra Wilderness and deer hunting in the fall. Most of the recreation use is concentrated near Olancha Pass, Kennedy Meadows (Pacific Crest Trail) and Wildrose Trail. The Pacific Crest Trail north of Kennedy Meadows sees large numbers of through-hikers in May and June. The degree of challenge along trails is similar to the nearby designated wilderness, except that the challenge is greater on the Haiwee Trail because of extensive flash flood damage. Travel along or up the steep eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada is challenging because there are no trails and surface water can be scarce. The portion of the area near the South Fork Kern River is a popular primitive recreation area during spring, summer and fall months. There are opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and enjoying nature. Due to unreliable snowpack, this area is not suitable for cross-country skiing.

Other Features of Value

Western Portion

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

Eastern Portion

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

Manageability

Western Portion

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

Eastern Portion

The eastern portion of the polygon follows the eastern boundary of the South Sierra Wilderness and the straight-line forest boundary along the southern and eastern boundary. There are very few cherry stemmed roads that protrude into the polygon; mostly short spurs along the western boundary (Haiwee Pass Trailhead, 0.9 miles; 21S101, 0.9 miles; and Tunawee, 0.5 miles). The northern portion of the polygon is narrow and elongated north to south, and there is a buffer between the road system and the South Sierra Wilderness boundary. The southwestern portion of the polygon is narrow and elongated west to east, and there is a buffer between Kennedy Meadows road and the South Sierra Wilderness boundary. The remaining areas of the polygon are up to four miles across, with little to no development or permanent intrusions. The polygon is contiguous with both the South Sierra Wilderness and the Sacatar Trail Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). Grazing occurs in the eastern portion of the polygon, as well as on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands. Talus Canyon, Dunmovin spring box, but there is no record of water rights. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has infrastructure in Haiwee Canyon.

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

Western Portion

In, Monache and Blackrock, there are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in a few specific areas. Opportunities for solitude are limited in others due to extensive networks of authorized motorized trails, areas with high recreation use, forest system roads or paved roads. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in most of the polygon.

Eastern Portion

In South Sierra East, there are intact true Mojave Desert and oak woodland ecosystems. There are opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in most areas, and limited opportunities in others due to proximity to authorized motorized trails, areas with high recreation use, or paved roads. Sights and sounds of motorized use outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There is the potential to reshape the polygon to exclude developments that are substantially noticeable and existing uses that limit opportunities for solitude due to the adjacency of the South Sierra Wilderness and many intact and unique vegetation features.

Entire Polygon

An ecological group with less than 10 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprises 3,556 acres. Ecological groups with less than 15 percent of their national extent in the National Wilderness Preservation System comprise an additional 14,021 acres. The northern and southwestern portion of the polygon is a narrow buffer between the South Sierra Wilderness and the road system, which affects manageability. There is the potential to reshape the remaining portion of the polygon, east of South Sierra Wilderness, particularly adjacent to the South Sierra Wilderness, to make it more manageable.

Polygon 1550 (McBride Flat)

General Description

Polygon 1550 (McBride Flat) consists of 12,198 acres ranging in elevation from 7,000-8,400 feet in the southern end of the Excelsior Mountain area, north of the Pizona area, southeast of Mono lake, and just south of the Forest Service boundary between the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests (Figure B-4, Inyo National Forest evaluation map B. The polygon is elongated with designated roads near the western, southern, and eastern boundaries. One motorized trail (one mile long) is in the northwestern portion of the polygon.

Wilderness Characteristics

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

The ecosystem consists of a mosaic of pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush flats, with some small alkali meadows. The area is within the Pizona-Truman Pinyon Pine Volcanics TEUI landtype association. It includes a combination of mafic and felsic volcanic geology with very deep soils present almost exclusively on the Forest in the northern Glass Mountains and Pizona Area. The polygon is largely undeveloped and within the Excelsior Inventoried Roadless Area in California. The Nevada portion of the polygon was not included in the inventoried roadless process because at that time (1970) it was not managed by the forest. The polygon is comprised largely of pinyon-juniper woodland. There are relatively few invasive plant species. Cheatgrass may be present, but in small amounts and concentrated around roads. There is a departure from natural fire regime in some places as evidenced by pinyon pine expansion. This area has limited habitat fragmentation and the connectivity between pinyon-juniper habitats and shrublands remains intact. There are no grazing allotments in this area. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area; wild horses have expanded significantly in this area. There is limited water with a few intermittent and ephemeral stream channels. These are of unknown condition. Soils are likely at desired condition. The air quality is good, with dust from Mono Basin.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The area consists of canyons within the pinyon-juniper woodland, with sagebrush in the lower and higher elevations where the topography is relatively flat and open. Screening is relatively high within the canyons and pinyon-juniper woodlands. There is one authorized motorized trail in sagebrush, where

sights and sounds are greater and limit opportunities for solitude. However, the trail ends in pinyon-juniper and is only one-mile long. There are no other motorized trails within the polygon. Designated roads are near the western, southern, and eastern boundaries and may limit opportunities for solitude; however, with the high screening and cover of pinyon-juniper, these effects are minimal within the center of the polygon. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. The potential for encounters is low and is mostly concentrated around the roads where dispersed recreation may occur.

There are no permanent or temporary structures or improvements within this area. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including cross-country hiking, but backpacking may be limited due to the lack of water sources. Winter recreation is limited by snow levels, topography, vegetation, and access.

Other Features of Value

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

The area contains playas which offer habitat to sensitive plant species, fairy shrimp, and foraging stop-overs for migratory birds. Antelope are also known to occur in this area, a species whose range includes the Inyo National Forest, but is rare in this area. This area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. The area is largely unsurveyed for cultural resources. The few sites known are dense prehistoric toolstone scatters, one of which includes rock wall hunting blind features.

Manageability

There is one motorized trail in the northwestern portion of the polygon. Designated roads border the western, southern, and eastern portions of this polygon. No timber, vegetation treatments, special uses, or lands activities occur within this area. Management for wild horses occur in this area which may include fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. Although there is access to this area, it is not contiguous with other designated land allocations, such as wilderness or Research Natural Areas.

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

This area is remote and undeveloped with opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the majority of the polygon. Opportunities for solitude are limited in some areas due to authorized motorized trails and proximity to designated roads near the boundaries. Sights and sounds of motorized use within and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. The area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area, which may require management, including fencing, corrals, and helicopter use. There is the potential to reshape the polygon to make it more manageable.

Analysis

Initial Selection of Areas

The draft wilderness evaluation narratives provided the foundation for the initial selection of areas to analyze as recommended wilderness. The Forest Supervisor and staff reviewed the draft wilderness evaluation narratives and as a starting point, considered the quality of wilderness characteristics, the extent of development and use within and adjacent to the areas, and the feasibility of management as recommended wilderness. During the initial selection of areas, the Forest Supervisor also considered public comments received as well as input from the tribal forums.

Maps and narrative descriptions were developed for each initially selected area that described the following:

- Name of potential recommended wilderness area.
- Number of acres.
- Location and potential boundary.
- General geography, topography, and vegetation.
- Current uses.
- Wilderness characteristics of the area and the ability to protect and manage the area to preserve those wilderness characteristics.

In May 2015, we posted the maps and narratives of these initially selected areas on the Pacific Southwest Regional planning website for Wilderness Recommendations:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3803608>

Identification of Additional Areas

Based on public input received from June to November 2015 on the initially selected areas and evaluation process, the Forest Supervisor and staff continued reviewing additional areas to carry forward as recommended wilderness under one or more alternatives. The Forest Supervisor considered the following factors in selecting areas:

1. Appearance of naturalness.

The Forest Supervisor considered whether human modifications (for example, mining operations, and plantations) to the area were substantially noticeable. Areas where human modifications were substantially noticeable and adversely affected the appearance of naturalness were not carried forward.

Where possible, boundaries were redrawn to exclude areas with substantially noticeable human modifications or activities that adversely affected the appearance of naturalness.

2. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation

The Forest Supervisor considered the degree to which areas offered opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Where external factors adversely affected these opportunities, the Forest Supervisor considered how extensive these impacts were within the areas. The presence or

adjacency of motorized roads or trails, groomed snowmobile trails, recreation sites, and infrastructure affected whether areas were carried forward.

Where possible, boundaries were redrawn to exclude areas where the presence or adjacency of such impacts adversely affected opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation experience.

3. Manageability.

The Forest Supervisor considered the degree to which existing management activities and potential future management needs might adversely impact wilderness characteristics. This included, but was not limited to, management of existing special use permits and facilities.

4. Ecosystem representation.

The Forest Supervisor considered whether areas presented an opportunity to protect ecosystem types that are underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Each area was evaluated holistically. Selection and exclusion decisions for individual areas were generally based on multiple factors, and took into account the level of public interest in recommending wilderness areas.

Public Input on Areas Considered for Analysis and Draft Evaluation Narratives

In December 2015, the public was given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft wilderness evaluation narratives for areas under consideration for analysis in the alternatives, as well as maps and tables prior to the completion of the draft environmental impact statement.

The public was invited to review these materials and provide feedback over a 45-day period. We also asked for input regarding suitable uses and management of recommended wilderness. We received and reviewed over 300 submissions from individuals and organizations.

Summary of Public Input

The majority of comments received came from the mountain biking community and expressed opposition to including any of the areas in the alternatives.

Public input generally fell into the following categories:

1. Areas being considered for inclusion.
 - Concerns that areas were excluded based on inaccurate evaluation (e.g. manageability) or other reasons.
 - Concerns that the Forest Service had not provided rationale or a repeatable process for identifying areas to carry forward.
 - Concerns with the reduction in size of areas carried forward without adequate explanation.
 - Concerns that not enough inventoried roadless areas were being considered for inclusion.
 - Concerns with roads and road setbacks.
2. Alternatives.
 - Concerns that the areas being carried forward do not constitute a broad range of alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

- Concerns that there should be additional alternatives that better balance protection of lands with wilderness values and other management needs inconsistent with wilderness values.
 - Concerns that specific areas were not proposed for inclusion in specific alternatives.
3. Wilderness evaluation process.
 - Concerns with the sequence of the process.
 - Concerns regarding coordination with local governments.
 - Concerns with the inventory process.
 4. Draft wilderness evaluation narratives.
 - Concerns that management trade-offs and manageability of areas as recommended wilderness were improperly considered.
 - Concerns with the level of emphasis placed on the presence of past or current human activities or improvements when evaluating naturalness.
 - Concerns that the criterion requiring an area to have “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation” was improperly applied.
 - Concerns that when referencing outside sights and sounds as an impact to naturalness, descriptions of how pervasive these sights or sounds were was inadequate.
 - Concerns that when referencing the presence of motorized uses as an impact to opportunities for solitude, descriptions of how pervasive these uses were and how opportunities for solitude were influenced was inadequate.
 - Concerns with inconsistencies in the findings and the narratives.
 - Concerns with the assumption that plant species and wildlife will do better if in wilderness than on multiple-use lands.
 - Concerns that wilderness characteristics of inventoried roadless areas within larger polygons were not adequately addressed. Issues with inconsistencies between evaluation narratives and descriptions of inventoried roadless areas included in existing plans.
 - Concerns that important motorized backcountry or alpine off-highway vehicle trails may have been missed because they are outside of identified destination off-highway vehicle areas.
 - Concerns with bias in the evaluation narratives.
 5. Area-specific information.
 - Suggestions for additional areas to include or exclude in the analysis and specific information about why.
 - Details about activities, unique features of value, and existing uses in specific areas.
 6. Specific activities.
 - Concerns that management of recommended wilderness would be the same as designated wilderness areas, where recreation using motorized equipment and mechanized transportation would be prohibited or severely restricted.
 - Types of activities highlighted included motorized recreation, over snow vehicle use, mountain biking, climbing, rockhounding, orienteering, adventure racing, research activities and installations, fire management, wildlife management, historic structures management, and livestock grazing.
 7. Issues with maps.

- Requests to include more detailed maps of the areas to better locate analysis polygon boundaries and their relationship to roads and trails.
 - Suggestions to update certain analysis polygon names to better match the names of places within them.
 - Suggestions to provide electronic copies of detailed maps that allow the public to zoom in and out.
 - Discrepancies among the data, descriptions, and maps, though no further details were provided.
8. Feedback on suitable uses in recommended wilderness.
- Requests to allow human-powered transport, including bicycles.
 - Requests to prohibit mountain biking and off-road vehicles.
 - Requests to manage landscapes to maintain wilderness characteristics while also allowing for diverse recreation activities and uses through creative and tailored agency management prescriptions and alternative land protection designations.
 - Requests to follow Forest Service directives and provide documentation and rationale for continuing to allow uses in recommended wilderness that would not be allowed in designated wilderness, as well as standards to ensure wilderness potential is not reduced.
 - Requests to manage recommended wilderness areas to maintain existing wilderness character and potential.
 - Suggestions for desired conditions for recommended wilderness.
 - Allowing up to 10 percent tree harvesting.
 - Making sure hunting regulations are the same as surrounding forests.
 - Allowing access to wildlife guzzlers for maintenance needs.

Final Identification of Areas to Analyze

We carefully considered public feedback and used the following process to identify the final set of areas to analyze as recommended wilderness in the alternatives:

1. Identify areas that the public has shown the greatest interest in analyzing as recommended wilderness.
2. Review and refine the wilderness evaluation narratives based on public input.
3. Use a consistent approach to determine which areas to include in the analysis.

Identify Areas of Greatest Public Interest

The first step was to identify areas of greatest public interest that were not already being considered for inclusion in the analysis. Areas considered to be of greatest public interest included areas that multiple stakeholders expressed interest in and that also came up several times throughout the process.

Further Refine Evaluation Narratives

The second step was to review the wilderness evaluation narratives to address the most critical concerns identified in public comments. Specifically, a review of the evaluation narratives was conducted to ensure they included appropriate management considerations and accurate descriptions of existing conditions and activities, including the relative influence of these conditions and activities on wilderness characteristics. These concerns were considered to be the most critical because they had the potential to influence consideration of an area for inclusion in the analysis.

In terms of management considerations, descriptions within the evaluation narratives were reviewed that the public expressed concerns about, particularly fire management, livestock grazing, management of threatened and endangered species, invasive species management, and ecological restoration. In terms of the influence of existing conditions and activities on wilderness characteristics, description of naturalness were reviewed to ensure that assessment of wilderness characteristics were not solely based on the natural range of variation. Where applicable, evaluation narratives were revised to include more detailed descriptions of the impacts of motorized uses on opportunities for solitude. Finally, we corrected any factual errors identified by the public.

During this review of evaluation narratives, exclusions of polygons from the analysis were reassessed based on the refinements made in response to public input. In particular, we focused on those polygons that the public showed interest in at some point in the process. As a result, some of the polygons no longer had strong rationale for why they were not carried forward into the analysis.

Determine Which Areas to Include in the Analysis

The Forest Supervisor decided to include additional recommended wilderness areas as part of alternative C in response to public input. Areas of greatest public interest were included as part of alternative C, as well as additional areas considered while refining the evaluation narratives that no longer had strong rationale for why they were not carried forward into the analysis. However, the areas that include authorized motorized trails based on recent travel management decisions were excluded. These motorized portions of the polygons are part of an alternative considered but eliminated from detailed study (see chapter 2). The rationale for all polygons or portions of polygons that were not included in the analysis can be found in Table B-5.

Some of the areas that were previously shared with the public as recommended wilderness in alternative C were adjusted to include more of the original evaluation polygon but without the portions that contained motorized uses. . As a result, more of the non-motorized areas the public was interested in analyzing was included and consistency among alternative C recommended wilderness areas was improved.

The Forest Supervisor did not make adjustments to alternatives B, B-modified, or D.

The McBride Flat area was not previously included in the wilderness inventory and evaluation because it was outside the Forest's administrative boundary. Now that the administrative boundary has been formally changed, the inventory and evaluation for this area has been completed. Because the public had not had a chance to weigh in on this area, it was included as recommended wilderness in alternative C.

Analysis Maps and Detailed Descriptions of Analyzed Areas

The following map (Figure B-12) and Table B-4 provide an overview of all the areas analyzed on the Inyo National Forest that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Individual maps are included with each description. A table listing the areas (polygons and portions of polygons) not analyzed, and the rationale, is provided in Table B-5.

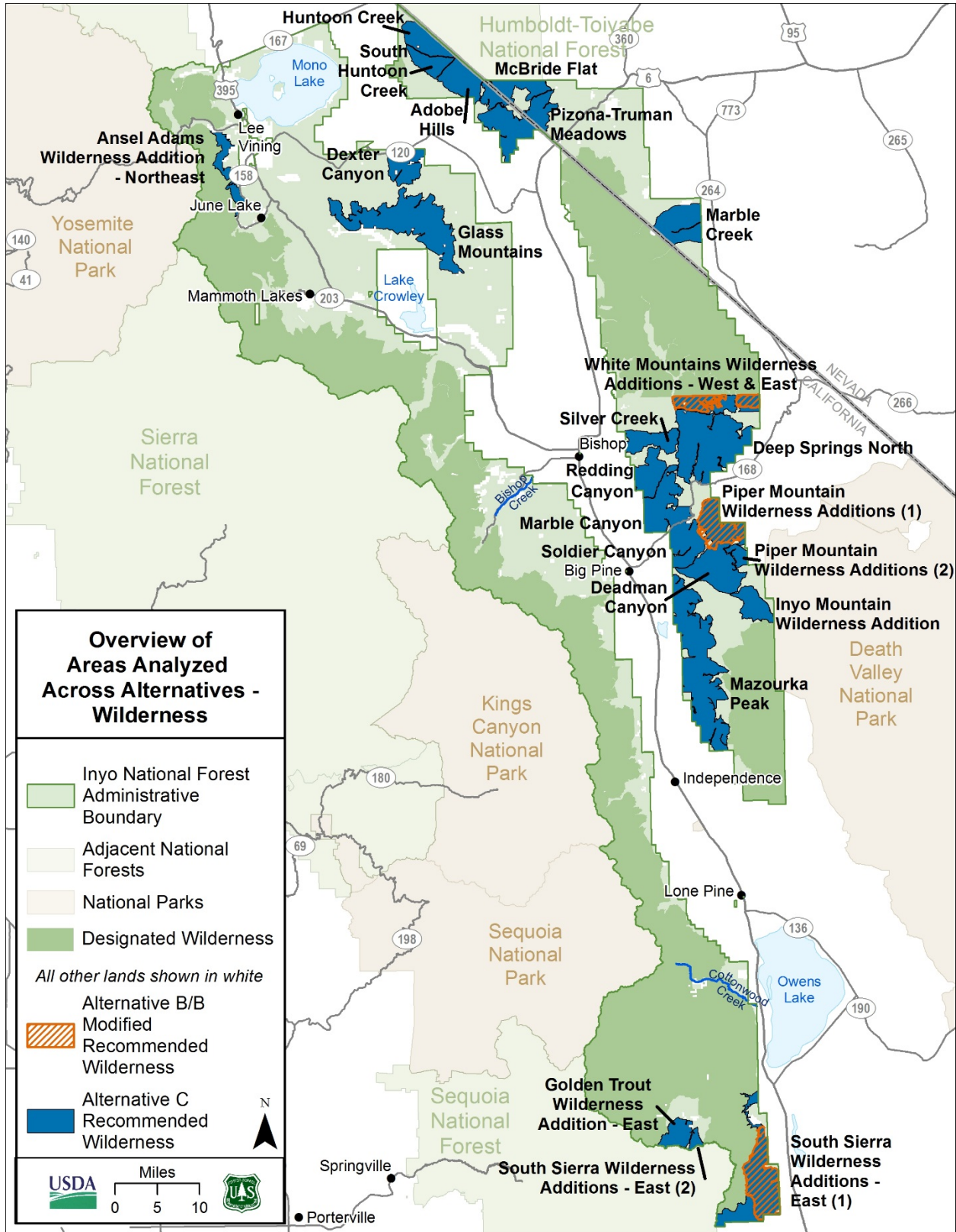


Figure B-12. Overview of Inyo National Forest areas analyzed that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Table B-4. Inyo National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons (or portions thereof) analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternatives B and C

Evaluation Polygon Identification Number	Evaluation Polygon Acres	Evaluation Polygon Name	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative B	Names (Acres) of Specific Areas Analyzed as Recommended Wilderness in Alternative C
1012	40,368	Glass Mountains	None	Glass Mountains (35,749)
1068	12,311	Dexter Canyon	None	Dexter Canyon (8,740)
1179	7,212	Lower Lee Vining Canyon to June Lake Loop	None	Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast (7,046)
1236	73,128	West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness	None	Inyo Mountains Wilderness Addition (7,479) Mazourka Peak (42,927)
1242	2,678	North of Little Cowhorn Valley	None	Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (2) (2,726)
1246	43,231	North of Eureka Valley Road	Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1) ^A (11,840)	Deadman Canyon ^C (15,910) Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1) (11,313) Soldier Canyon (11,024)
1248	38,756	Redding Canyon, Black Canyon	None	Marble Canyon (15,867) Redding Canyon (8,906) Silver Creek (8,630)
1258	35,248	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South	None	Deep Springs North (34,716)
1281	11,210	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow	White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East) (2,505) White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West) (5,062)	White Mountains Wilderness Additions (East) (3,288) White Mountains Wilderness Additions (West) (8,630)
1308	13,886	Indian Creek to Leidy Creek	None	Marble Creek (13,707)
1339	19,826	Pizona-Truman Meadows	None	Pizona-Truman Meadows (19,957)
1355	10,297	Excelsior Mountains-Adobe Hills	None	Adobe Hills (10,354)
1357	5,805	Excelsior Mountains	None	South Huntoon Creek (5,898)
1361	8,855	Excelsior Mountains - Huntoon Creek	None	Huntoon Creek (8,876)
1391 ^B	33,247	Monache, Blackrock and South Sierra East	South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) (17,622)	Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East (6,008) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) (25,469) South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (2) (1,514)
1550	12,198	McBride Flat ^D	None	McBride Flat (10,621)

A. In previously publicly shared information of areas being considered for inclusion in one or more alternatives as potential recommended wilderness, this area was call “Deep Springs South.” It is been renamed “Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1).”

B. Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the acres occurring on the Inyo National Forest.

C. In previously publicly shared information of areas being considered for inclusion in one or more alternatives as potential recommended wilderness, this area was call “Soldier Canyon” It is been renamed “Deadman Canyon.”

D. McBride Flat is a polygon that was not included in the final inventory; the polygon was subsequently added due to an administrative boundary change that brought the area under the management of the Inyo National Forest.

Adobe Hills

10,354 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1355.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Adobe Hills map (Figure B-13). The boundary follows the California-Nevada state line, National Forest System roads, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The northern boundary follows forest road 03N11 and connects to road 02N109 to form the western and southern boundary. The remaining southern boundary follows the forest administrative boundary and then connects to forest road 01N113 to form the eastern boundary. The remaining eastern boundary follows the forest administrative boundary which is the California-Nevada state line.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Lake, within the Adobe Hills with elevations ranging from 7,200 to 7,600 feet. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography consists of low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands.

Current Uses

The area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The southeastern portion of the area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has few alterations to natural conditions. Lightly traveled roads and transmission lines outside the area are visible within the area, but sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. The area is remote and has opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Recreation opportunities may be limited due to the lack of available water.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

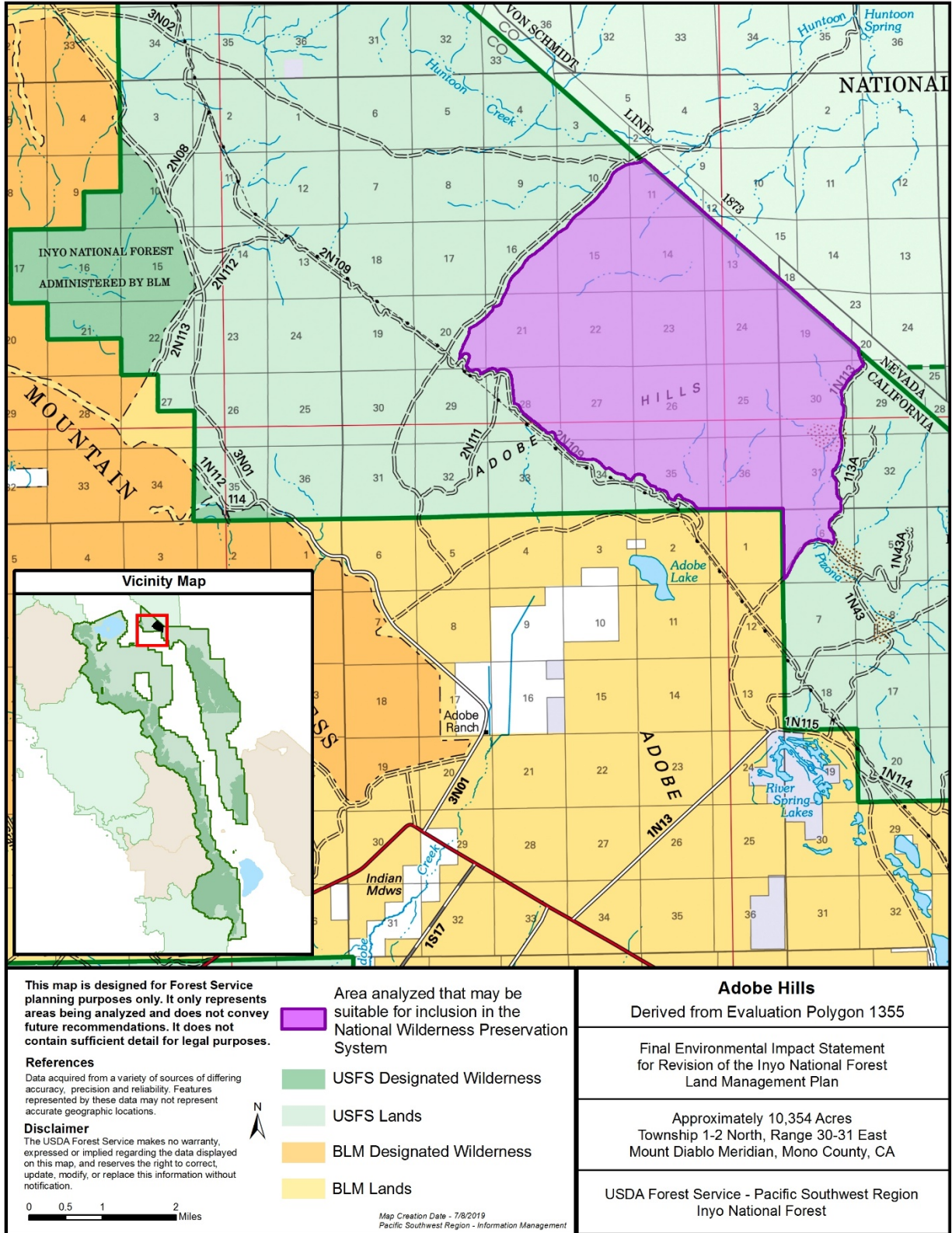


Figure B-13. Map of Adobe Hills area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast

7,046 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1179.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast map (Figure B-14). The western boundary is contiguous with the Ansel Adams Wilderness. However, private land parcels protrude into the area along the eastern boundary. Some of the eastern boundary follows roads and is more easily identifiable. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, or are private lands. The boundary excludes existing California State Highway System rights-of-ways (200 foot setback from authorized roads and highways).

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located along the Sierra Nevada escarpment from Lower Lee Vining Canyon to Silver Lake and ranges in elevation from 7,600 to 9,000 feet. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest, and white fir. It includes highly diverse conifer forests and aspen. The topography is steep, with many streams or drainages. There are numerous perennial stream channels, such as Walker Creek, Gibbs Creek, and Parker Creek.

Current Uses

The area has current and historic fish stocking, as well as fish barriers necessary to prevent trout from invading habitat for a federally listed frog species in upper reaches. Fish barriers require mechanical maintenance. Understory thinning projects to reduce fuels are being implemented. The area is designated critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, includes habitat for sage-grouse and may require habitat restoration management activities. There are aspen enhancement projects within the area. Walker Lake Dam is in the area. There are some Los Angeles Department of Water and Power structures. There are trailheads in the area. There is existing outfitting and guiding in the area, including a pack station. Motorized winter recreation use occurs within portions of the area. The northern half of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are five water rights in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There has been minimal human impact to the plant community. The area is very diverse, with low invasive plant species. Historic and current fish stocking have altered aquatic assemblages.

The area is near concentrated recreation use and facilities, and highways in the southern and northern portions of the area. As a result, there is a need for wildfire defensible space around developments and access roads. Proximity to concentrated recreation use and highways also limits opportunities for solitude. Topography on the west side provides screening, but screening is minimal in some areas and sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include cross-country hiking and general forest exploration.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.

Appendix B: Wilderness Recommendation Process

- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

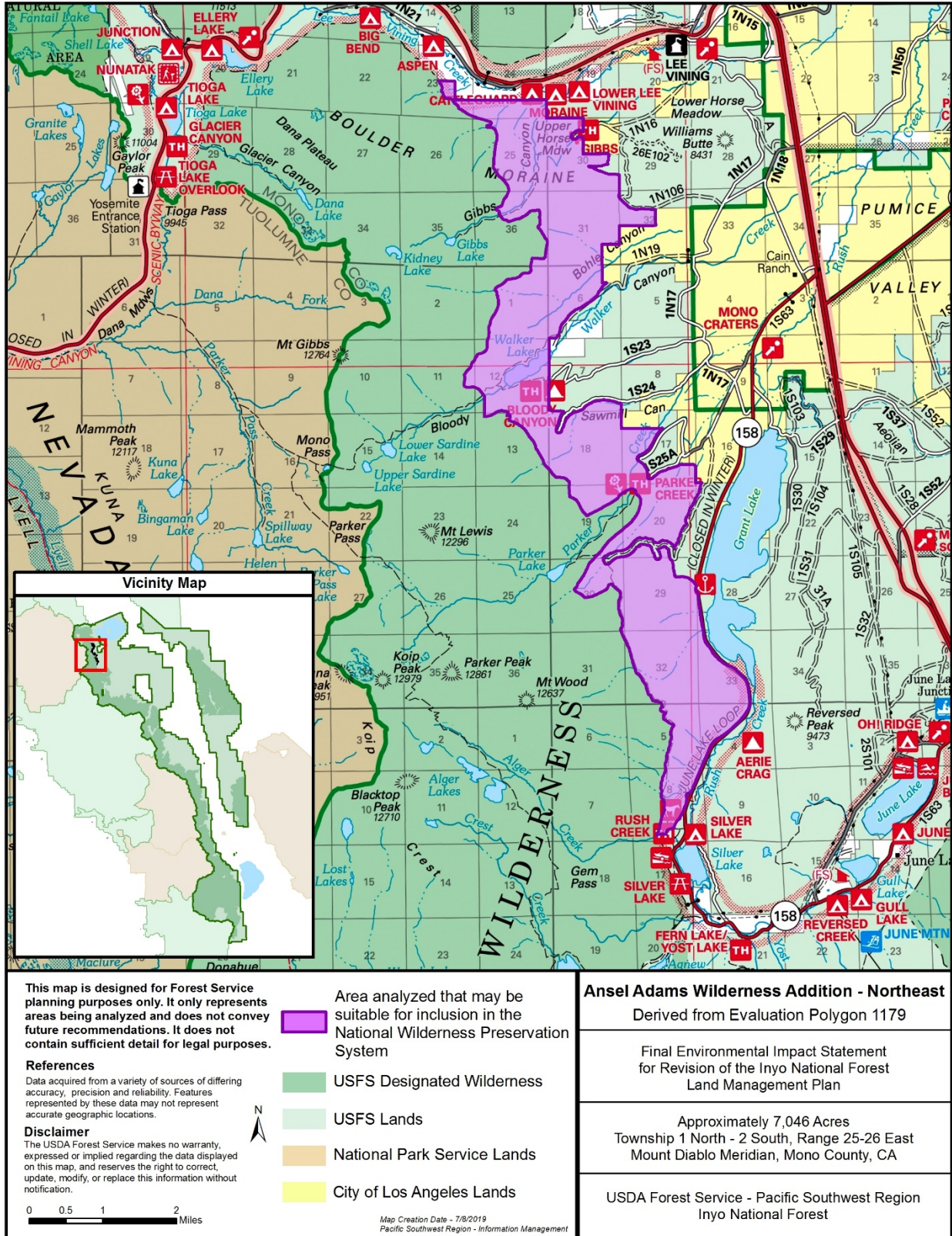


Figure B-14. Map of Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition – Northeast area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Deadman Canyon

15,910 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1246.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Deadman Canyon map (Figure B-15). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located between the White Mountains and Inyo Mountains, north of Eureka Valley Road and south of the boundary between the White Mountain and Mt. Whitney Ranger Districts. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 8,600 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are a large number of cultural resource sites. The area includes one water right. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. Proximity to motorized recreation limits opportunities for solitude in some areas. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding, and deer hunting.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

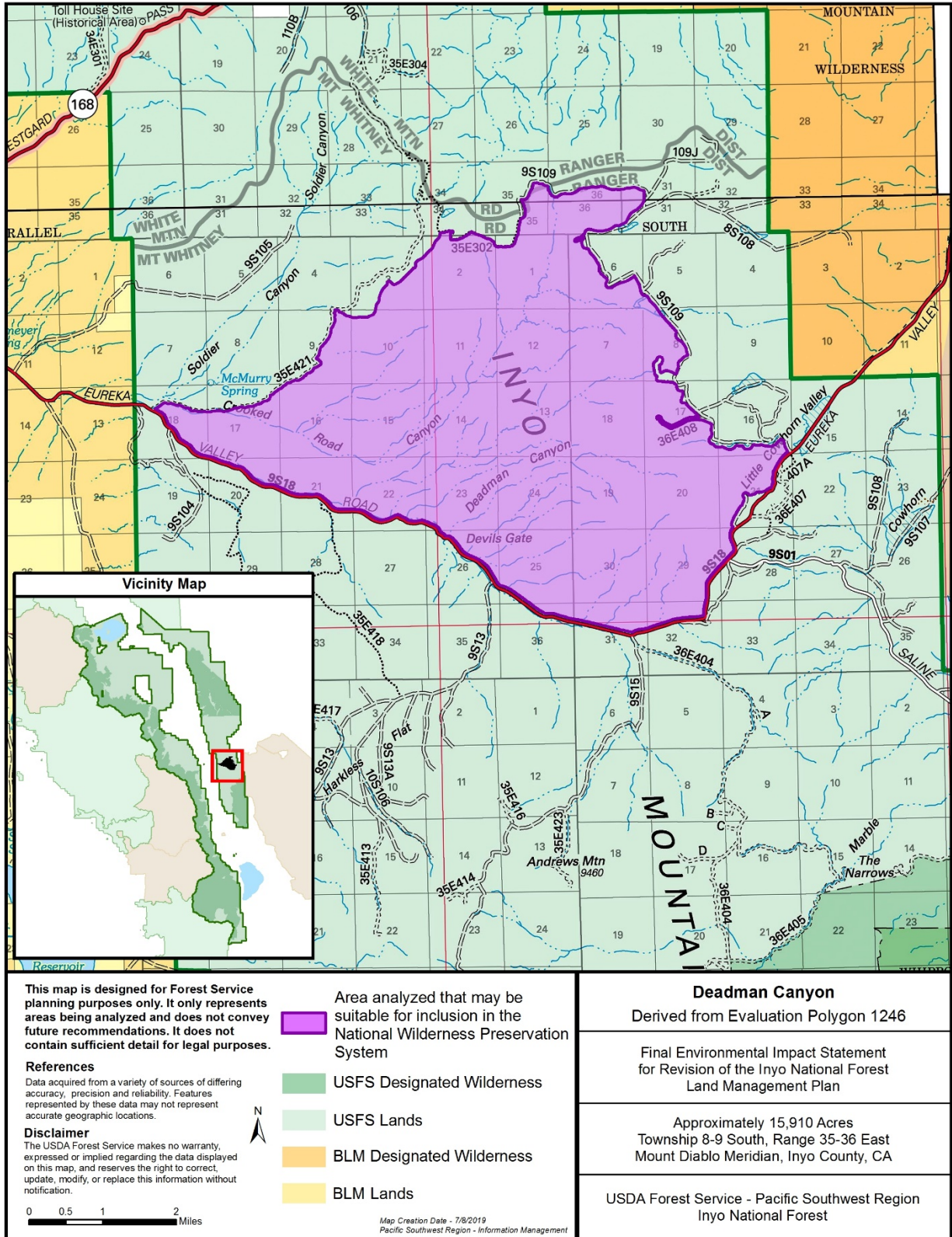


Figure B-15. Map of Deadman Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Deep Springs North

34,716 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1258.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Deep Springs North map (Figure B-16). The boundary follows National Forest System roads, a county road, natural features, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, or are private lands. The boundary excludes all motorized trails that protrude into the area.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located at the southern end of the White Mountains and is an area that exhibits complex geological processes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet along alluvial fans along the eastern boundary to over 9,000 feet along Robert's Ridge along the northern boundary. A central feature in the area is the Birch Creek granite batholith, which is emplaced amidst the parent sedimentary rocks of the White Mountains. The Birch Creek drainage comprises the majority of the area. Portions of the creek have perennial flows, and the creek is noted for its travertine formations and the canyon it has formed through the granite batholith. Ecosystem types include mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and subalpine forest.

Current Uses

The area has low recreation use including backpacking, hiking, and hunting. There is a use trail (not a forest system trail) in the Birch Creek drainage. The northwest portion of the area is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and includes the Discovery National Recreation Trail, Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center, and associated trails in the Shulman Grove area. Visitor use to this specific area is high. Livestock grazing occurs, with no range improvements associated with the allotments. Some of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are several documented cultural properties.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area includes the Birch Creek granite batholith geologic feature, which has scenic and scientific values, and several rare plants. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, outside of the Schulman Grove and Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center. The area is distant from occupied and modified areas. The steep ridges and deep drainages provides screening and sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Along the boundary, sights and sounds of motorized vehicle use on forest system roads may limit opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contains ecological features in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest that are of scientific and educational value.

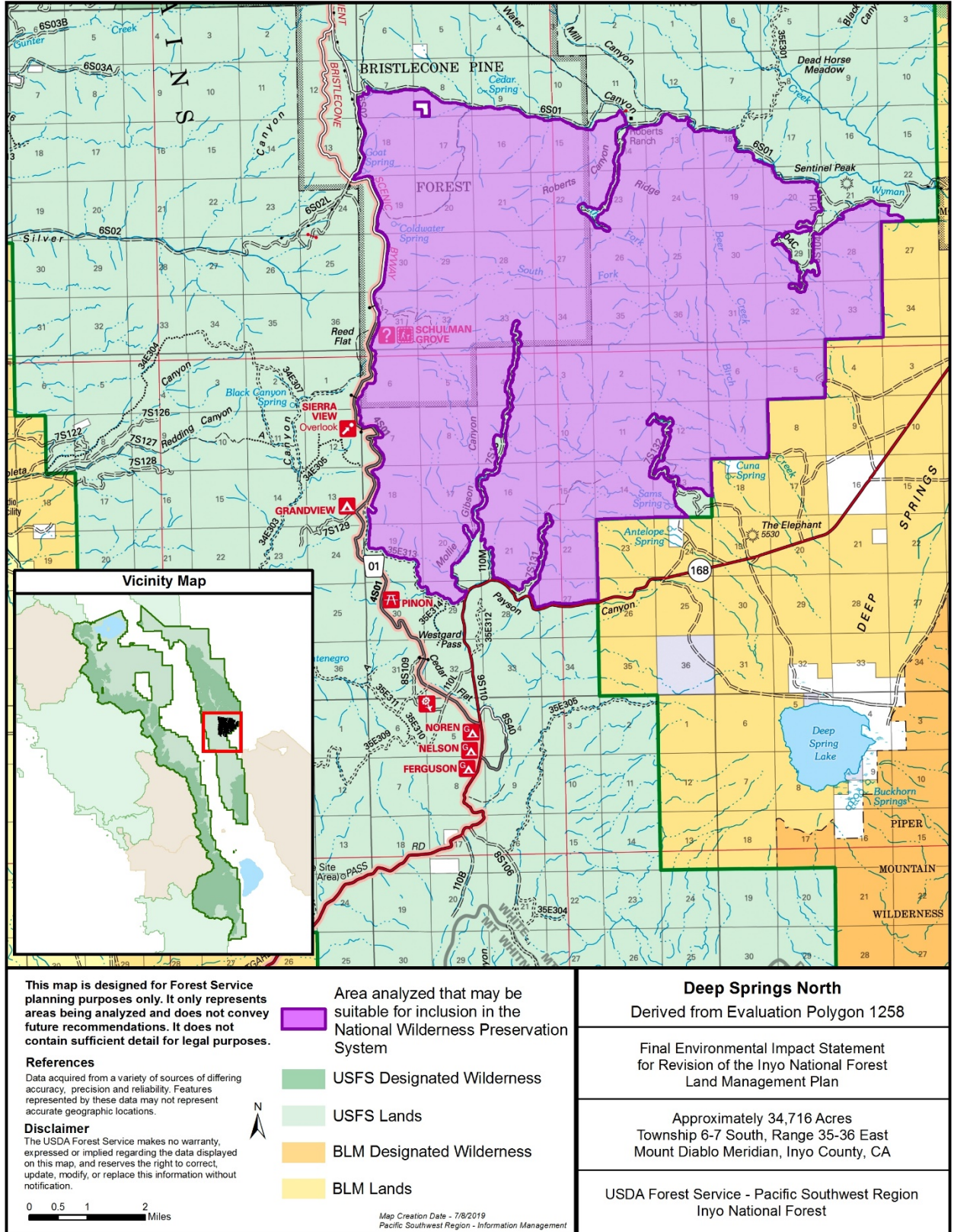


Figure B-16. Map of Deep Springs North area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Dexter Canyon

8,740 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1068.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Dexter Canyon map (Figure B-17). The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, roads, and private land boundaries, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, with some private lands northwest of Dexter Canyon. Private land parcels and roads protrude into the area. The boundary excludes motorized trails in the western portion. The boundary excludes existing California State Highway System rights-of-ways (200 foot setback from authorized roads and highways). The northern boundary follows Highway 120, excludes forest road 01S15B along the western boundary, follows forest road 01S15A, and connects to a topographic line at the southern boundary, connecting, and excluding, forest road 01S170. It follows forest road 01S17 for the remaining southern boundary and eastern boundary where it connects to the boundary with private lands.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located south of Highway 120 and east of Sagehen Peak and includes Dexter Canyon. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush. There are numerous perennial channels such as Dexter, Wet, and North Canyons. Intermittent channels also are present. Elevation ranges from 7,200 to 8,800 feet.

Current Uses

Some of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. A portion of the area is within an active sheep grazing allotment, which includes water troughs and a large water tank. There are several documented cultural resources. The area has low to moderate recreation use. The area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require habitat restoration management activities.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There has been some pinyon pine expansion in some areas that indicates a departure from natural fire regime. Native fish and fishless areas were stocked with non-native trout species, which has affected aquatic ecologic integrity. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration. Proximity to motorized recreation, private land parcels, and Highway 120 limits opportunities for solitude. Grazing activities may also limit opportunities for solitude. Shepherds drive sheep from place to place and set up camps where they stay overnight. Sights and sounds from inside and outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

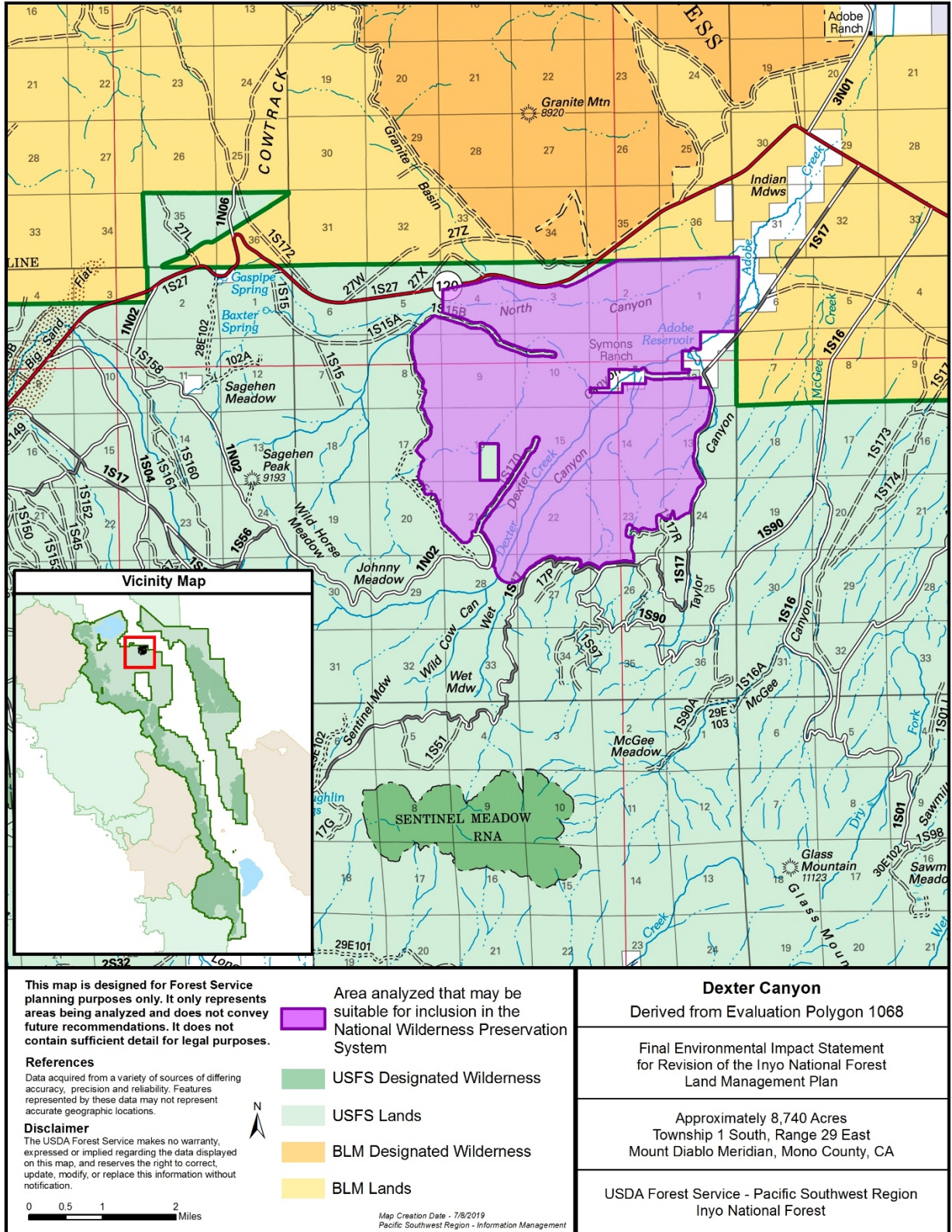


Figure B-17. Map of Dexter Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Glass Mountains

35,749 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1012.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Glass Mountains map (Figure B-18). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails and private land boundaries, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or are private lands. The boundary excludes motorized trails along the eastern and southwestern portions.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Glass Mountains and the Long Valley Caldera are part of the spectacular landscape formed by volcanic activity in the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains over the past 4 million years. Volcanic eruptions between 2.1 and 0.8 million years ago formed the lava domes and rhyolite or obsidian flows of the Glass Mountains on the northeastern rim of the caldera. Elevations range from 7,000 to over 11,000 feet. The majority of the area is mid-elevation forests (Jeffrey pine and mixed-conifer forests) with some high forests (subalpine, such as whitebark pine) along the southern end and pinyon woodlands in the foothills. Numerous perennial channels are present, as well as numerous intermittent channels.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area, research natural areas, and priority sage-grouse habitat. Active sage-grouse habitat restoration, watershed restoration, and aspen restoration is occurring. Livestock grazing occurs and allotments include fences and spring boxes. There are several cultural resource sites in the area. Outfitting and guiding under special use authorization occurs in the area. The Inyo National Forest typically issues several authorizations for summer backpacking and hiking trips to educational groups each year. The area has low to moderate dispersed recreation use including camping, hiking, hunting, and cross-country skiing. Motorized winter recreation use occurs within portions of the area. There is an existing use trail (not a forest system trail) to the summit of Glass Mountain from Sawmill Meadow. A Forest Service communication site on Glass Mountain is the only other improvement in the area. The Forest Service periodically uses helicopters to access the site and maintain the communication system. There is one inholding in the area, a 40-acre parcel west of Wilfred Canyon. There is no known existing road access to the inholding.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. Native fish and fishless areas were stocked with non-native trout species, which has affected aquatic ecologic integrity. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. There are no forest system trails or other recreation facilities within the area. The steep topography and lack of surface water supports a rugged and challenging recreation experience. Along the boundary, sights and sounds from motorized vehicle use on forest system roads outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Diversity and intact condition of the ecological types in the area.
- Geologic features that are both outstanding landscape features and features of scenic value.

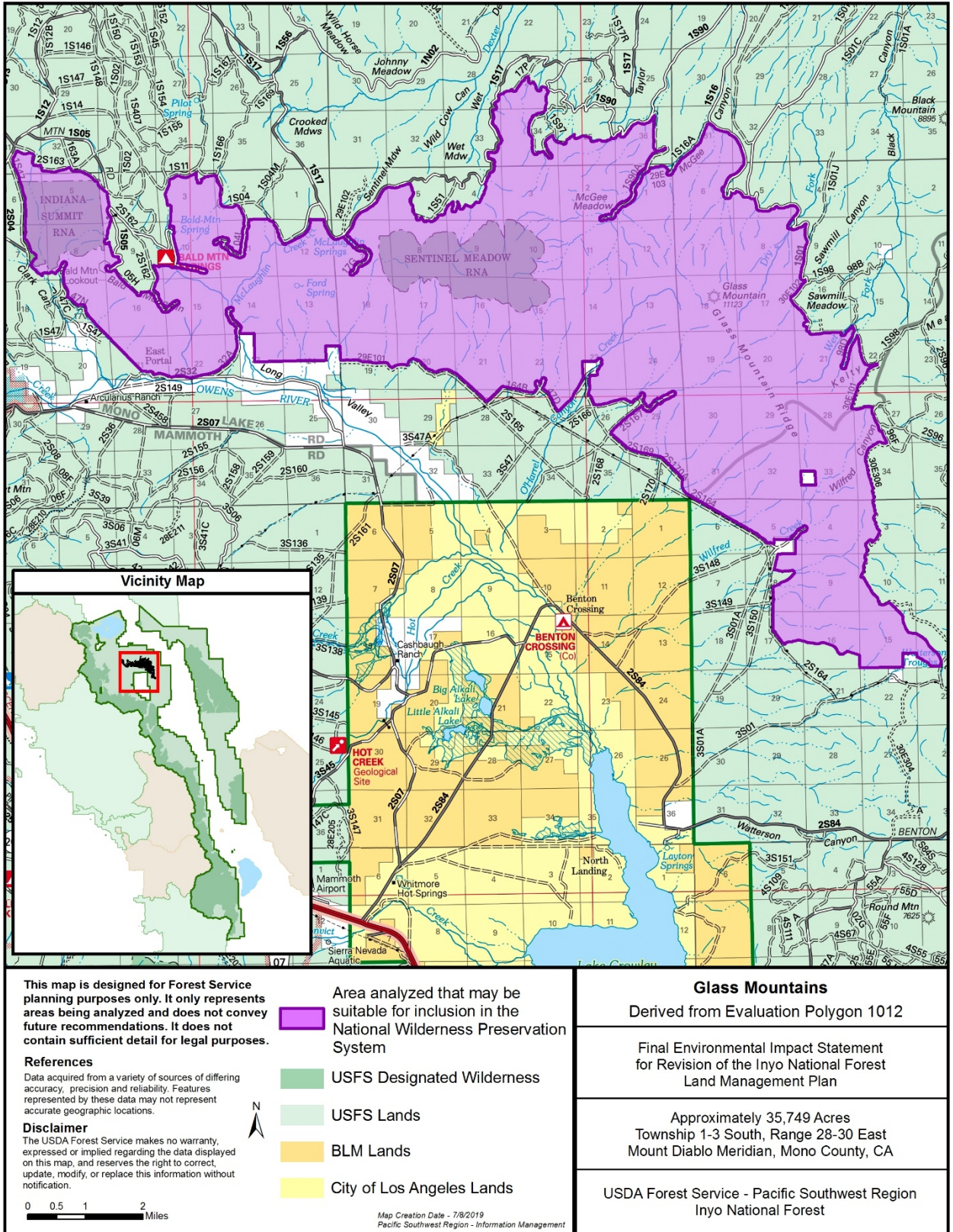


Figure B-18. Map of Glass Mountains area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East

6,008 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East map (Figure B-19.). A portion of the southwestern boundary is contiguous with the Golden Trout Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area includes Monache Mountain and is located west of Monache Meadows. Ecosystem types include red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest and white fir. The topography includes gentle to moderate slopes. The elevation ranges from 4,500 to 9,400 feet.

Current Uses

Grazing and range improvements occur in the Monache area and there has been some headcut and stream improvement work. Recreation uses include hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding on one forest system trail that accesses the Golden Trout Wilderness, and deer hunting in the fall. There are some opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, and enjoying nature on Monache Mountain. Several cultural resources occur.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity. The area moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Sights and sounds of motorized recreation outside the area are pervasive impacts to solitude in some areas. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and hunting.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

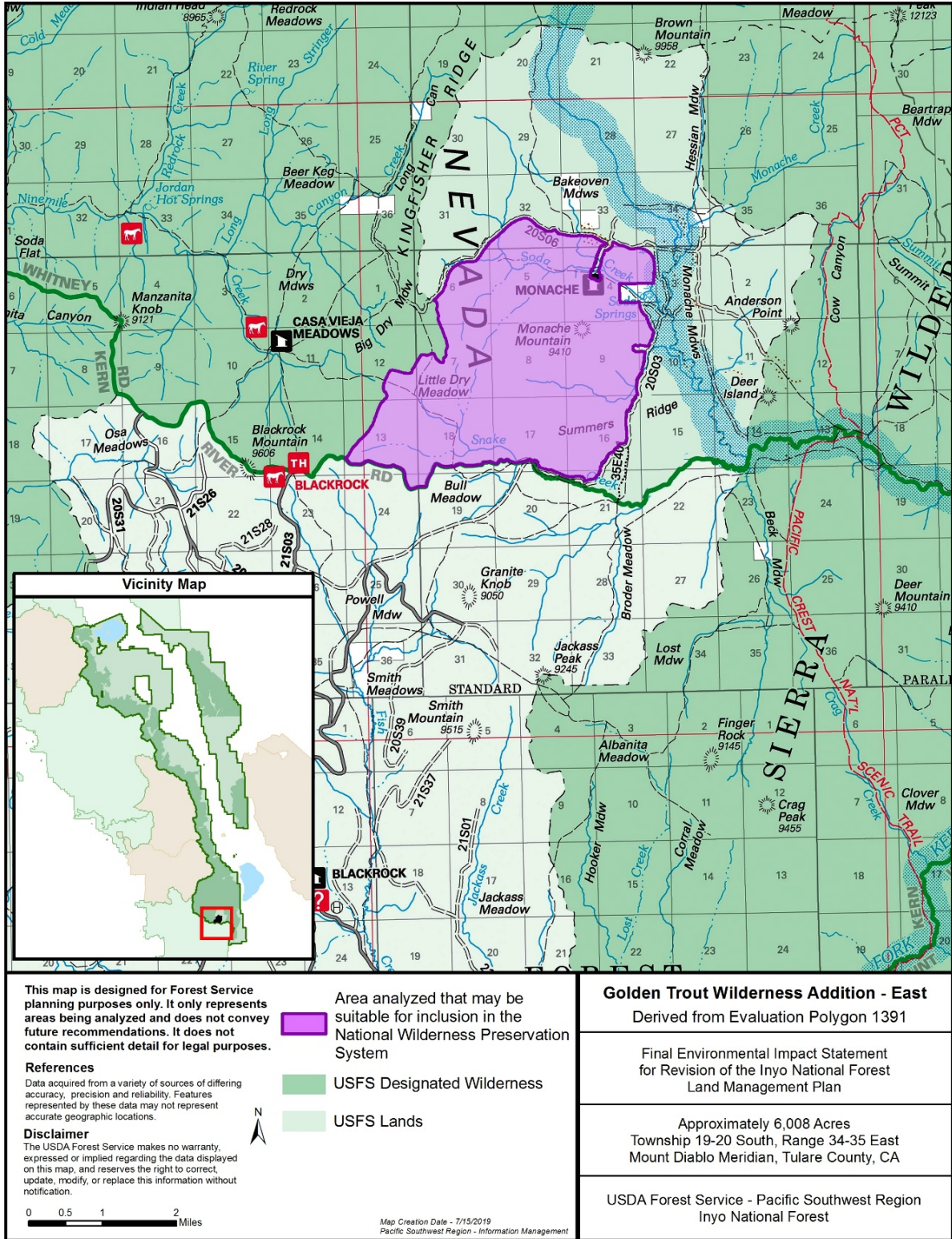


Figure B-19. Map of Golden Trout Wilderness Addition – East area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Huntoon Creek

8,876 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1361.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Huntoon Creek map (Figure B-20). The boundary follows the California-Nevada state line, National Forest System roads, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located in the Excelsior Mountains and includes Huntoon Creek. The elevation ranges from 7,200 to 7,800 feet. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands.

Current Uses

The area has low recreation use due to the remoteness of the area and limited water. The area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The northern portion of the area contains priority habitat for sage-grouse, which may require habitat restoration management activities. The southeastern most portion of the area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area. There is one undeveloped private land inholding (40-acre parcel) in the southwestern portion. The access to the private land parcel is unknown.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. The area is very remote, with opportunities for solitude. A power line corridor may be visible in some areas. Visitors may also be able to hear traffic from the roads that are along the northern, western, and southern boundaries. However, sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

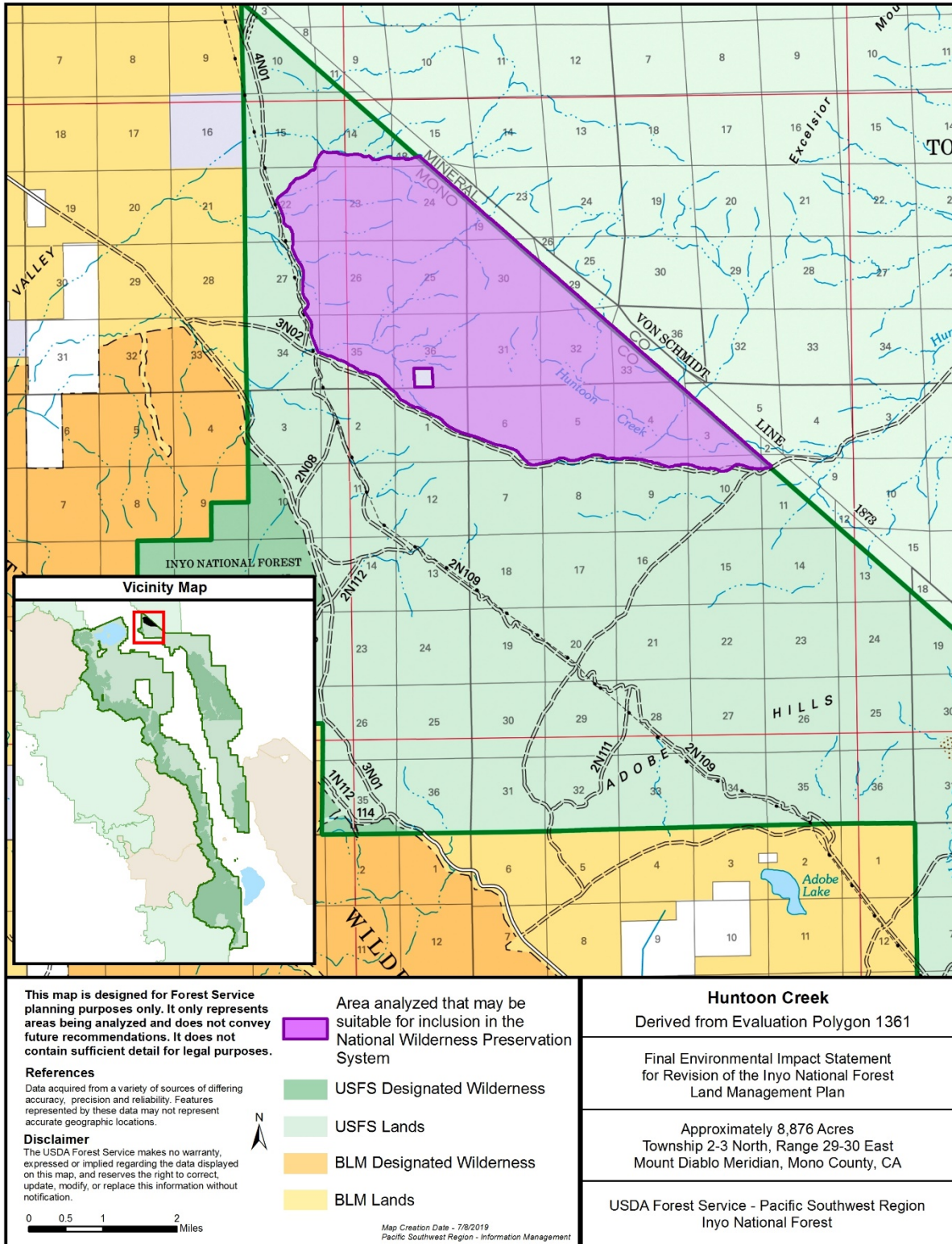


Figure B-20. Map of Huntoon Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Inyo Mountains Wilderness Addition

7,479 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1236.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Inyo Mountains Wilderness Addition map (Figure B-21). A small portion at the southern end of the area (The Narrows) is contiguous with the Inyo Mountains Wilderness (within Death Valley National Park). The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or the National Park Service.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is west of Saline Valley Road, north of a Forest Service motorized trail, east of Andrews Mountain, and south of Eureka Valley Road. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography includes canyons, including Marble Canyon, extremely rugged terrain, and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. Marble Canyon is a unique geologic feature.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area includes prehistoric and historic cultural resources sites. Marble Canyon is a scenic destination for day hikers. Cross-country hiking and backpacking are limited due to the lack of water. Off highway vehicle use occurs along the motorized trails surrounding the southern and western boundaries.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There is low human impact to plant and wildlife communities. There are developments related to mining activity as well as range improvements. Proximity to motorized recreation limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; however they may be limited to due lack of water.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

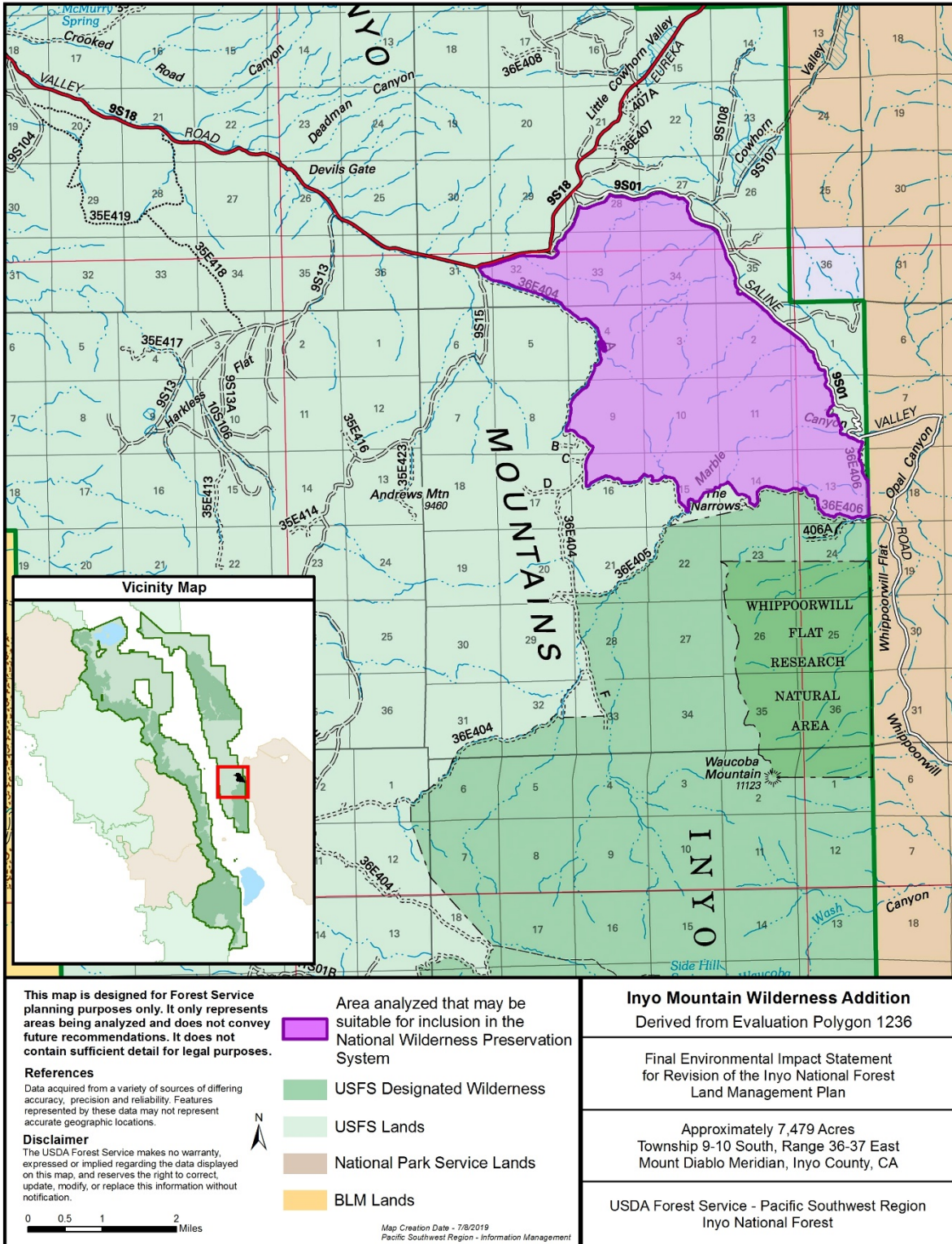


Figure B-21. Map of Inyo Mountains Wilderness Addition area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Marble Canyon

15,867 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1248.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Marble Canyon map (Figure B-22). The boundary follows several roads, motorized trails, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, or are private lands. The boundary excludes existing California State Highway System rights-of-ways (200 foot setback from authorized roads and highways). The northern boundary follows forest road 07S16, leading to the western boundary which follows the forest administrative boundary. This continues along the southern boundary, which follows topographic features and Highway 168. The eastern boundary follows motorized trails and topographic features until it connects with forest road 07S16.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Black Canyon, and north of Highway 168. It includes Black Mountain. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There is some firewood harvest occurring in the area from Westgard Pass Road. The area includes historic and prehistoric structures. Recreation uses include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and nature viewing.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity with mostly natural species composition. The area largely reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. There are numerous motorized trails protruding into the area. Proximity to the road and motorized trail system limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; however, they may be limited due to the lack of water and steep topography.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

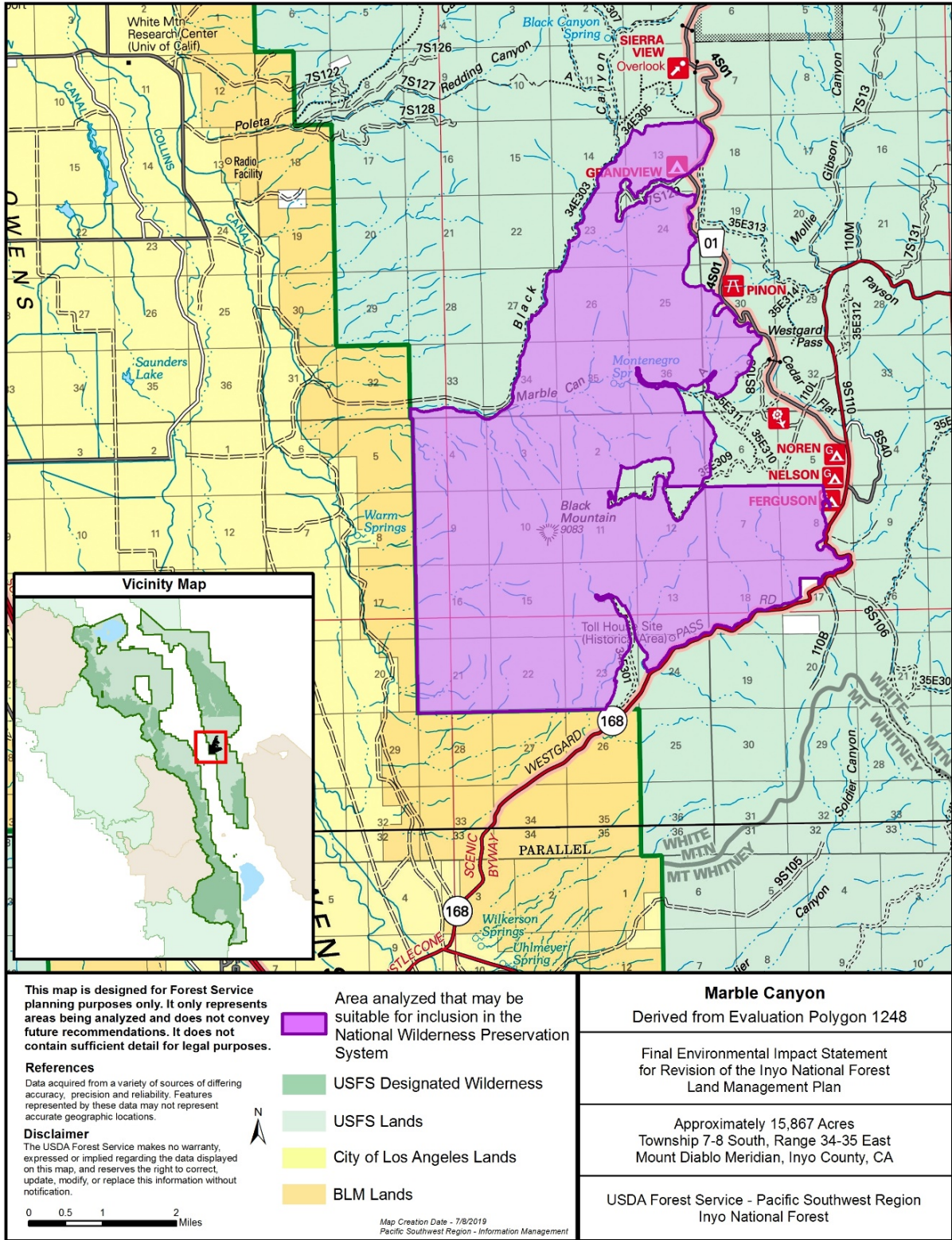


Figure B-22. Map of Marble Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Marble Creek

13,707 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1308.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Marble Creek map (Figure B-23). The western boundary is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness. The boundary follows National Forest System roads and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The Marble Canyon road is excluded from the area and the boundary follows this road based on a 200 foot buffer on each side of the road. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, or are private lands.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located on the east side of the White Mountains between Indian Creek on the north and Leidy Creek to the south. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The elevation ranges from 5,200 to 9,000 feet. There are steep slopes in the western portion and the eastern portion is relatively flat and open.

Current Uses

The western portion of the area is within a cattle grazing allotment. Guided hunting occurs. There is one water right. The western portion of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The entire area occurs within the White Mountain Wild Horse Territory. The area is adjacent to an old mining site, where mining activity may still occur.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate to high ecological integrity with some invasive plant species. Private land development, power lines, and Highway 264 may be visible within the area, but sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Most of the area is free from motorized sounds, especially along the western boundary. The northern and southern boundaries are along lightly used roads. The area is largely undeveloped and there are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as cross-country hiking, hunting, and general forest exploration, particularly in the western portion of the area.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area during the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

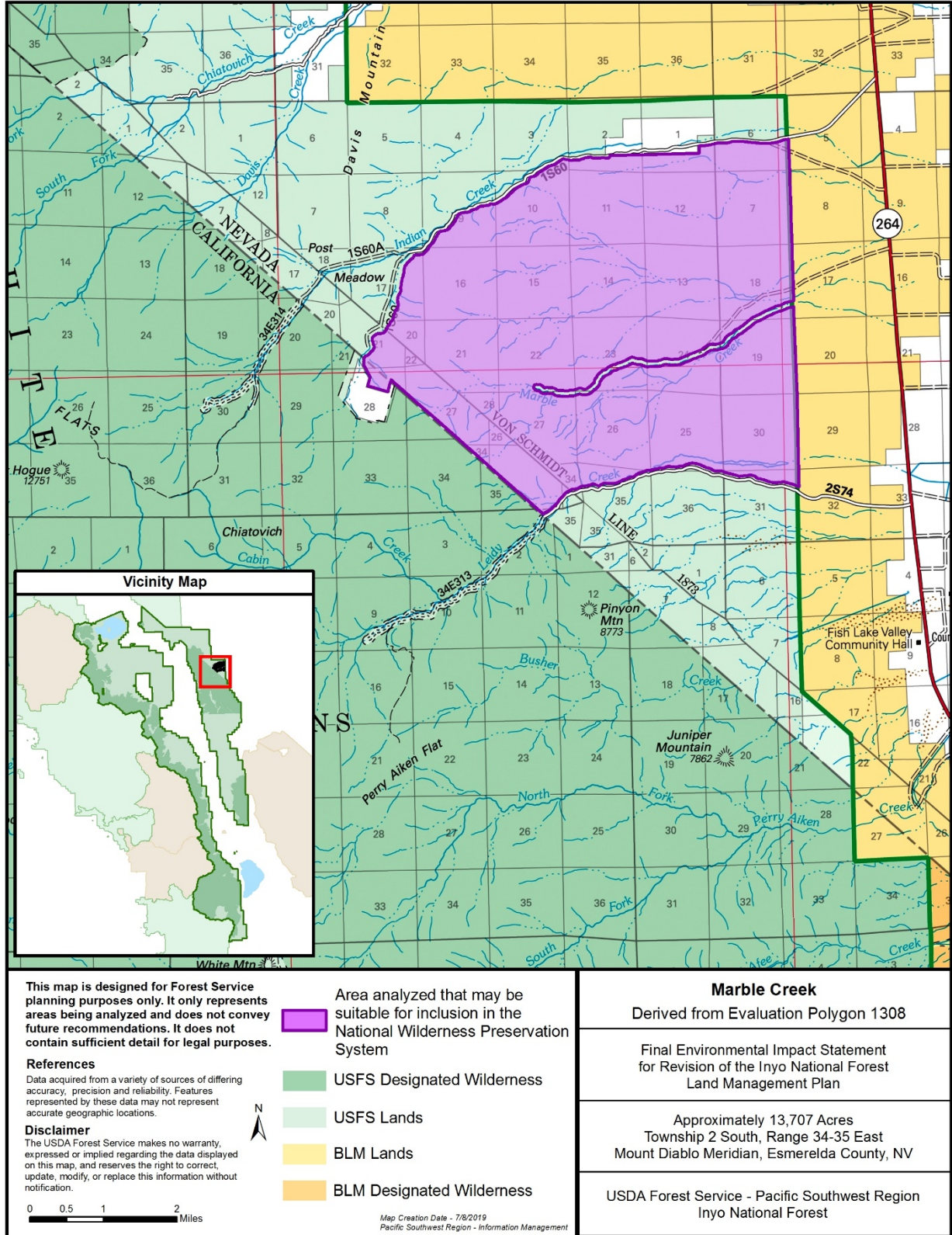


Figure B-23. Map of Marble Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Mazourka Peak

42,927 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1236.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Mazourka Peak map (Figure B-24). The boundary follows the forest administrative boundary and National Forest System roads and trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Roads and motorized trails protrude into the polygon. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is on the west side of the Inyo Mountains Wilderness between Eureka Valley Road on the north and Mazourka Canyon on the south. It includes Mazourka Peak and Santa Rita Spring. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography includes the steep western escarpment of the Inyo Mountains, with steep slopes, canyons, and extremely rugged terrain, and high elevation desert plateaus with steep to gentle slopes along the eastern side. The elevation ranges from 4,400 to 9,500 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area includes prehistoric and historic cultural resources sites.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

There is low human impact to plant and wildlife communities. There are developments related to mining activity as well as range improvements. Proximity to motorized recreation limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; however, they are limited due to the lack of water, steep topography, and routes requiring climbing skills.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

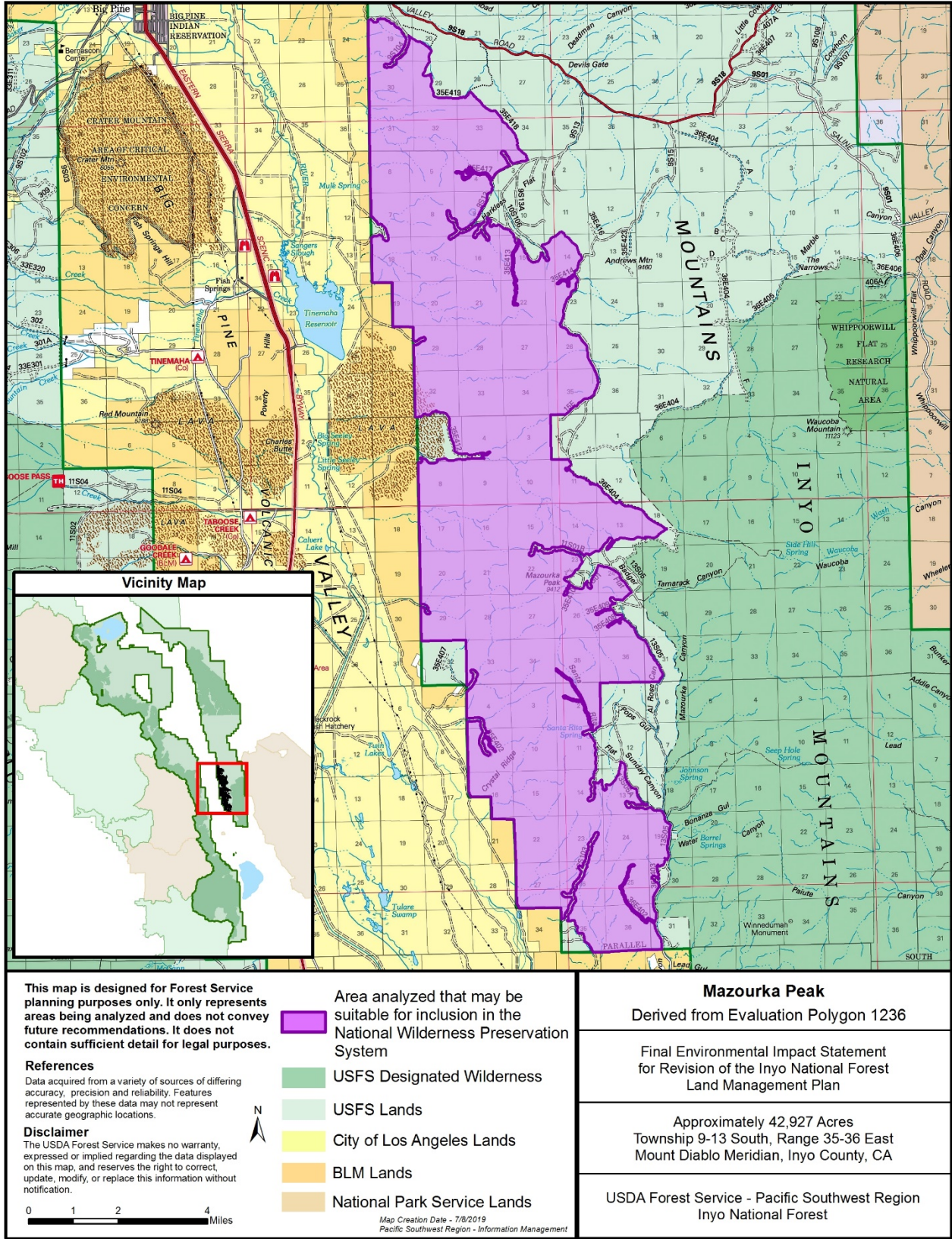


Figure B-24. Map of Mazourka Peak area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

McBride Flat

10,621 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1550.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the McBride Flat map (Figure B-25). The northern boundary follows the forest administrative boundary with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. One forest system road is excluded from this northern boundary. The western boundary follows forest road 01N113 and then a topographic line connecting to road 01N113A which leads to the southern boundary. Along the southern boundary forest road 01N34A is excluded and the boundary connects to a natural streambed then follows forest road 01N13C, with a few forest roads excluded, until road 01N13E. The boundary then follows a topographic line and ride to connect to road 01N13G. Then it follows road 01N13 for the remaining southern boundary and forms the western boundary at road 01N13H. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The area includes lands in both California and Nevada.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located in the southern end of the Excelsior Mountain area, north of the Pizona area, and southeast of Mono Lake. The elevation ranges from 7,000 to 8,400 feet. The ecosystem consists of a mosaic of pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush flats, with some small alkali meadows.

Current Uses

The western portion of the area (in California) is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The entire area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area. The area has very low recreation use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. There are opportunities for solitude within the majority of the area. Some dispersed recreation may occur along roads and motorized trails along the boundaries, but sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. There are likely opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, such as cross-country hiking and backpacking; however, they may be limited due to the lack of water.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

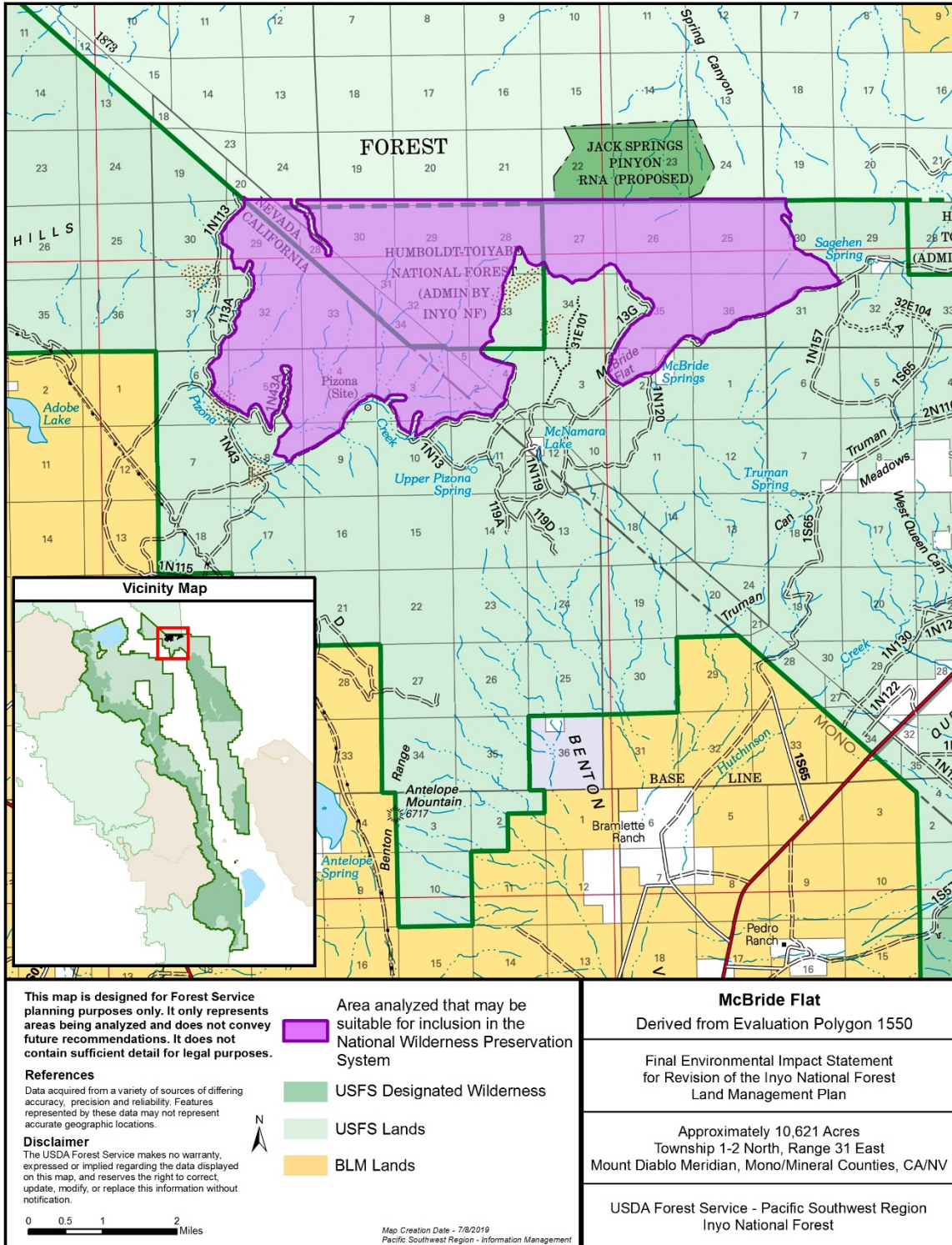


Figure B-25. Map of McBride Flat area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1)

Alternative B: 11,840 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1246, previously referred to as Deep Springs South in earlier information shared with the public.

Alternative C: 11,313 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1246.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions maps (Figure B-26, Figure B-27).

In alternative C (Figure B-27), the southeastern boundary is contiguous with the Piper Mountains Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, and the forest administrative boundary, making the area fairly easy to locate on maps and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

In alternative B (Figure B-26), the southeastern boundary is contiguous with the Piper Mountain Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). The boundary was reshaped to make it more clearly identifiable and use setbacks from roads and motorized trails that were consistent with other wilderness boundary setbacks on the forest. The northern and western boundaries closely follow National Forest System roads and motorized trails. The southern boundary generally follows a prominent natural feature, an east-west trending ridgeline. The eastern end of the southern boundary departs the ridgeline to become a 200 foot offset from a National Forest System road. The eastern boundary follows the forest administrative boundary.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located at the northern end of the Inyo Mountains, an area where complex geological forces have produced a striking desert range that contrasts with Deep Springs Valley. The area is north of the boundary between the White Mountain and Mt. Whitney Ranger Districts and southeast of Westgard Pass. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 8,600 feet.

Current Uses

The area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are a large number of cultural resource sites. Portions of the area are also used as a geological field study area. The area includes one water right. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has intact ecological integrity and reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The steep topography and lack of surface water supports a rugged and challenging recreation experience. Sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Along the boundary, sights and sounds of motorized vehicle use on forest system roads may limit opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes. Pinyon-juniper woodlands and subalpine areas provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

typical of the Great Basin: hiking, horseback riding, and deer hunting. However, they are limited due to the lack of water and steep topography. Other features of value include the Poleta Fold geologic features, which have scientific and educational values, and cultural resource sites including encampments, rock rings, and lithic scatters.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (2)

2,726 acres derived from Evaluation Polygons 1242.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-27). The eastern boundary is contiguous with the Piper Mountains Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). The remaining boundary follows National Forest System roads, making the area fairly easy to locate on maps and on the ground. The northern boundary follows forest road 08S108 until it connects to forest road 09S109 which forms the western boundary. Forest road 09S109G is excluded from the area and the southern boundary is formed by forest road 09S109A. The eastern boundary is adjacent to the Piper Mountain Wilderness and the forest administrative boundary. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located west of the Piper Mountains Wilderness and north of Little Cowhorn Valley. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography is flat and rolling hills. The elevation ranges from 7,600 to 8,400 feet.

Current Uses

Due to lack of surface water and extreme summer heat, the area has low recreation use, including hiking and hunting. There are general tribal concerns regarding tribal access and use.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. There are no known developments in the area. The combination of alkali flats and old growth pinyon-juniper is a unique feature. The area provides opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include cross-country hiking, general forest exploration, photography, and deer hunting. Sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Along the boundary, sights and sounds of motorized vehicle use on forest system roads may limit opportunities for solitude in some areas.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

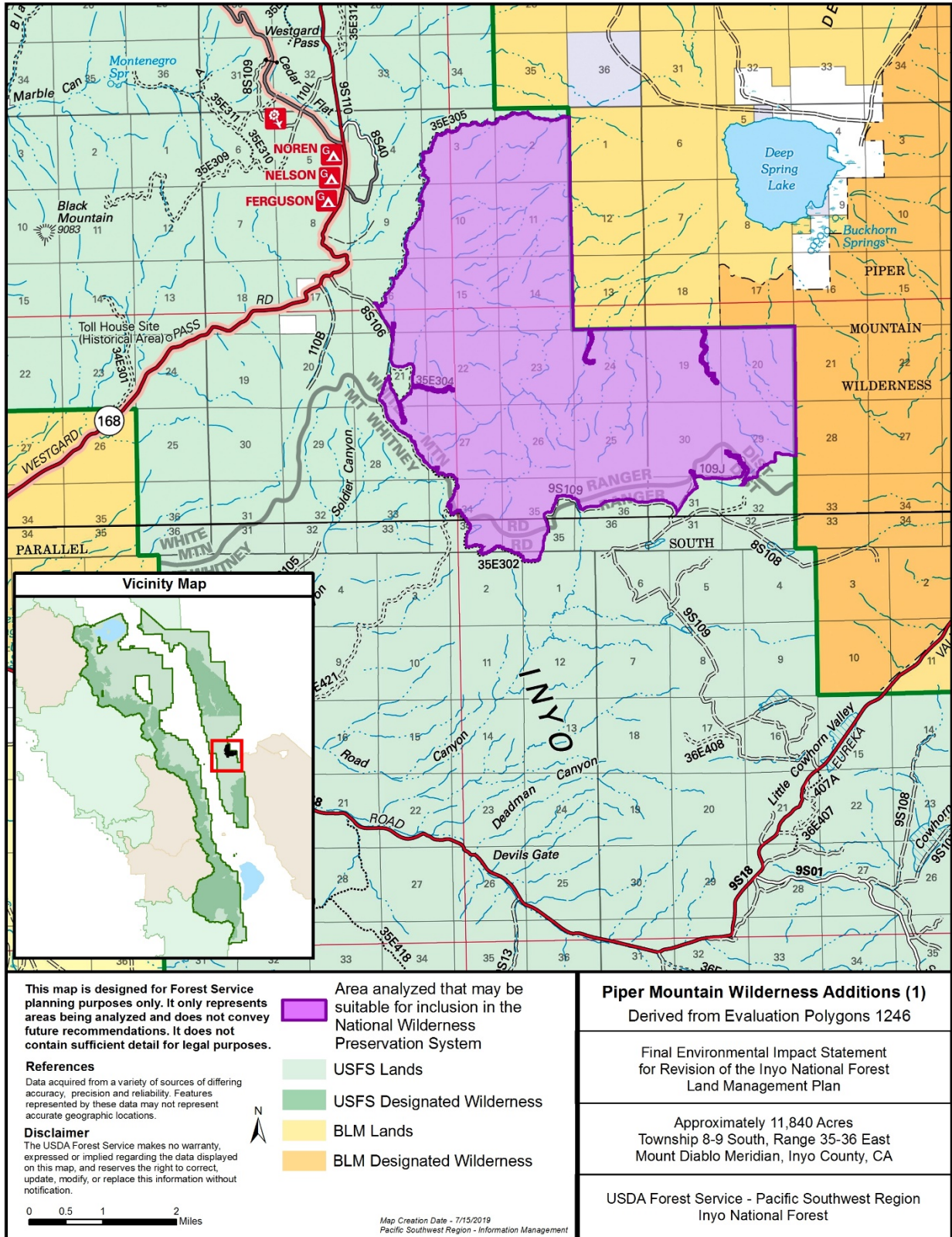


Figure B-26. Map of Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions (1) area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative B

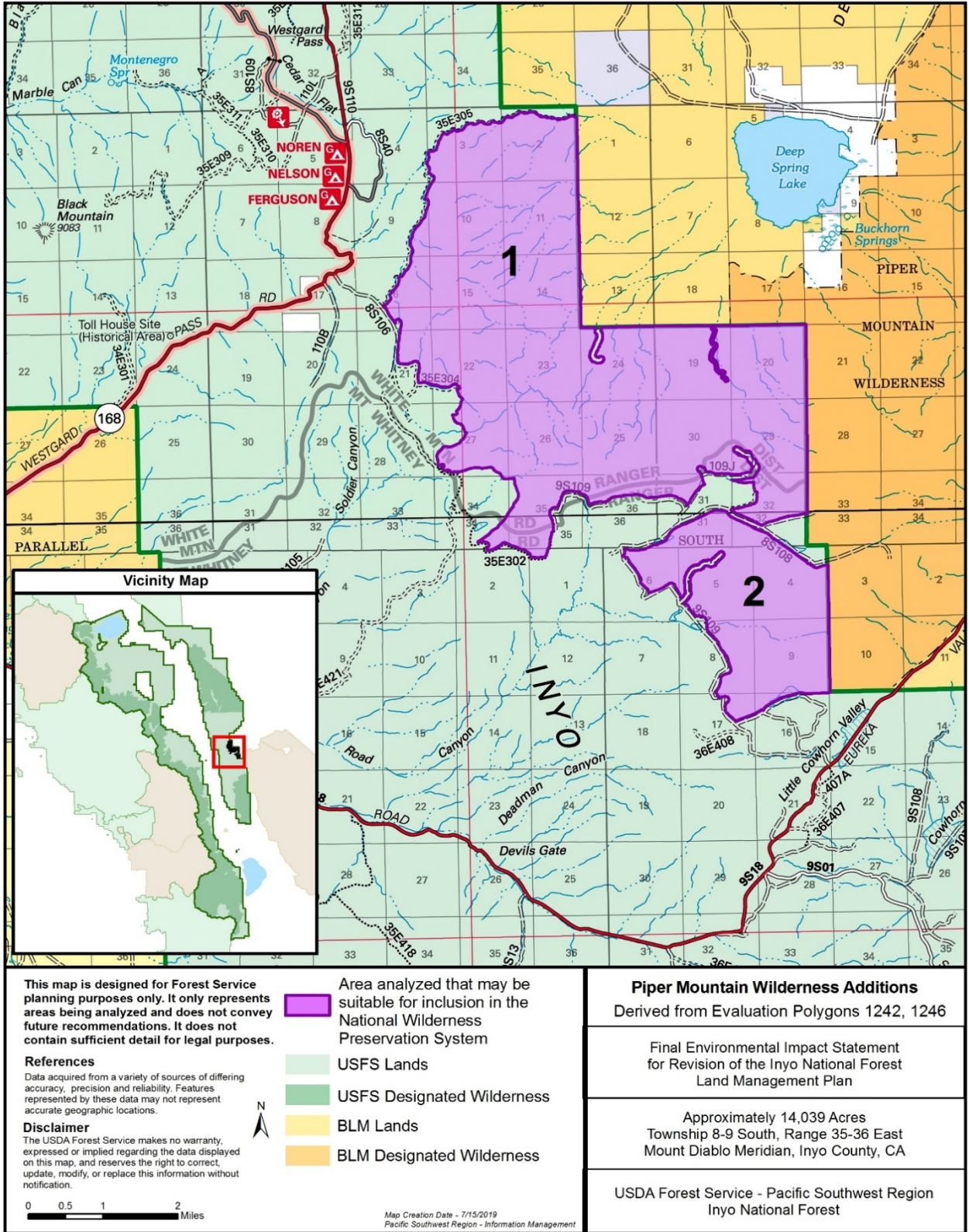


Figure B-27 Map of Piper Mountain Wilderness Additions areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Pizona-Truman Meadows

19,957 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1339.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Pizona-Truman Meadows map (Figure B-28). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, or the State of California, or are private lands.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located in the southern end of the Excelsior Mountains, north of Highway 6, and includes Truman Meadows, Antelope Mountain, and Upper Pizona Spring. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography includes moderate rolling hills, broad, open sagebrush flats, and ancient volcanic flows. Elevations range from 6,000 to 8,000 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are mining claims and a recently authorized exploration plan of operation. Watershed treatments are present in Truman Meadow. The area is within a wild horse management area. A significant prehistoric site has been formally documented in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity with some alterations to natural conditions. Wilderness characteristics are impacted by mining activities, as well as past vegetation management activities believed to be conducted by the military. There are developments related to historic sites and historic grazing management. Highway 6 is visible from parts of the area and power lines are visible along the western boundary. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. However, sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts throughout the most remote portions of the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration. However, they may be limited due to the lack of water.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

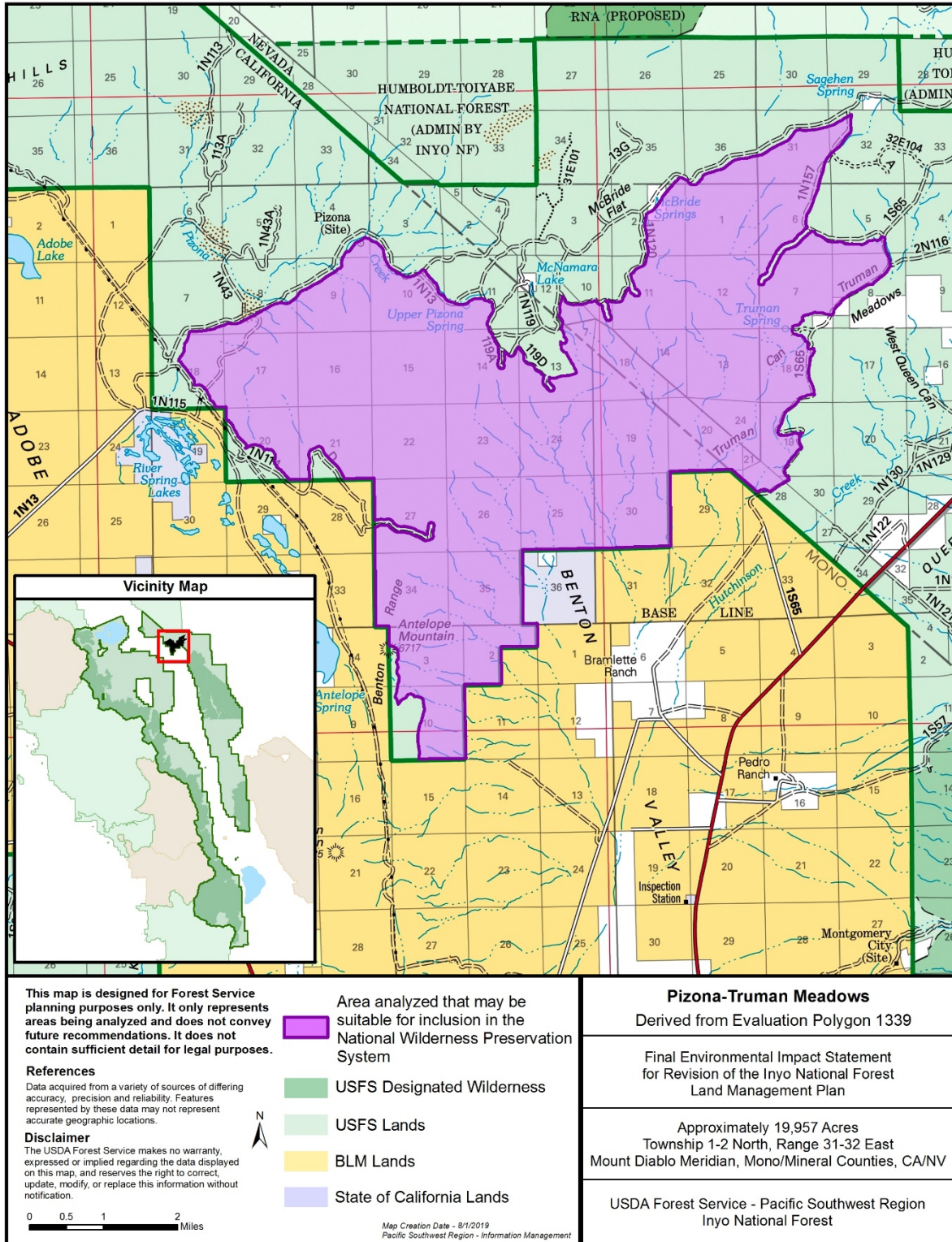


Figure B-28. Map of Pizona-Truman Meadows area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Redding Canyon

8,906 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1248.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Redding Canyon map (Figure B-29). The boundary follows several motorized trails and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The northern boundary follows topographic contour lines, ridges, and natural stream channels before connecting to forest road 07S118. The western boundary follows the forest administrative boundary. The southern boundary follows the forest administrative boundary and then forest road 07S16, which also makes up the beginning of the western boundary. The remaining western boundary follows natural ridgelines and topographic contour lines.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Poleta Canyon, and northwest of Black Canyon. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area includes historic and prehistoric structures. Recreation uses include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and nature viewing.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity with mostly natural species composition. The area largely reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. There are motorized trails surrounding and protruding into the area. Proximity to the motorized trail system limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; however, they are limited due to the lack of water and steep topography.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

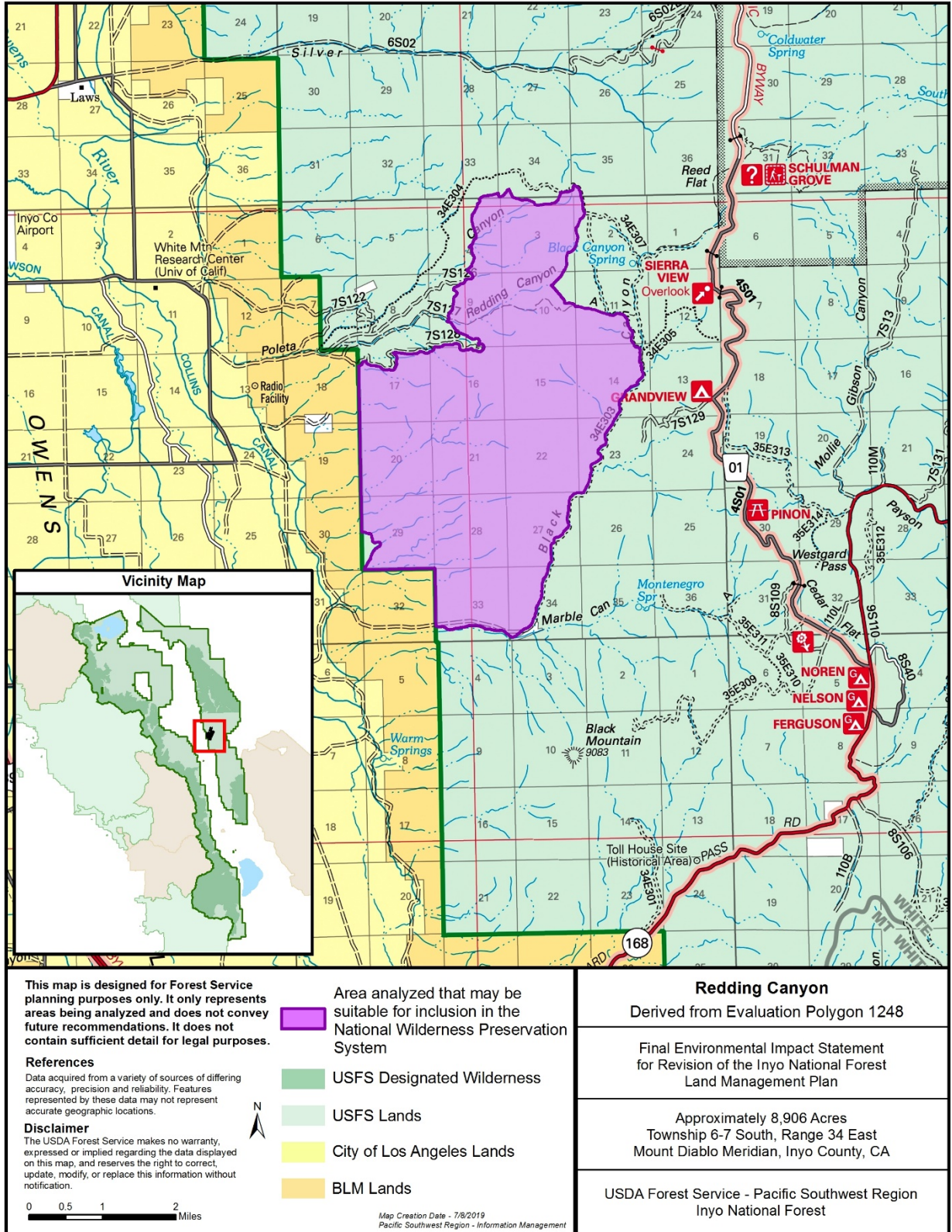


Figure B-29. Map of Redding Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Silver Creek

8,630 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1248.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Silver Creek map (Figure B-30). The boundary follows roads, motorized trails, and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, or the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, or are private lands. The northern boundary follows forest road 06S02. The western boundary follows the forest administrative boundary, except in areas where a topographic contour line was used. The southern boundary follows natural stream channels, contour lines, and ridgelines. The eastern boundary follows a ridgeline until forest road 04S01 (White Mountain road) and connects with forest road 06S02N.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located west of White Mountain Road and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, south of Silver Canyon, and north of Poleta Canyon. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, subalpine forest, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,400 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The area includes historic and prehistoric structures. Recreation use is limited due to the ruggedness of the area and lack of access from authorized trails or roads. Some hunting may occur in the lower elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity with mostly natural species composition. The area largely reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. Proximity to roads and motorized trails limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; however, they are limited due to the lack of water and steep topography.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

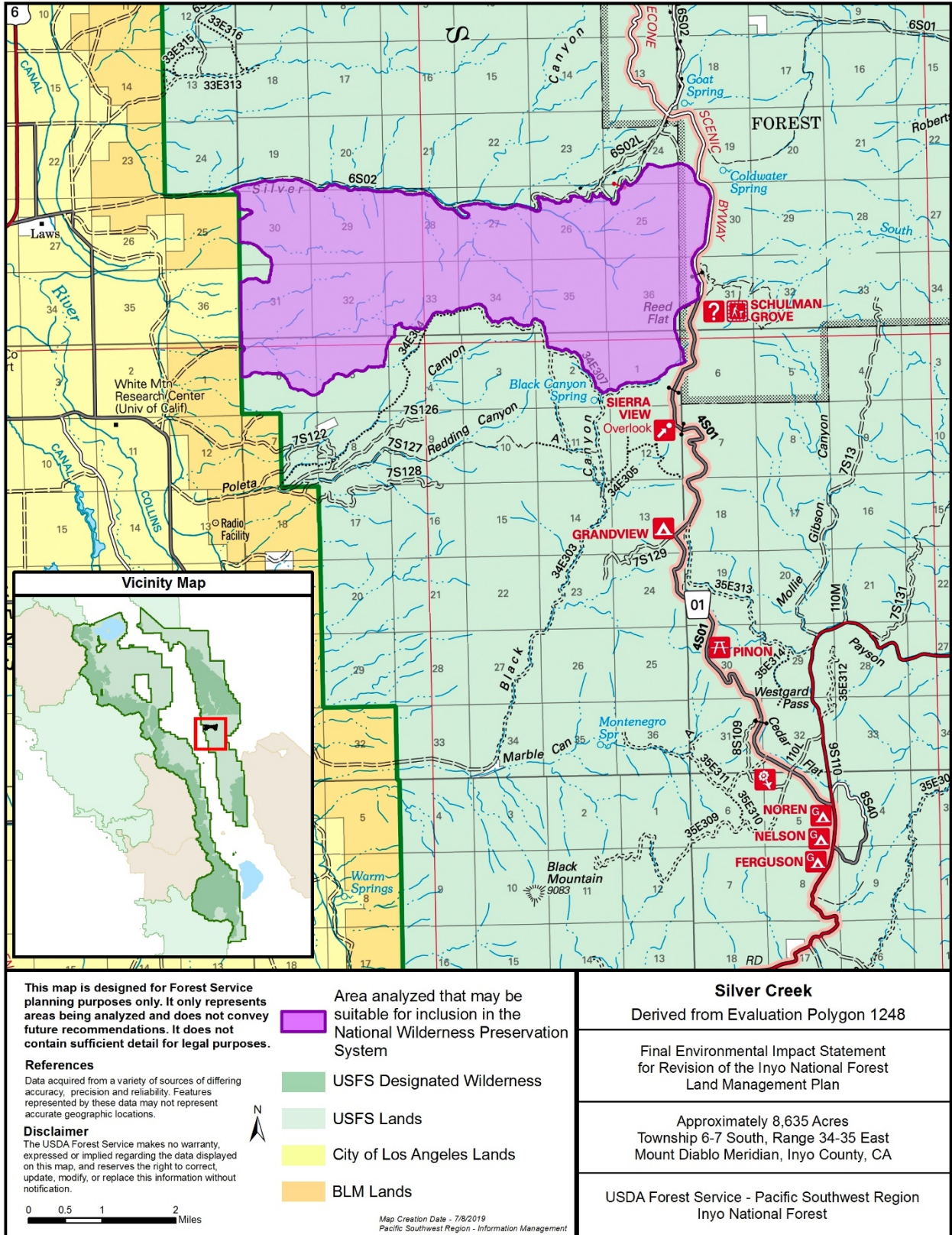


Figure B-30. Map of Silver Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Soldier Canyon

11,024 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1246.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the Soldier Canyon map (Figure B-31). The boundary follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, the forest administrative boundary, and private land boundaries, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by either the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, or are private lands. The boundary excludes existing California State Highway System rights-of-ways (200 foot setback from authorized roads and highways).

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located between the White Mountains and Inyo Mountains, north of Eureka Valley Road, and south of Highway 168. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography includes steep to gentle slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 8,600 feet.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. There are a large number of cultural resource sites. Recreation use is limited due to the ruggedness of the area. Hiking and horseback riding may occur along the Soldier Canyon road and may go into the area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity and reflects conditions that would normally be associated with the area absent human intervention. Some historic clearing/harvesting for mining is evident. Proximity to motorized recreation limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

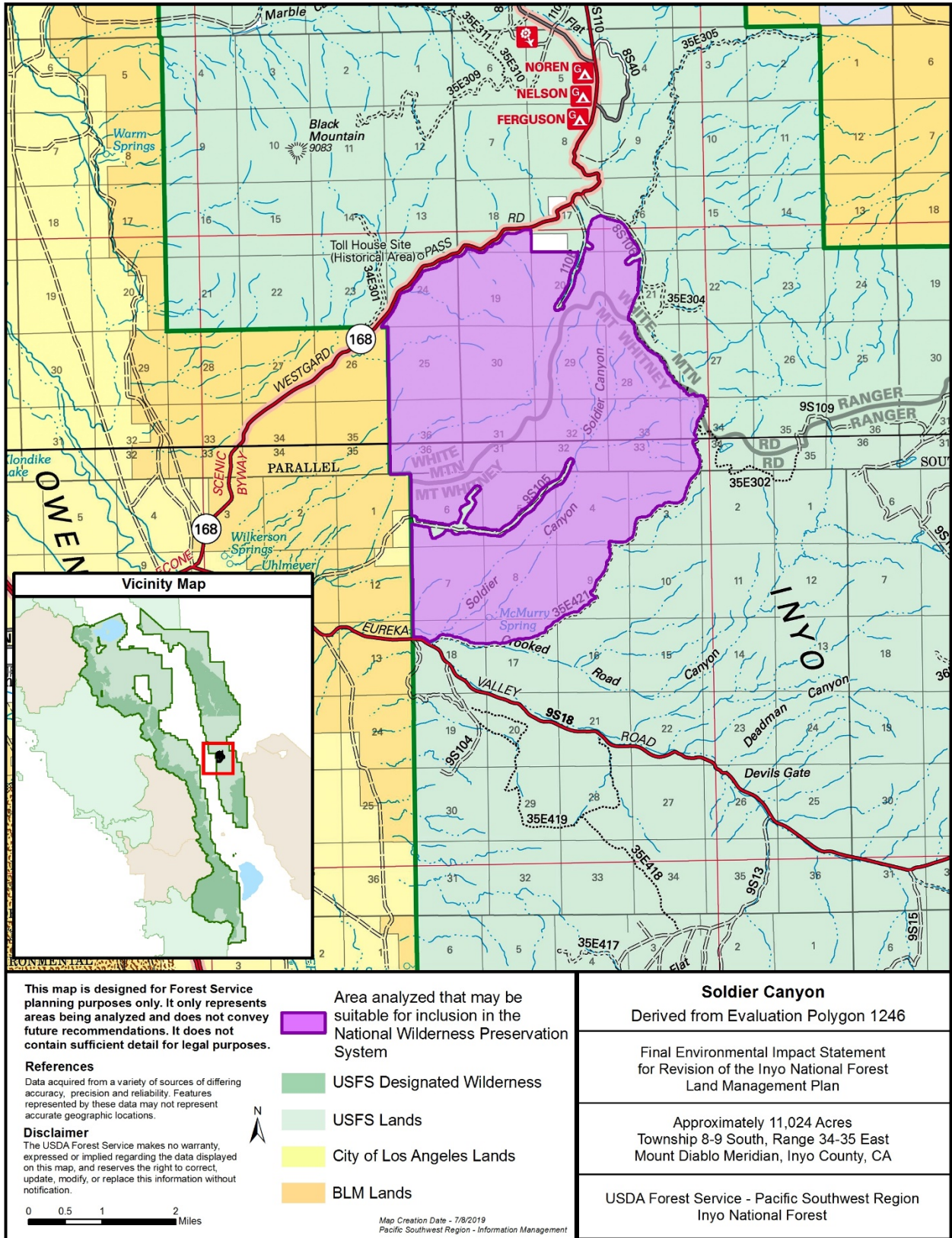


Figure B-31. Map of Soldier Canyon area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

South Huntoon Creek

5,898 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1357.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Huntoon Creek map (Figure B-32). The boundary follows National Forest System roads, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The northern boundary is formed by forest road 03N14. Western boundary follows forest roads 02N109A and 02N109. The southern and western boundary follow forest road 03N11.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located in the Excelsior Mountains, north of Adobe Hills. Ecosystem types include pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The topography is characterized by low rolling hills mostly comprised of pinyon woodland and shrublands. The elevation ranges from 7,000 to 7,500 feet.

Current Uses

The area has low recreation use due to remoteness of the area and limited water. The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. The southeastern portion of the area occurs within the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Management Area.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity with few alterations to natural conditions. There are dry alkali lakes which are a unique ecosystem type to the Inyo National Forest. A power line corridor is visible from some of the area due to minimal screening from topography. Visitors may also be able to hear traffic from the roads that are along all boundaries. However, sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include cross-country hiking, hunting, wild horse viewing, and general forest exploration; however, they may be limited due to the lack of water.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

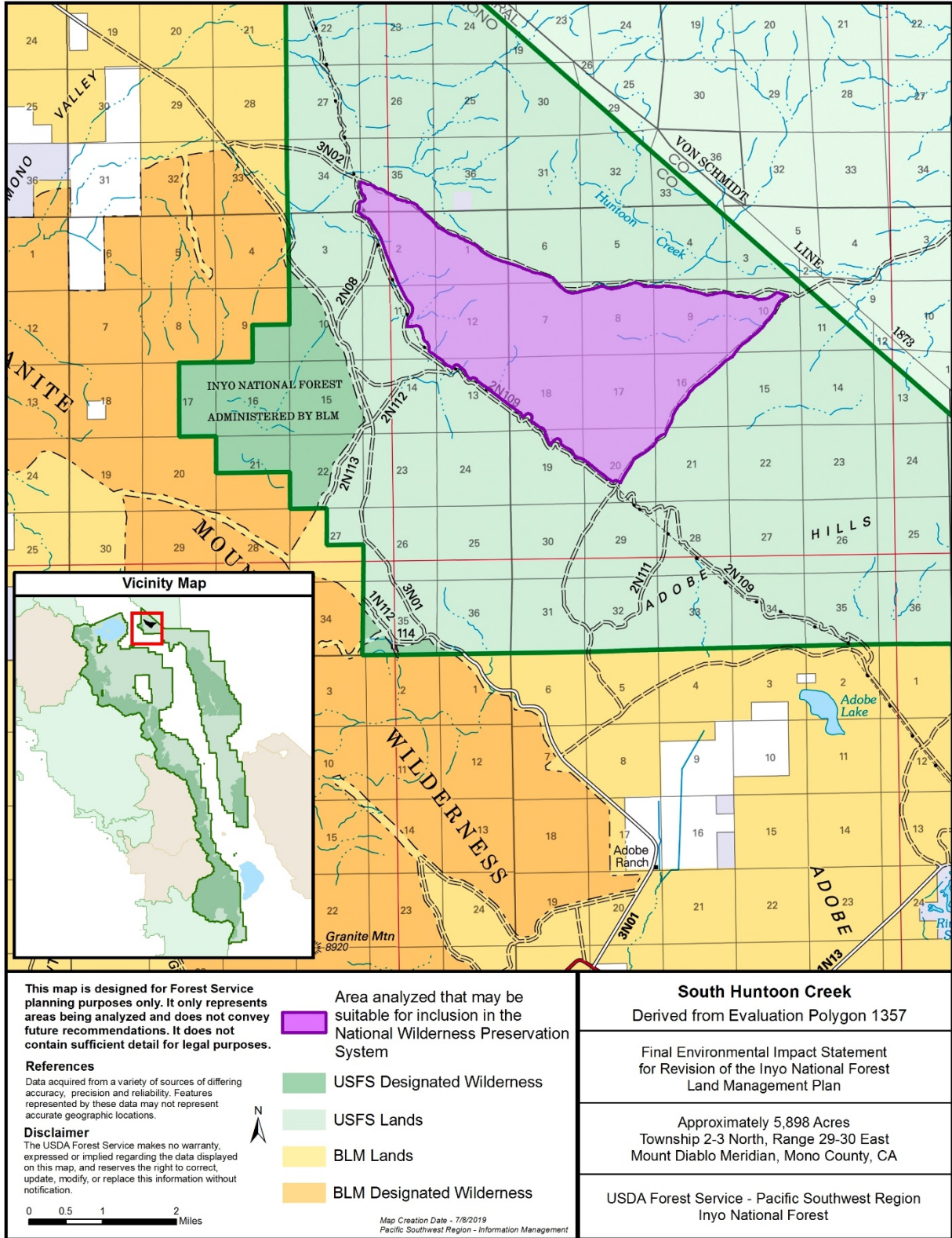


Figure B-32. Map of South Huntoon Creek area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1)

Alternative B: 17,622 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Alternative C: 25,469 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Sierra Wilderness Addition – East maps (Figure B-33, Figure B-34). In alternative C, the western boundary is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. The remaining boundary follows the forest administrative boundary and roads, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. The southern boundary is adjacent to the Sacatar Trail Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management). Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, or are private lands.

In alternative B, the western boundary is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. The boundary was reshaped to exclude the northern portion around and north of Sage Flat and southwestern portion west of Long Canyon. The boundary follows natural features in these areas. The southwestern boundary follows a prominent ridge, which is easily locatable on a map and on the ground. The location of the boundary is intended to minimize the potential for incursions by motorized vehicles. There are several unauthorized routes in these areas. The southern boundary change also allows for vegetation management needed around the Kennedy Meadows community. A portion of the southern boundary is adjacent to the Sacatar Trail Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management).

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located along the eastern escarpment the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Elevations range from 9,300 feet along the western boundary to 4,300 feet along the eastern boundary. The topography is characterized as Eastern Sierra escarpment, with steep slopes and forested canyons that descend to alluvial fans in the Mojave Desert. Haiwee Canyon, which contains a perennial stream, is the predominant drainage. Several other canyons along the escarpment contain streams that have perennial flows for some of their length. Ecosystem types include Jeffrey pine, mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, white fir, xeric shrublands, and blackbrush. The area also contains largely intact true Mojave Desert ecosystems. The vegetation includes Joshua trees, cholla cactus, creosote, and canyon live oak.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. Livestock grazing occurs, with no known range improvements associated with the allotments. The area has low recreation use including backpacking, day-hiking, and hunting. The lower section of Haiwee Canyon Trail, the only forest system trail in the area, has been heavily damaged by flash floods in recent years. There are several improvements in the area related to water supply.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has high ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. Several invasive species are present in the area. There is a departure from apparent naturalness due to several improvements. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The steep topography and lack of trails throughout most of the area supports a rugged and challenge recreation experience. Sights and sounds from outside the area are not pervasive

impacts to opportunities for solitude. Along the eastern boundary, sights and sounds of motorized vehicle use on Highway 395 may limit opportunities for solitude in some areas. Other features of value include the Mojave Desert and oak woodlands with high ecological integrity. There are unauthorized routes in the area, which are expected to return to natural conditions through passive restoration processes.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wildernesses.

South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (2)

1,514 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1391.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the South Sierra Wilderness Additions map (Figure B-34). The southwestern corner is contiguous with the South Sierra Wilderness. The boundary follows National Forest Systems roads and motorized trails and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located between Monache Mountain to the west and Deer Island to the east. Ecosystem types include red fir, sagebrush, subalpine forest, and white fir. The topography includes gentle to moderate slopes. The elevation ranges from 4,500 to 9,400 feet. The South Fork Kern River, a designated Wild and Scenic River, is within the eastern portion of the area.

Current Uses

Grazing and range improvements occur in the Monache area and there has been some headcut and stream improvement work. Several cultural resources are in the area. Recreation uses include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and fishing.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has moderate ecological integrity. The area moderately reflects conditions that would normally be associated with an area absent of human intervention. Proximity to motorized recreation may limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. There are opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.

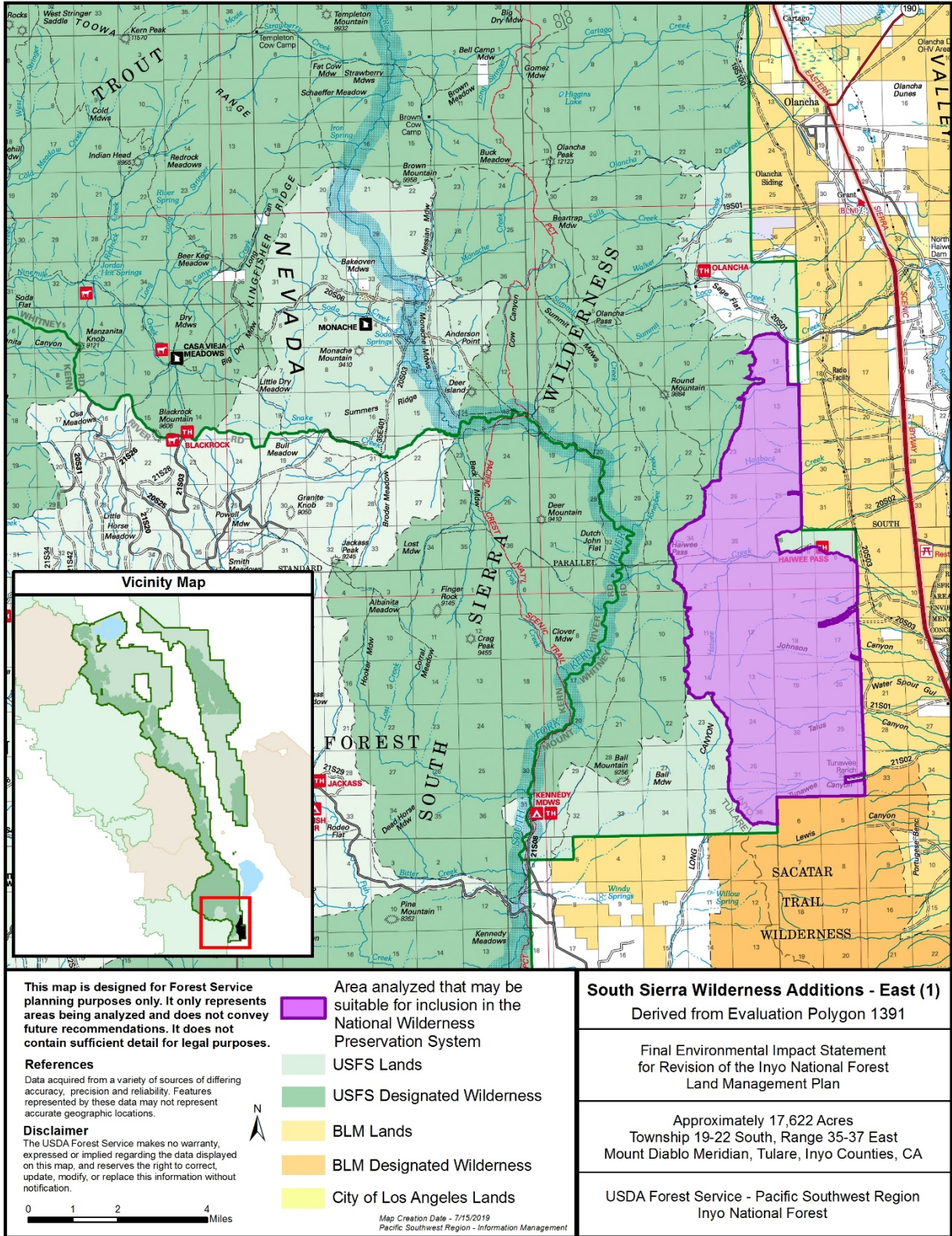


Figure B-33. Map of South Sierra Wilderness Additions – East (1) area analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative B

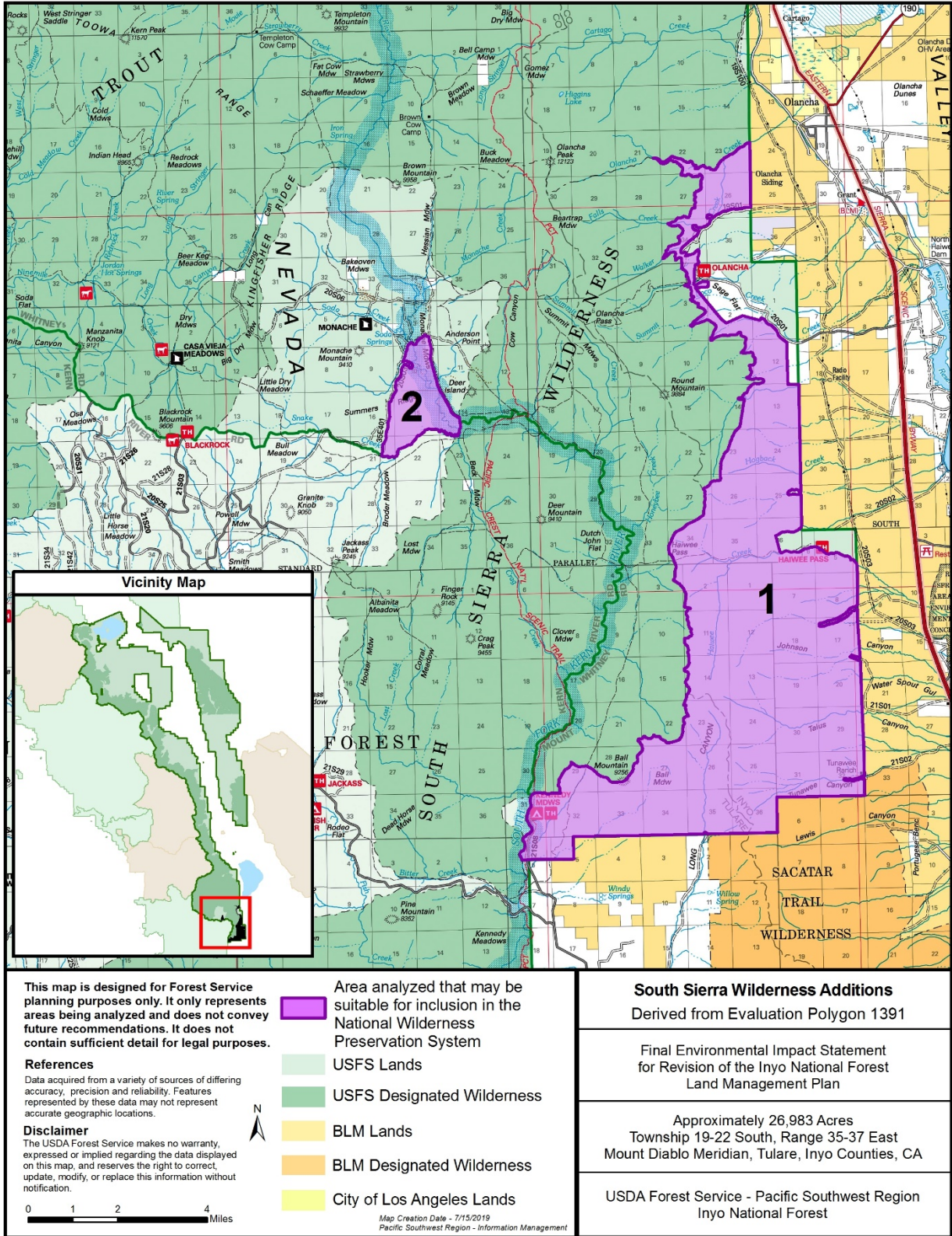


Figure B-34. Map of South Sierra Wilderness Additions 1 and 2 areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

White Mountains Wilderness Additions – West

Alternative B: 5,062 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1281.

Alternative C: 8,630 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1281.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the White Mountains Wilderness Additions maps (Figure B-35, Figure B-36). In alternative C, the northern boundary is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness. The remaining boundary generally follows National Forest System roads and motorized trails, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service. The boundary excludes motorized trails in the middle of the area.

In alternative B, the northern boundary is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness. The remaining boundaries not contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness were reshaped to make them more clearly identifiable and to use setbacks from roads and motorized trails that were consistent with other wilderness boundary setbacks on the forest. The eastern boundary uses the 9,000 feet contour interval, which visitors could locate on a map or with the use of GPS. The southern, eastern, and portions of the western boundaries follows a stream channel, which visitors could locate on a map and on the ground. The remaining western boundary is offset from Wyman County Road or a utility corridor adjacent to White Mountain Road.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located in the high elevations of the southern White Mountains. Elevations range from 9,000 feet along the southern and eastern boundaries, to 11,000 feet along the northern boundary near Blanco Mountain, a soaring pyramid-shaped mountain underlain by dolomite. Water Canyon and Mill Canyon, which contain perennial streams, are the predominant drainages. Vegetation communities include mountain mahogany, pinyon juniper forests, sagebrush shrub, and subalpine forest types. The majority of the area is within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and bristlecone pines are scattered across the south facing slopes of Blanco Mountain.

Current Uses

The majority of the area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. Livestock grazing occurs, with no known range improvement associated with the allotments in the area. The area has low recreation use including day-hiking and hunting. Overnight camping is prohibited in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. There are forest system trails that are also used as stock trails in the Water Canyon and Mill Canyon drainages. There is one private inholding in the area, an approximately 40-acre parcel on the south slope of Blanco Mountain. There is no known existing road access to the inholding. The western portion of the area contains priority sage-grouse habitat, which may require habitat restoration management activities.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

This area has ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. There are no known invasive plant species in the area. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. There are two unmaintained forest system trails in the area, both of which are in small canyons. The steep topography and unmaintained trails support a rugged and challenging recreation experience. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Along the eastern boundary, sights and sounds of

motorized vehicle use on Wyman Road, White Mountain Road, or the utility corridor may limit opportunities for solitude. Other features of value include ecological features of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest that are of scientific and educational value.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness.
- Contains ecological features in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest that are of scientific and educational value.

White Mountains Wilderness Additions – East

Alternative B: 2,505 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1281.

Alternative C: 3,288 acres derived from Evaluation Polygon 1281.

Location and Description of Recommended Boundary

The boundary can be seen on the White Mountains Wilderness Additions maps (Figure B-35, Figure B-36). In alternative C, the northern boundary is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness. The remaining boundary generally follows motorized trails and the forest administrative boundary, making it fairly easy to locate on the map and on the ground. However, the southern boundary is a straight line that would be difficult to locate on the ground. Adjacent lands are managed by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The boundary excludes motorized trails in the middle of the area.

In alternative B, the northern boundary is contiguous with the White Mountains Wilderness. The western and eastern boundaries were reshaped to make them more clearly identifiable and to use setbacks from roads and motorized trails that were consistent with other wilderness boundary setbacks on the forest. The southern boundary uses a prominent ridgeline, which visitors could locate on a map and on the ground. The western boundary uses an offset from the Dead Horse Meadow Motorized Trail and one of its spurs, which visitors could locate on a map and on the ground.

General Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area is located on the southeastern slopes of the White Mountains. The majority of the area is within the south rim of the Cottonwood Creek watershed, with Black Birch Canyon the most notable geographic feature. Cottonwood Creek, a designated Wild and Scenic River is within the northeast corner of the area. Elevations range from 8,500 feet along the southern boundary, to 6,800 feet along Cottonwood Creek. Vegetation communities in the area include pinyon juniper forest.

Current Uses

The area is managed as an inventoried roadless area. Livestock grazing occurs, with no permanent range improvements associated with the allotments. The area has low recreation use including hiking and hunting.

Wilderness Characteristics and the Ability to Protect and Manage the Area so as to Preserve Wilderness Characteristics

The area has ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention. There are no known invasive plant species in the area. The area provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The area is generally distant from occupied and modified areas. Portions of the Cottonwood Creek stock trail may be evident through the area, but there are no other known trails. The steep topography and lack of trails support a rugged and challenging recreation experience. Sights and sounds from outside the area are pervasive impacts to opportunities for solitude in some areas. Along the western boundary, sights and sounds of motorized vehicle use may limit opportunities for solitude. Other features of value include the pinyon-juniper woodlands with high ecological integrity.

Summary of Factors Considered in Carrying this Area Forward for Analysis

- Interest in recommending this area from several members of the public throughout the wilderness inventory and evaluation process.
- Intact condition of the ecosystem types.
- Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Contiguous with existing designated wilderness and contains a wild and scenic river.

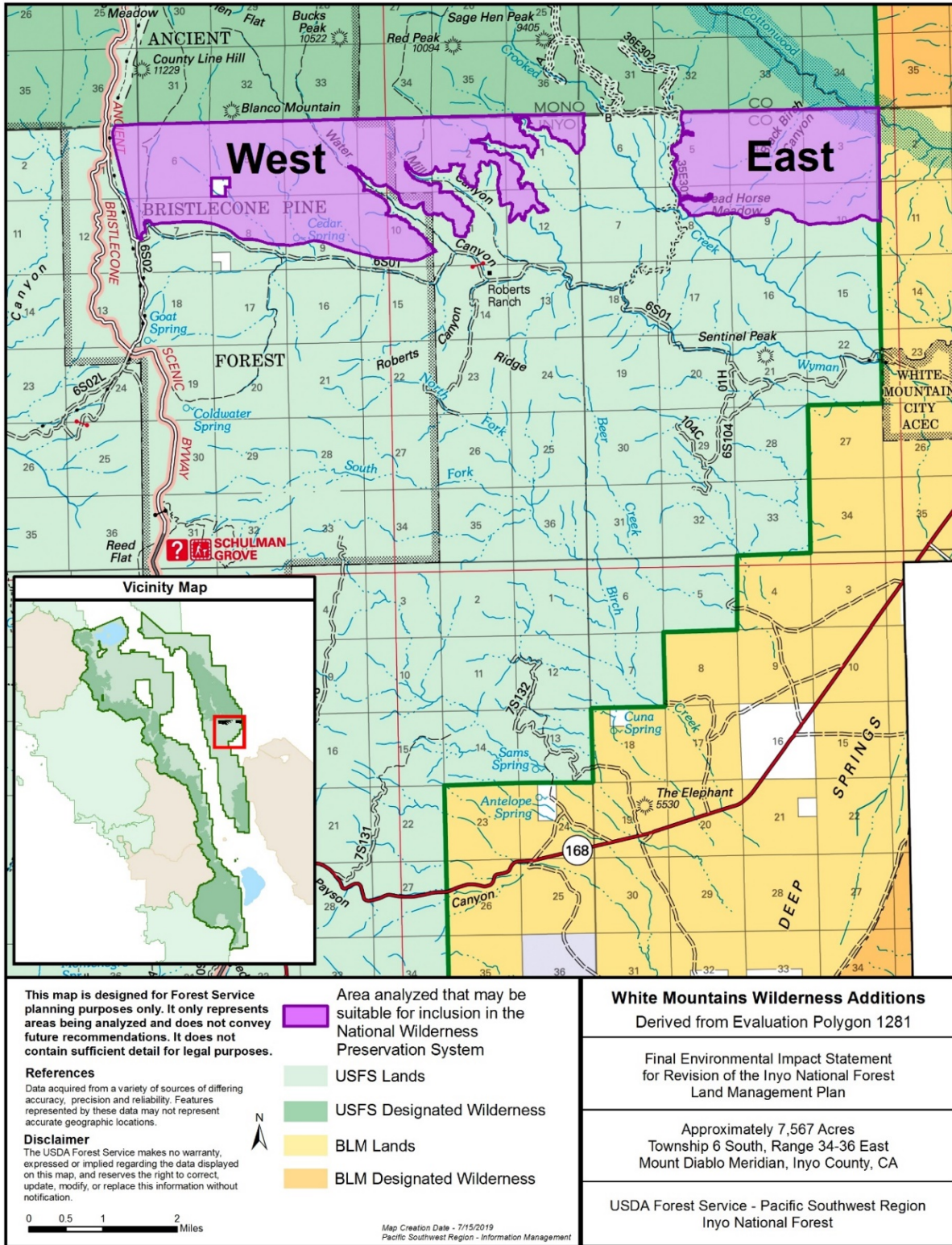


Figure B-35. Map of White Mountains Wilderness Additions areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative B

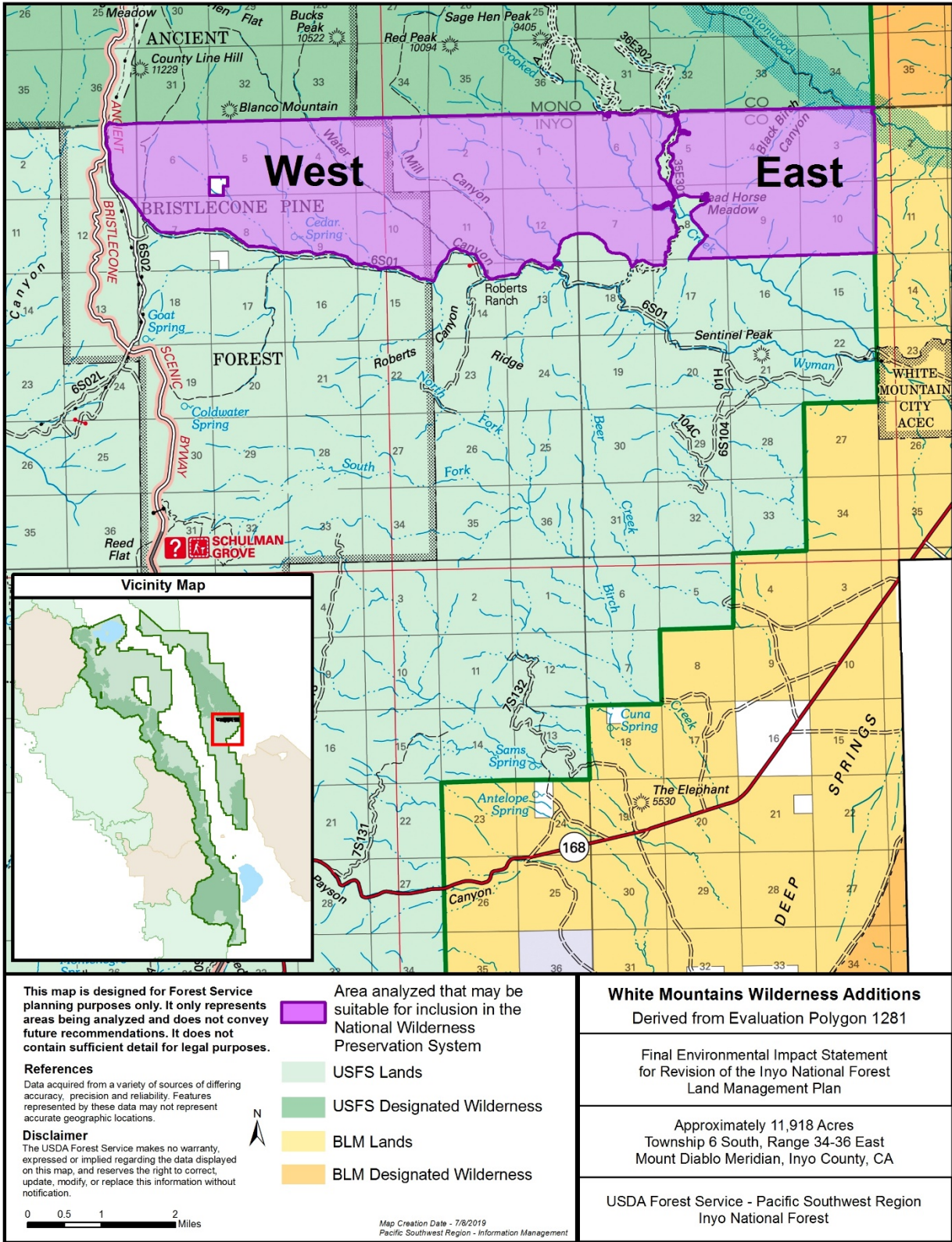


Figure B-36. Map of White Mountains Wilderness Additions west and east areas analyzed as recommended wilderness in alternative C

Rationale for Areas Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness

Table B-5. Inyo National Forest wilderness evaluation polygons and portions of polygons not analyzed for recommended wilderness in alternative C

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
944	Watterson Canyon (7,629)	7,629	There is a substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to a powerline near the northern boundary. An authorized motorized trail bisects the polygon, north to south, the high road density near the boundaries, including a state highway near the southern, western and eastern boundaries, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
995	Kelty Canyon (5,806)	5,806	A paved road near the eastern boundary of the polygon and the extensive network of authorized forest system roads and motorized trails near the boundary limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1012	Glass Mountains (40,368)	5,777	Authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.
1039	Black Mountain and Sawmill Canyon (11,026)	11,026	There is some private property within the polygon. An extensive network of authorized forest system roads and authorized motorized trails within a large portion of the polygon, including many authorized forest system roads cherry stemmed into the boundary to partially divide the polygon into many small sections, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1068	Dexter Canyon (12,311)	3,637	An authorized motorized trail within this portion of the polygon limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within this portion of the polygon.
1072	Mono Craters (7,574)	7,574	An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, partially divide the polygon into smaller sections and proximity to a commercial pumice mine near the southern boundary limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and the pumice mine are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1080	Anderson Point (1,137)	1,137	This is a very popular dispersed camping area. An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundary of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.

Appendix B: Wilderness Recommendation Process

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1081	Bakeoven Meadows (5,413)	5,413	An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundary of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1092	Slide Canyon (4,252)	4,252	There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to a hydroelectric power plant adjacent to the southeastern boundary. Paved roads near the northern and southern boundaries of the polygon, especially where Horseshoe Meadow Road nearly divides the northeastern portion from the rest of the polygon, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1098	Escarpment from George Creek to Hogback Creek (1,476)	1,476	An existing authorized motorized trail within the northern portion of the polygon and an authorized forest system road cherry stemmed into the southern boundary of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1099	Escarpment - Shephard Creek (1,092)	1,092	An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundary of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1106	Escarpment - Onion Valley South (1,408)	1,408	Heavily traveled Onion Valley Road near the northern boundary of the polygon and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the southern boundary, including some cherry stemmed roads, high recreation use, including recreation residences, campground, and trailheads, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1108	Escarpment - Onion Valley North (2,100)	2,100	Heavily traveled Onion Valley Road near the southern boundary of the polygon, a paved road near the northern boundary, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the eastern and southern boundaries limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1109	Escarpment - Oak Creek (1,318)	1,318	There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to post-fire flooding of Oak Creek. There are areas authorized for active forest restoration treatments involving motorized tools. A heavily traveled paved road near the southern boundary of the polygon, a paved road near the northern boundary, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the eastern and northern boundaries limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.

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Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1110	Escarpment between Sawmill Creek and Baxter Pass Trailhead (1,650)	1,650	<p>An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads that nearly bisect the polygon, limits opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1112	Escarpment between Goodale Creek and Sawmill Creek (4,949)	4,949	<p>An extensive network of authorized forest system roads and authorized motorized trails within the polygon, an authorized forest system road, maintained by the County, which bisects the polygon, and a hydroelectric powerhouse near this road limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1115	Escarpment - Tinemaha Creek (3,485)	3,485	<p>An extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and an authorized forest system road near the boundary of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1116	Escarpment - McMurry Meadow (2,437)	2,437	<p>An extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon and authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1140	Coyote (75,299)	75,299	<p>An extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, three large authorized forest system roads that cherry stem the northern, southern and eastern boundaries, and a high use paved road near the western boundary limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1147	Pine Creek East (1,351)	1,351	<p>There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to mining activity (including a patented tungsten mine to the south and west) that is visible from approximately 50 percent of this polygon. The sites have highly visible and intrusive human materials in and adjacent to the polygon, including several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes, and equipment, some of which may need rehabilitation.</p> <p>A paved road near the eastern boundary of this polygon and an authorized forest system road and private land road near the southern and western boundaries limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use and mining activity are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>

Appendix B: Wilderness Recommendation Process

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1148	Pine Creek West (1,756)	1,756	<p>There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness due to mining activity (including a patented tungsten mine to the north and east) that is visible from approximately 50 percent of this polygon. The sites have highly visible and intrusive human materials in and adjacent to the polygon, including several buildings, a road network, culvert pipes, and equipment, some of which may need rehabilitation.</p> <p>Proximity to roads, Pine Creek Mine, and a four wheel drive trail that provides access to patented mining claims (private land) limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use and mining activity are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1154	Rock Creek East and Sand Canyon (5,243)	5,243	<p>There is a small hydropower development operating under a special use permit that includes use of motorized tools and motorized access.</p> <p>Authorized motorized trails within the polygon and a paved road with highly developed recreation sites near the western boundary limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1155	Rock Creek West (3,498)	3,498	<p>A paved road near the eastern and northern boundaries of this polygon, with highly developed recreation areas, limits opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1156	McGee Creek (5,129)	5,129	<p>There are authorized fuels management activities and a heli-ski competition (authorized under special use permit) within this polygon.</p> <p>Highway 395, Crowley Lake residential community, highly developed recreation facilities, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including some that nearly bisect the polygon, limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>
1159	Mammoth Escarpment-Lakes Basin, Sherwin Creek, Laurel Creek and Convict Lake (14,833)	14,833	<p>An extensive network of authorized motorized trails within the polygon, including those that split the polygon, highly developed recreation areas, recreation residences, developed communities, and many authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads that nearly split other portions of the polygon, limit opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.</p>

Appendix B: Wilderness Recommendation Process

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1161	Reds Meadow (1,656)	1,656	Mechanical fuels management activities may need to continue within the polygon to protect adjacent high value areas. A high use paved road and highly developed recreation sites near the boundary of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1164	Minaret Vista and San Joaquin Four Wheel Drive Trail (1,017)	1,017	An authorized motorized trail within the polygon and a concentrated recreation use area, paved road, and authorized forest system roads near the southern boundary of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and concentrated recreation are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1195	West of Mono Lake and Highway 395, North of Lee Vining (2,008)	2,008	The area is an avalanche control zone for Cal Trans to address safety concerns along the highway. Proximity to Highway 395 limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1208	Saddlebag Lake (2,516)	2,516	Saddlebag Lake dam is within the polygon. State Highway 120 and highly developed authorized recreation sites limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and developed areas are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1211	Lundy Canyon (1,949)	1,949	A paved access road near the southern boundary of the polygon and a highly concentrated, authorized recreation use area limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use and concentrated recreation are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1232	Willow Springs (3,205)	3,205	Betty Jumbo Mine Road, a highly visible motorized trail near the entire eastern boundary of the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1236	West of Inyo Mountains Wilderness (73,128)	24,829	Authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.
1246	North of Eureka Valley Road (43,231)	7,092	Authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.

Appendix B: Wilderness Recommendation Process

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1248	Redding Canyon, Black Canyon (38,756)	7,003	An extensive network of authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.
1258	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Wyman Canyon South (35,248)	1,084	An extensive network of authorized motorized trails within this portion of the polygon limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within this portion of the polygon.
1275	North of Silver Canyon (10,435)	10,435	Authorized motorized trails within the western portion of the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1276	Gunter Canyon (1,048)	1,048	An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1281	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Dead Horse Meadow (11,210)	881	Authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. One of the subpolygons is adjacent to White Mountain Road, a high use and speed road. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.
1295	White Mountain Road, Barcroft Research Station (2,265)	2,265	Motorized access is likely needed to maintain a powerline that runs through middle of this polygon. Proximity to White Mountain Road, a high use and speed road, limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1297	North of Jeffrey Mine (1,092)	1,092	Motorized access may be needed to maintain an existing water system that carries irrigation water to Chalfant Valley. An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1301	Leidy Creek South (3,010)	3,010	An authorized forest system road near the northern boundary of the polygon limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.

Appendix B: Wilderness Recommendation Process

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1311	Chiatovich Creek (11,214)	11,214	Authorized motorized trails within the polygon, an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries, including cherry stemmed roads, motorized trails, and private land development, which nearly bisect the eastern portion of the polygon, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1312	Boundary Peak (8,133)	8,133	Authorized motorized trails within the polygon and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1326	Queen Valley (5,464)	5,464	An extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1332	Pizona South, Northwest of Highway 6 (5,244)	5,244	There is substantial departure from apparent naturalness in some areas due to historic mining activities and pinyon pine removal by chaining. Highway 6 and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1339	Pizona-Truman Meadows (19,826)	64	An authorized motorized trail within this portion of the polygon limits opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within this portion of the polygon.
1342	Montgomery Pass (6,144)	6,144	An authorized motorized trail within the polygon, Highway 6, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1376	Watterson Meadow and Benton Range (9,922)	9,922	Authorized motorized trails and a paved road within the polygon, and an extensive network of authorized forest system roads near the boundaries of the polygon, including cherry stemmed roads, limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude throughout the polygon.
1391*	Monache, Blackrock, and South Sierra East (33,247)	620	Authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.

Evaluation Polygon Number	Evaluation Polygon Name (acres)	Evaluation Polygon or Subpolygon Acres not Analyzed	Rationale Explaining Why Some Areas Were Not Analyzed for Recommended Wilderness
1550	McBride Flat (12,198)	1,737	Authorized motorized trails within these portions of the polygon limit opportunities for solitude. Sights and sounds of motorized use are pervasive and limit opportunities for solitude within these portions of the polygon.

* Evaluation Polygon 1391 overlays the boundary between the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, with portions in each forest. The figures here represent just the acres within the Inyo National Forest.

Recommendation

Based on the analysis in the environmental impact statement and public input received, the Forest Supervisor will decide on specific areas to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The preliminary administrative recommendation will be included in the final record of decision document for the forest plan. Plan components will provide direction for managing areas recommended for wilderness designation. The areas must be managed to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for their suitability for wilderness recommendation.

Appendix C – Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process

Overview

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act,² which established the system is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection. Section 5(d)(1) of the Act states:

In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potential. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved.

As outlined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, in developing a proposed new plan or proposed plan revision, National Forests are required by the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.7(c)(2)(vi)) to “identified the eligibility of rivers for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, unless a systematic inventory has been previously completed and documented, and there are no changed circumstances that warrant additional review.”

The Rule also requires the Forest Service to manage those eligible and suitable rivers to protect the values that support their inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System until Congress makes a final determination on their designation.

There is a four step process outlined in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 that provides direction for inventory, eligibility determination, classification, and suitability. Additional guidance can be found in the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council technical paper: The Wild and Scenic River Study Process (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 1999).

1. **Inventory:** The first step identifies all potential wild, scenic, and recreational rivers flowing wholly or partially on National Forest System lands as identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and by other sources. At minimum, the inventory includes all rivers named on a standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map. If a systematic inventory of eligible rivers has already been completed, the extent of the study process during plan development or revision can be limited to evaluation of any rivers that were not previously evaluated for eligibility and those with changed circumstances.
2. **Eligibility determination:** The second step is to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. To be eligible for designation, a river must be free-flowing and possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable values.” Thus, the eligibility

² Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.

analysis consists of an examination of the river's hydrology, including any man-made alterations, and an inventory of its natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

An outstandingly remarkable value must be river-related and determined to be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant regionally or nationally. Potential outstandingly remarkable values may include: scenery, recreation, geology, fish and wildlife populations and habitat, prehistory, history, or other river-related values (i.e. paleontological or botanical). While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, to be "river-related," values should:

- be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river);
- contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
- owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

3. **Classification:** The third step is to assign a preliminary classification of "wild," "scenic," or "recreational," to each eligible river or river segment. Classification is based on the condition of the river segment and the development level of adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the study. When levels of human use and activity create different degrees of development within the study area, river segments may be further divided into segments and assigned different classifications. In cases where a river has one or more classifications, each river segment identified should be of sufficient length to warrant its own unique management.

For example, a 100-mile wild and scenic river found to be eligible may be segmented and classified as "wild" for 50 miles, "scenic" for 30 miles, and "recreational" for 20 miles. A final classification will be assigned during the comprehensive river management planning process required by the Wild and Scenic River Act if the river is designated by Congress. The Act and interagency guidelines provide general descriptions of each classification in terms of water resources development, shoreline development, accessibility, and water quality:

- **Wild:** Free of impoundments. Generally inaccessible except by trail. Shorelines essentially primitive with little or no evidence of human activity. Meets, or exceeds water quality criteria.
- **Scenic:** Free of impoundments. Accessible in places by roads. Shorelines largely primitive and undeveloped, with no substantial evidence of human activities.
- **Recreational:** May have some impoundment or diversion, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Readily accessible by road or railroad. Shorelines may have some development and substantial evidence of human activity. No water quality criteria.

4. **Suitability:** The fourth step is to study suitability and may occur during forest plan revision but is not required. Suitability studies address these questions:

- Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
- Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected through designation?
- Will the benefits of designation exceed the benefits of non-designation?

- Is designation the best method for protecting the river corridor?
- Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-Federal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

Suitability was not completed as part of the current forest plan revision process, but will be completed in a future separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Description of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process

Inventory

The inventory was completed considering best available scientific information and public input.

The inventory was developed through the following steps:

- A regional hydrologist used the national hydrological dataset to create a preliminary list of rivers and river segments that were the equivalent of all named rivers on a 7.5 minute quad. This preliminary list was then checked against the standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle maps to ensure that all named rivers were included.
- Rivers in the dataset were removed from the inventory if:
 - ◆ the rivers were already designated as wild and scenic rivers
 - ◆ the rivers were already recommended as an addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through a previous suitability study and NEPA process

Public Input on the Inventory

To ensure that rivers of interest identified by the public were included in the inventory, the following references were reviewed. We affirmed that all rivers identified by the public as potential wild and scenic rivers were included in the inventory.

Sierra Forest Legacy Conservation Strategy, wild and scenic river appendix:

(http://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/FC_ConservationStrategy/FC_ConservationStrategy2.php)

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI):

(<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/index.html>)

Listing of California rivers that are part of the National Rivers Inventory created by the National Park Service:

(<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/rivers/california.htm>)

Friends of the River publication “Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers in California – 2001 Inventory:

(http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/site/DocServer/2001PWSRC_Inventory.pdf?docID=222.)

In this last publication by Friends of the River, there are 19 rivers identified for the Inyo National Forest. On their website they mention:

Friends of the River is lobbying the Forest Service to ensure that these plan revisions incorporate wild and scenic river studies on more than 311 of eligible or potentially eligible streams and rivers, including segments of the Kings River, lower Kern River, Tule River, and Hot Creek.

Detailed feedback specific to wild and scenic rivers was compiled into a report (Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) – Public Feedback from Assessment Phase, 11/25/13) and reviewed for content

related to rivers of interest to include in the inventory. We affirmed that all rivers of interest from these comments were included in the inventory.

We also received comments on wild and scenic rivers during the public comment period for the proposed action. We reviewed these comments for content related to rivers of interest and affirmed that all rivers of interest were included in the inventory.

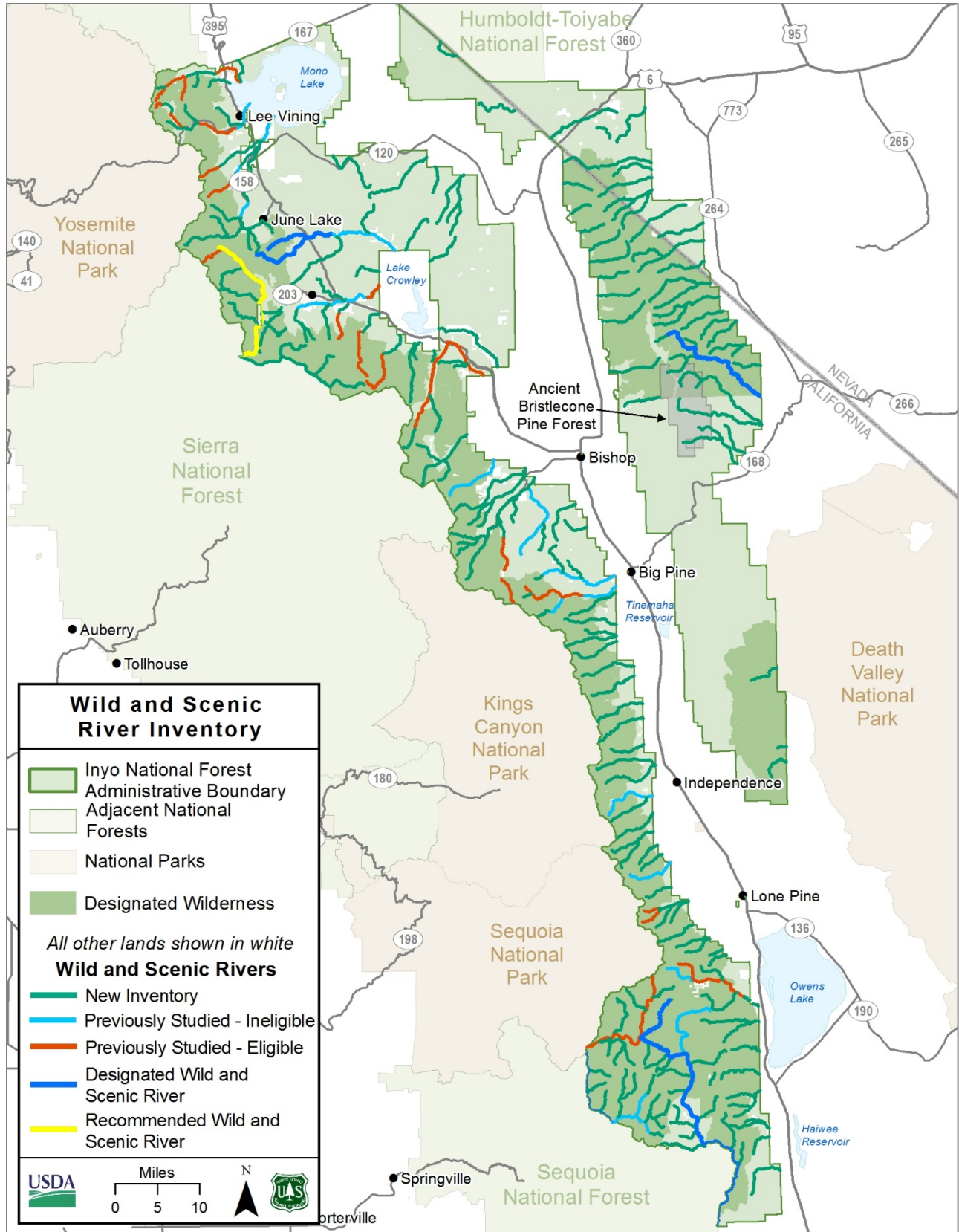
After the final inventory dataset was created, all records of previous wild and scenic river eligibility and suitability study were examined and segments that had been included in previous studies were identified. The previous findings for eligibility, outstandingly remarkable values, and classification were documented in the dataset. The inventory was then divided river segments that had been included in previous studies and those that had not.

Results of the Inventory

Error! Reference source not found. summarizes number of river segments and miles considered for eligibility on the Inyo National Forest, which are shown on **Error! Reference source not found.**

Table C-1. Inventory of all potential wild, scenic, and recreation rivers

Total Number of River Segments (Approximate Mileage)	# of River Segments Previously Studied (Approximate Mileage)	# of River Segments Not Previously Studied (Approximate Mileage)
311 (1,241.6 miles)	65 (245.9 miles)	246 (995.7 miles)



Map C-1. Inyo National Forest wild and scenic river inventory map

Eligibility Determination and Preliminary Classification

The study process is different depending on if a previous eligibility study has occurred. The process used for the study of river segments not previously studied for eligibility, and previously studied are described in detail below.

River Segments Not Previously Studied

1. Identified which rivers may have river-related values for scenery, recreation, geology, fish and wildlife populations and habitat, prehistory, history, or other river-related values (i.e., paleontological or botanical). In this initial screening step, values that may be unique, rare, exemplary or significant at a regional or national scale were identified, but a determination was not made about the relative significance of the values. Potential river-related values were documented in the dataset. If a river segment had no values that were identified, it was not carried forward for further study.
2. Criteria used to identify river-related values are described below:
 - a. Scenery – The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions, including features such as cascades, waterfalls, and aspen stands.
 - b. Recreation – Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Recreation opportunities within the region of comparison are diverse and attract visitors from outside the region. Common recreation activities include developed and dispersed camping, picnicking and day use, hiking, mountain biking, off-highway vehicles, fishing, sightseeing, and general forest exploration. Unique or rare recreation opportunities within the region of comparison would include unique fishing opportunities for heritage trout populations, whitewater rafting, boating, and sightseeing and photography related to scenery values.
 - c. Geology – The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. Potential outstanding values for geology included glacial features, volcanic features, and unique rock formations.
 - d. Fish – The presence of wild stocks, or federal or state-listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or the river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for these fisheries. Within the region of comparison, creeks with Owens tui-chub, golden trout, or a wild trout fishery were identified as having river-related values.
 - e. Wildlife – The presence of wildlife species considered to be unique and/or Federal or State listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for these species. Creeks with threatened, endangered or sensitive amphibian species were also considered. Within the region of comparison, creeks with Sierra, mountain, or Foothill yellow-legged frog, or Yosemite toad were identified as having river-related values.
 - f. Prehistory - The river, or area within the river corridor, contains one or more sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural

- groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the National Park Service.
- g. History – The river or area within the river corridor contains one or more sites or features associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site or features is 50 years old or older in most cases.
 - h. Other (Botanical): Unique and rare plants, vegetation types, and ecosystems selected from the following criteria:
 - i. Vegetation types – aspen, cottonwood, oaks, dry forb, alkali flat, using the Inyo National Forest Potential Natural Vegetation (2012 TEUI) dataset. These types are sometimes, though not always, river-related.
 - ii. Geomorphology – glaciers, rock glaciers, cinder cones (all support unique ecosystems); from TEUI dataset.
 - iii. Geology – mafic metamorphics, carbonates (also support unique ecosystems); from TEUI.
 - iv. Rare plants – NRIS/corporate data.
3. Determined which river segments had free flow. Free flowing is defined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act:
- Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification. Low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures may be permitted, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Segments of rivers above or below impoundments can also qualify as free flowing. There is no established minimum size for eligibility, either in length or volume of flow. Flows are considered sufficient for eligibility if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated.
- Anecdotal references, local-knowledge of Forest Service employees involved in land management, public comments, and Forest Service GIS databases were used to determine whether each river segment has free flow, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Free flow information was documented in the dataset.
- 4. Documented a region of comparison for determining if any river-related values are outstandingly remarkable values. The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council technical paper “The Wild and Scenic River Study Process,” describes the baseline criteria. Any additional criteria used are documented in the results section of this appendix, before the river segment details.
 - 5. Determine if any river-related values are outstandingly remarkable values using the regions of comparison, criteria, and best available science. Outstandingly remarkable values information for each river segment was documented in the dataset and the results section of this appendix. River segments with both free flow and at least one outstandingly remarkable value were determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
 - 6. Assigned a preliminary classification to all eligible river segments based on the condition of the river segment and the development level of adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the study. Preliminary classifications for each river segment were documented in the dataset.

Study results for each river segment were documented in the results section of this appendix with the following information:

- river segment name
- river/segment geographic information system number
- river segment location
- river segment beginning point description
- river segment end point description
- mileage of the total river segment length studied
- Mileage of the total length determined eligible
- free flow determination
- outstandingly remarkable values determination, including a description for each river-related value that was studied
- summary of eligibility determination
- preliminary classification

River Segments Previously Studied

1. Compiled and summarized any previous wild and scenic river studies that were completed.
2. Determined if there were any changed circumstances or new information since the previous studies, using the best available science and public input. This included reviewing river segments previously determined eligible as well as river segments previously determined ineligible, using the same regions of comparison and outstandingly remarkable values criteria as river segments not previously studied. If changed circumstances or new information was identified, documented in the results section of this appendix.
3. Determined if any changed circumstances or new information affected free flow, outstandingly remarkable values, previous eligibility determinations, or preliminary classification, and documented the effects in the results section of this appendix.
4. Reviewed the record to ensure that comprehensive study results information existed for river segments determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System without changes from previous studies. If the record was incomplete, the missing information was added to the results section of this appendix.

Summary of Public Input

The public provided input on the wild and scenic rivers within the Inyo National Forest through two avenues: comments during the November 2013 Assessment phase on the Assessment Topic Papers for Designated Areas and through comments on the notice of intent and proposed action. In general, the comments provided suggestions on five topics:

1. Comprehensive river management plans for existing designated wild and scenic rivers
2. Process used to determine which river segments are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System
3. Outstandingly remarkable values of river segments studied for eligibility

4. Plan components for wild and scenic rivers in the revised forest plan
5. Support for or against additional wild and scenic river designations

Suggestions related to comprehensive river management plans for existing designated rivers:

- The forest plan revision should include a process and timeline to update the existing comprehensive river management plans for the North and South Forks of the Kern River, Kings River, and Merced Rivers because of changed circumstances, including potential impacts to outstandingly remarkable values and increases in the nonboating recreation use, particularly on the North Fork of the Kern River.
- The forest plan revision should include a process and timeline to complete comprehensive river management plans for the Upper Owens River Headwaters and Cottonwood Creek.
- The Forest Service should adopt interim measures to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of wild and scenic rivers until comprehensive river management plans are updated or completed.
- The comprehensive river management plan for the Upper Owens River Headwaters should identify the outstandingly remarkable recreational, geological, wildlife, and botanical-ecological values of upper Deadman Creek.

Suggestions related to the process used to determine which river segments are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System:

- The Forest Service should complete a new study process for wild and scenic rivers during forest plan revision, including a comprehensive inventory of potentially eligible streams, and suitability studies for eligible streams. For previously inventoried rivers, new information or changed conditions should trigger updates to the inventory.
- Suitability determinations are not necessary during forest plan revision, and should be deferred until triggered by either a conservation or development proposal.
- During forest plan revision, the Inyo National Forest should complete suitability determinations for streams that have been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National System because each national forest made this commitment through settlement agreements on their current land and resource management plans during the early 1990s.
- The Forest Service should complete suitability studies during forest plan revision because if they don't complete these studies a separate National Environmental Policy Act environmental analysis would be required, which would presumably mean additional staff costs. Also, individual suitability evaluations limit the context of river decisions presented to the public.
- The Forest Service should retain the suitability determination of several rivers it has previously recommended for inclusion in the National System.
- The Forest Service should coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to complete a suitability determination for eligible segments of Rock Creek and Hot Creek, and complete the study process for Big Pine, Lone Pine, George, and Independence Creeks.
- There are changed circumstances on the streams entering Mono Lake that warrant a new study process for these streams, which include Rush Creek, Lee Vining Creek, and Parker Creek.

- The study process should include Dexter Canyon, Wet Canyon, Black Canyon, Marble Canyon, and Birch Creek.
- The study process should reexamine streams identified as eligible by the Inyo National Forest in 1993 in order to identify any additional outstandingly remarkable values.

Suggestions related to outstandingly remarkable values of river segments studied for eligibility:

- Hot Creek provides outstanding Class II whitewater opportunities.
- The North and South Fork of the Kern River and the Kings and South Fork Kings Rivers have outstandingly remarkable whitewater boating opportunities.

Suggestions related to plan components for wild and scenic rivers in the revised forest plan:

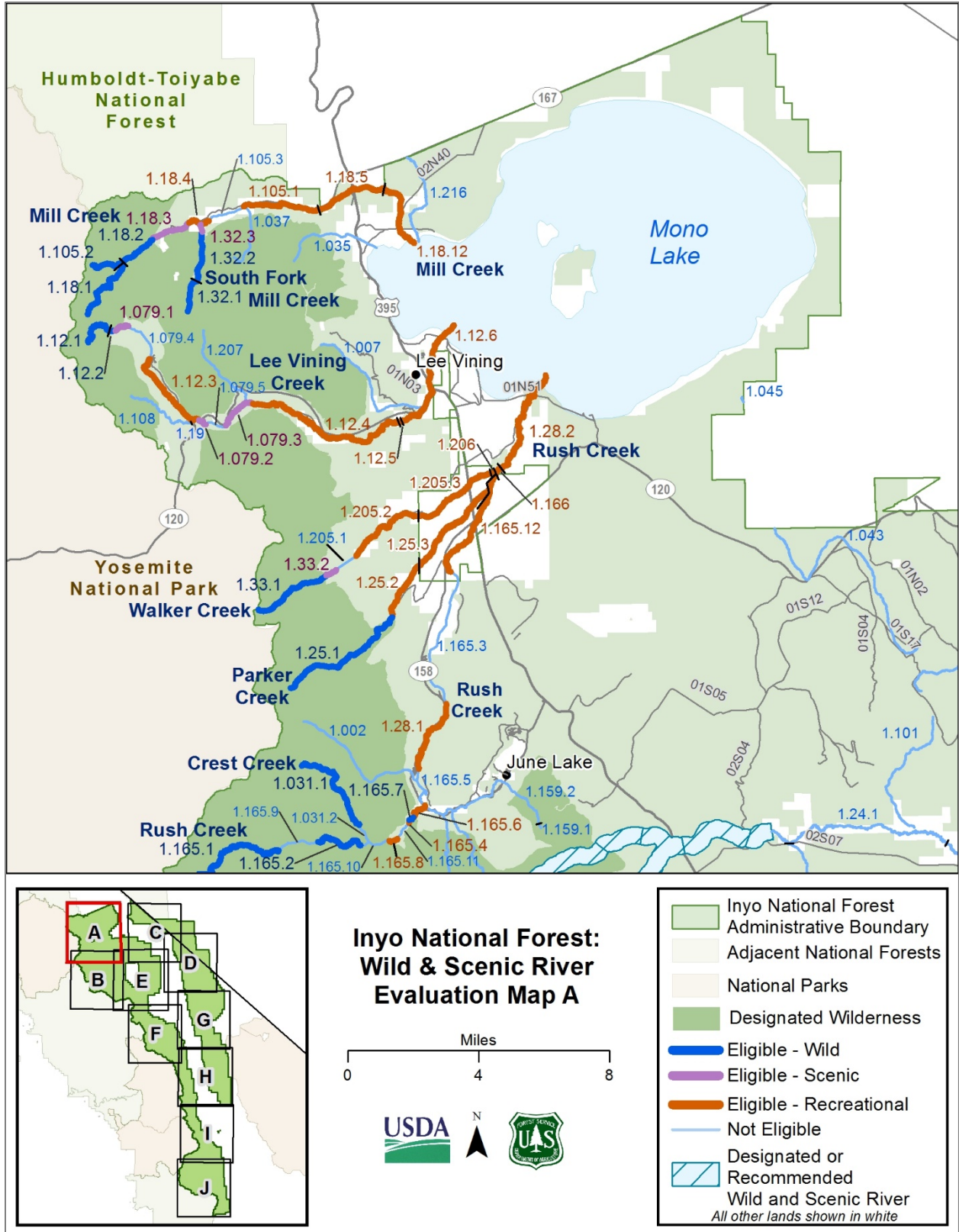
- The desired conditions for wild and scenic rivers should include maintaining and enhancing river flow conditions for recreation.
- The desired condition statement for wild and scenic rivers should be more extensive, such as the statement contained in the Sierra Nevada Framework document.
- Guidelines for wild and scenic rivers should include the protection of in-stream flows for recreational values.
- To organize the wild and scenic river components, the plan's management areas should include one or more geographic areas for wild and scenic rivers.
- The Forest Service should not include any plan elements that limit fish stocking or limit angling on wild and scenic rivers.
- Any potential contribution of timber from designated wild and scenic rivers to the timber sale program needs to be described in the plan components.

Support for or against additional wild and scenic river designations:

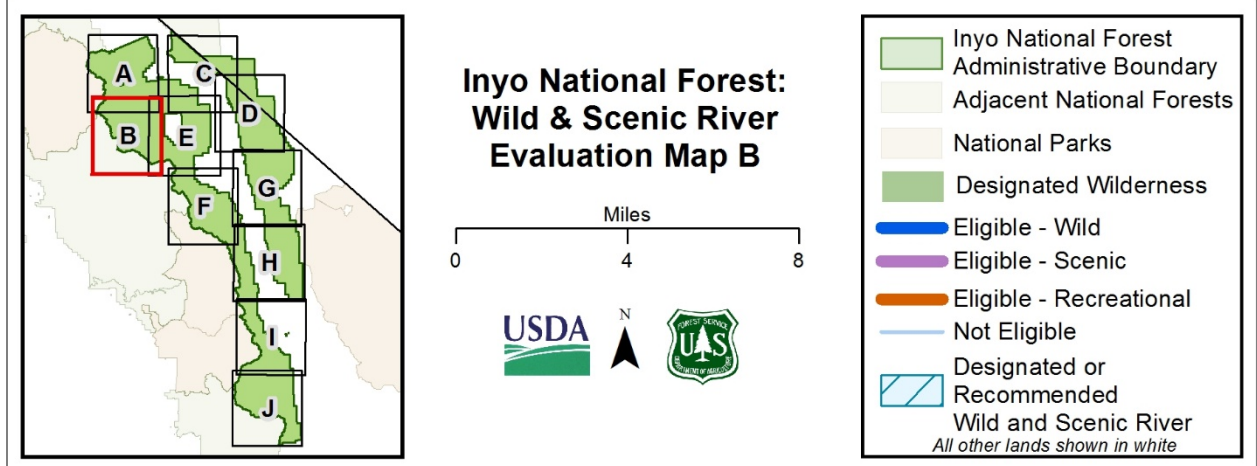
- Wild and scenic rivers are places where wildlife can live and thrive relatively undisturbed.
- Additional wild and scenic river designations would limit the agency's ability to make the forest more fire resilient.

Detailed Study Results

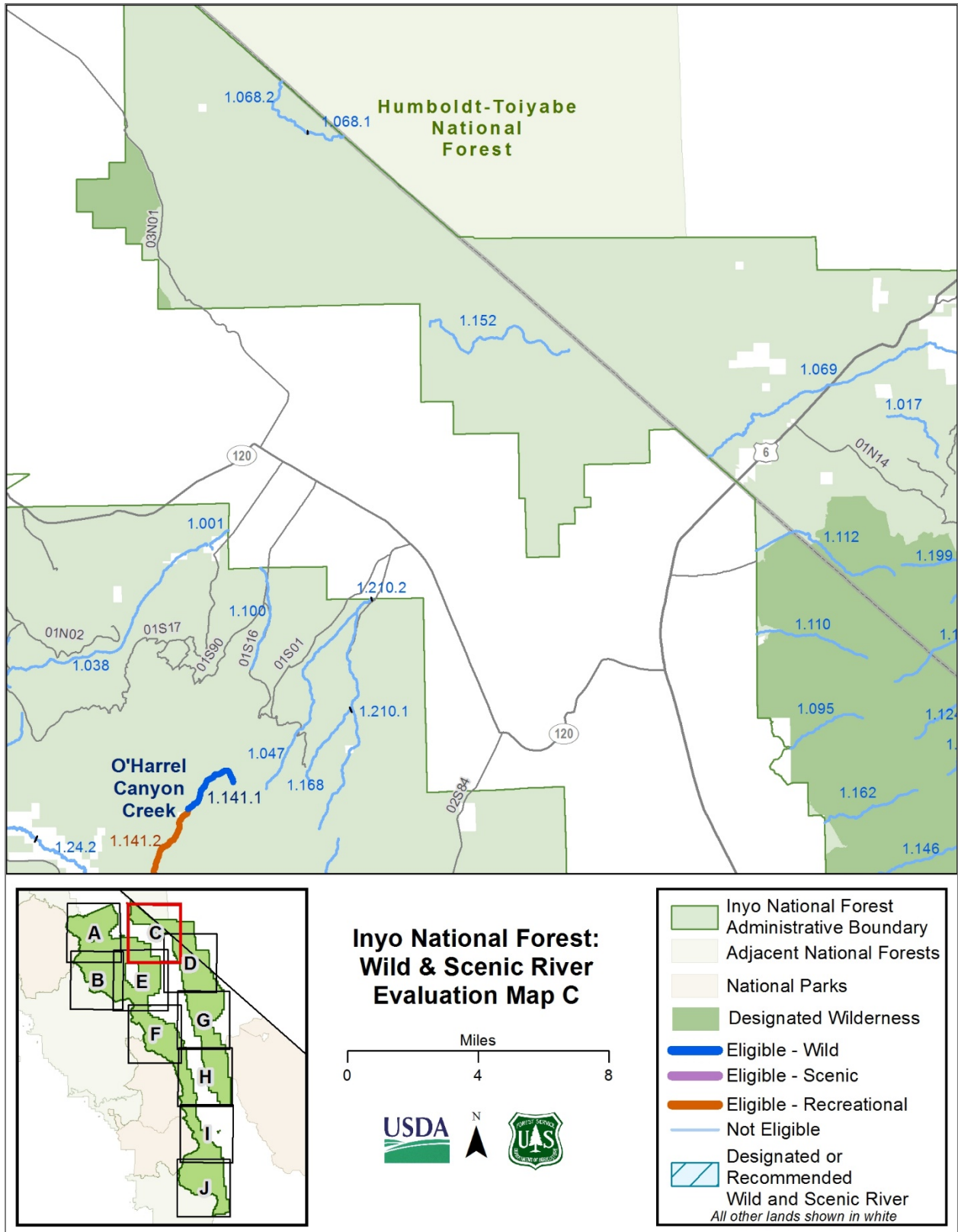
The following series of evaluation maps display river segments and preliminary classification (see Map C-2 through Map C-11).



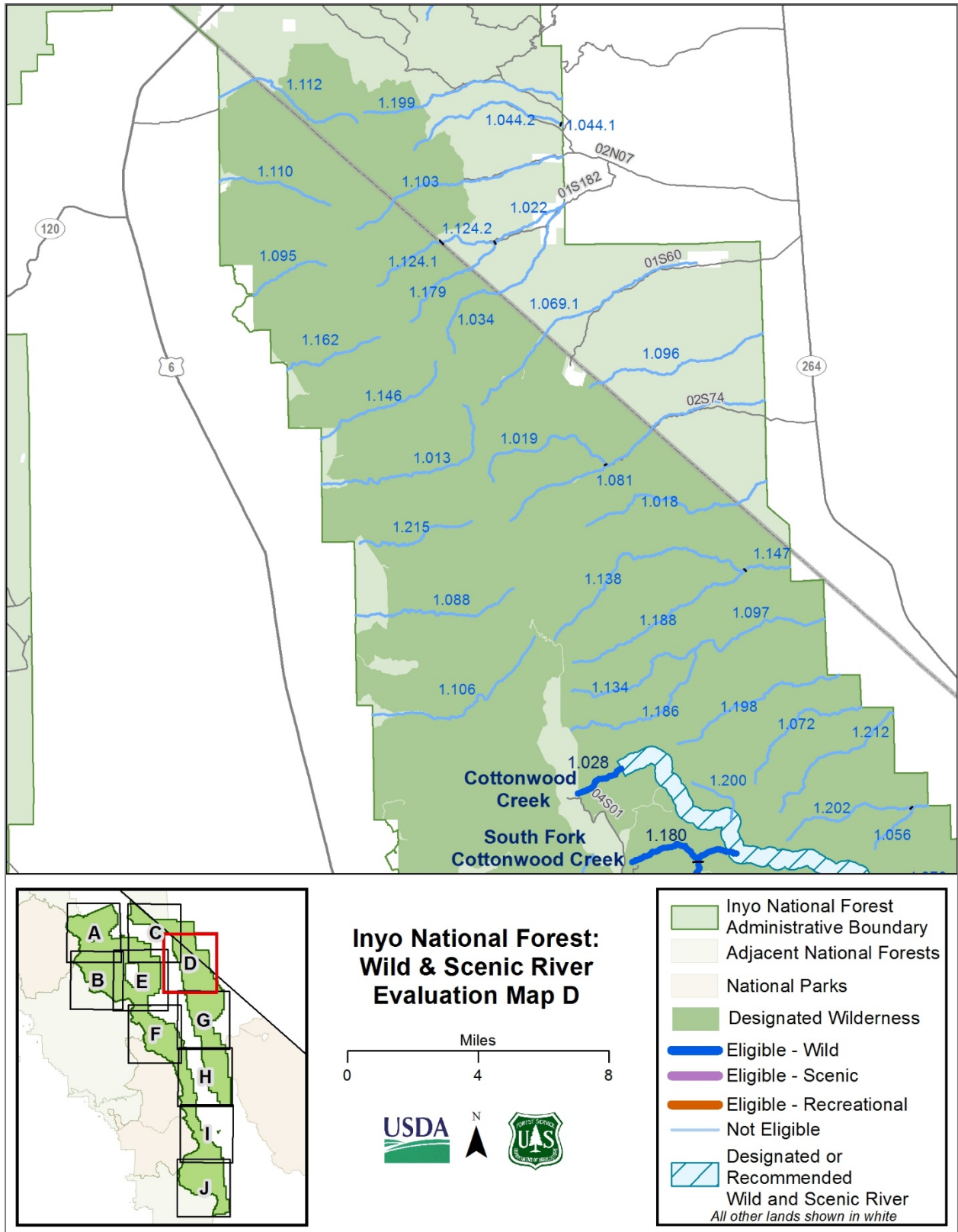
Map C-2. Wild and scenic river evaluation map A



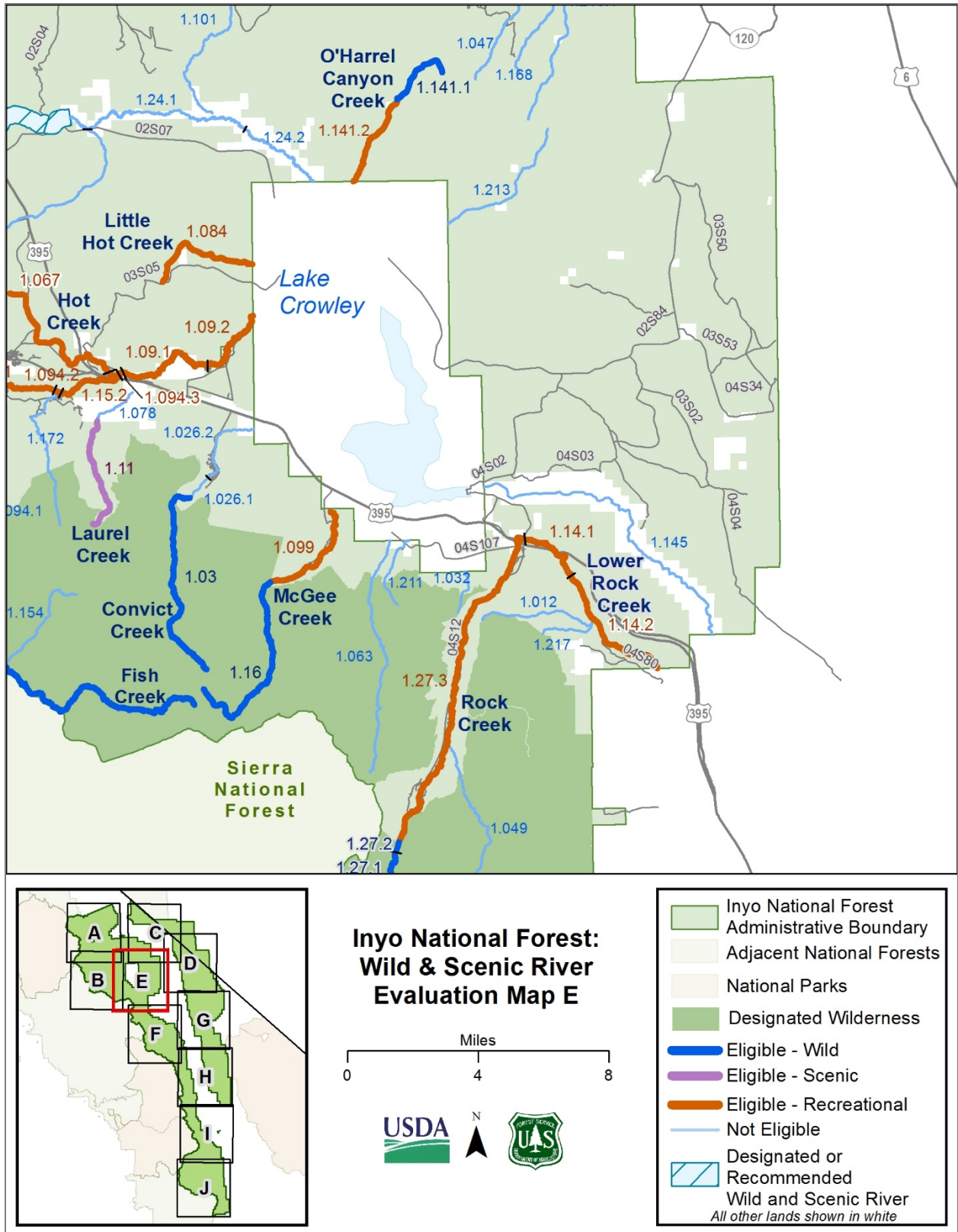
Map C- 3. Wild and scenic river evaluation map B



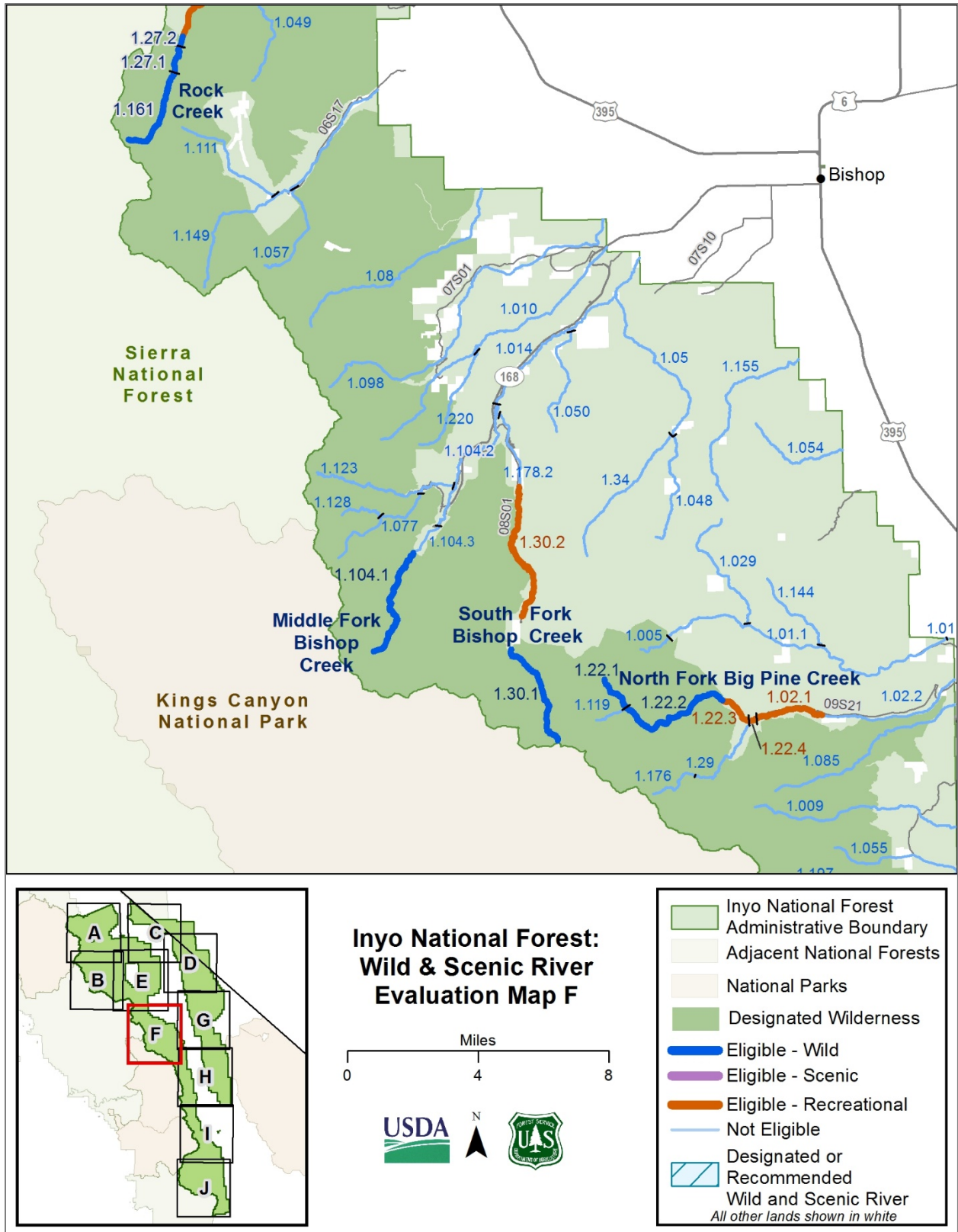
Map C-4. Wild and scenic river evaluation map C



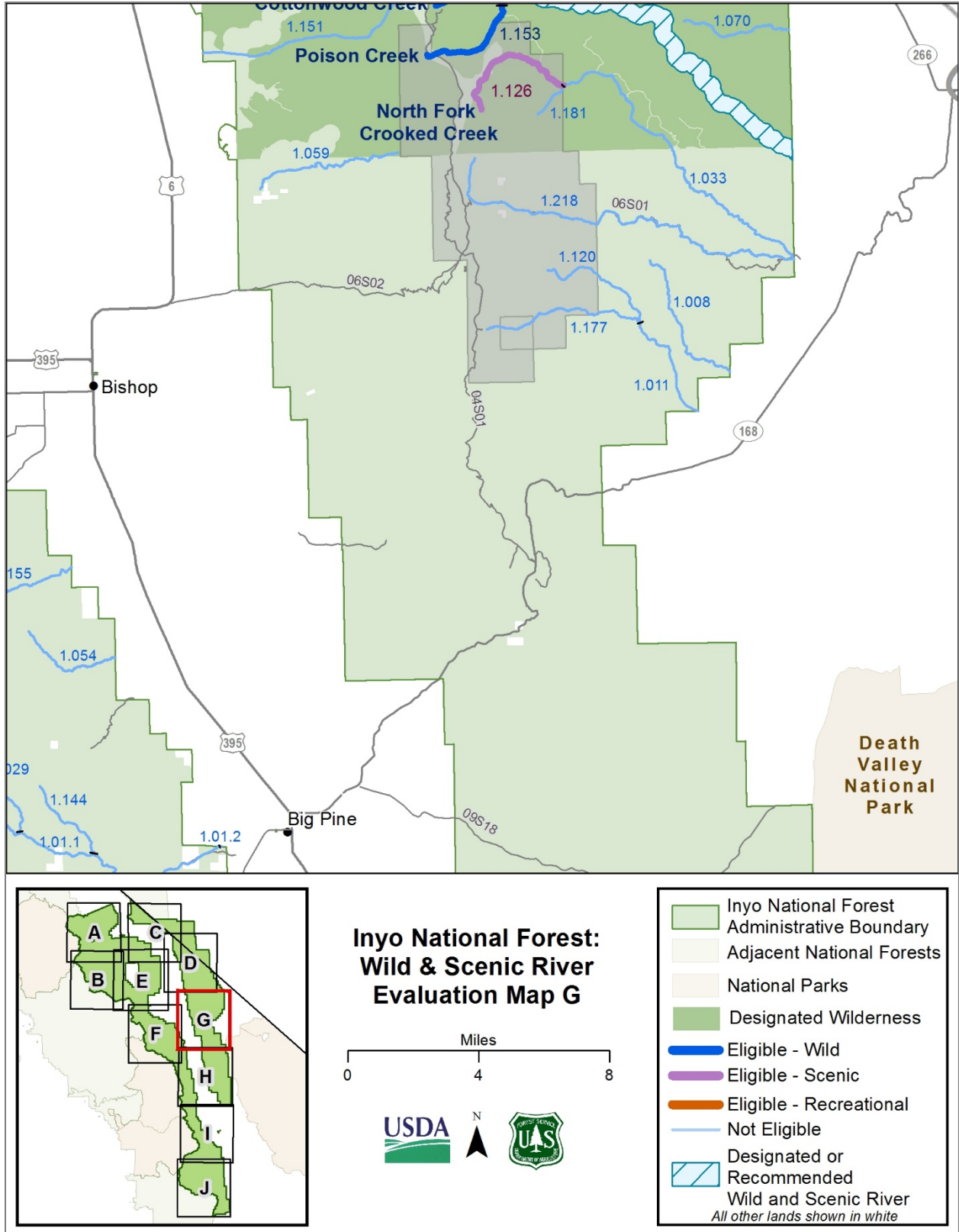
Map C-5. Wild and scenic river evaluation map D



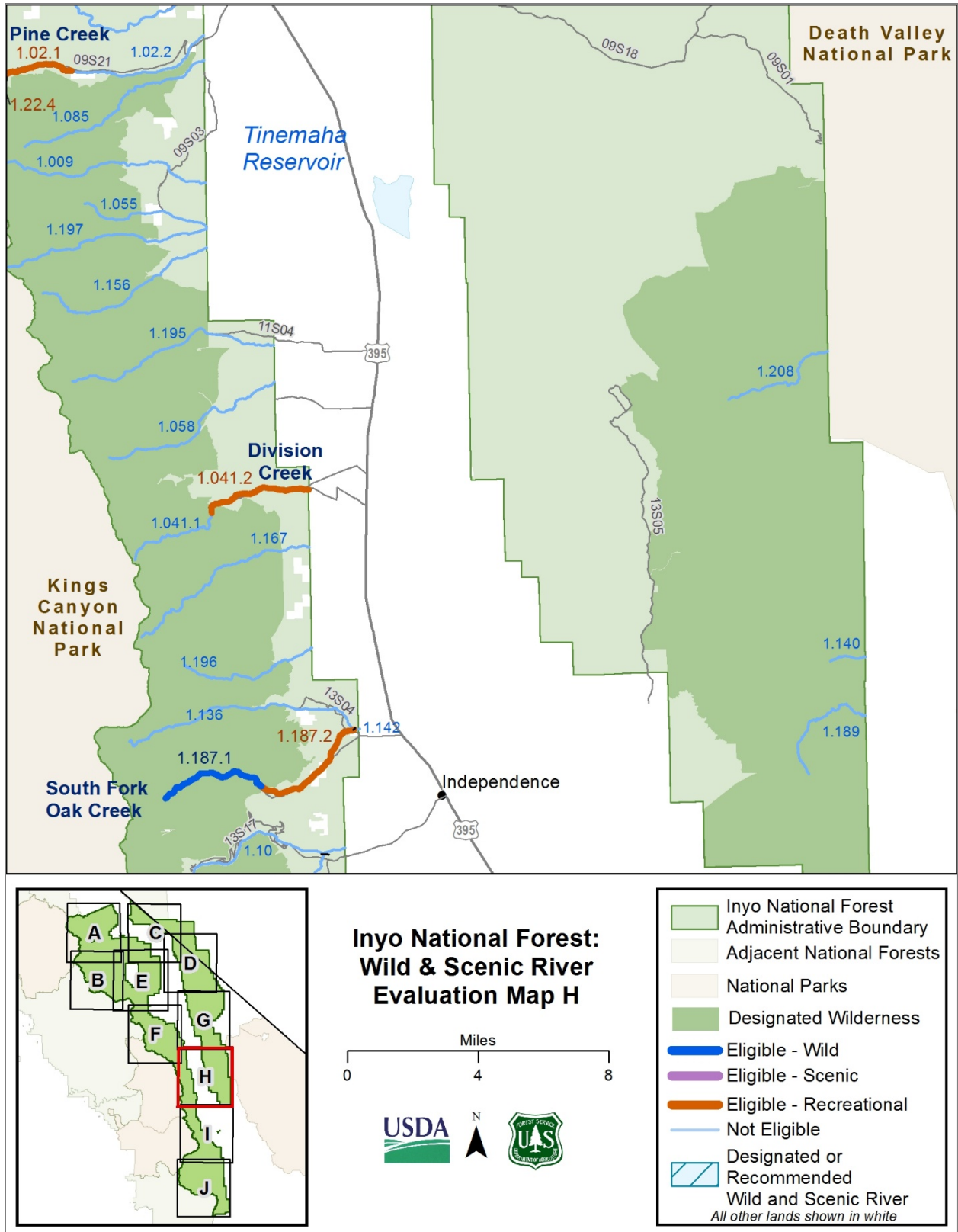
Map C-6. Wild and scenic river evaluation map E



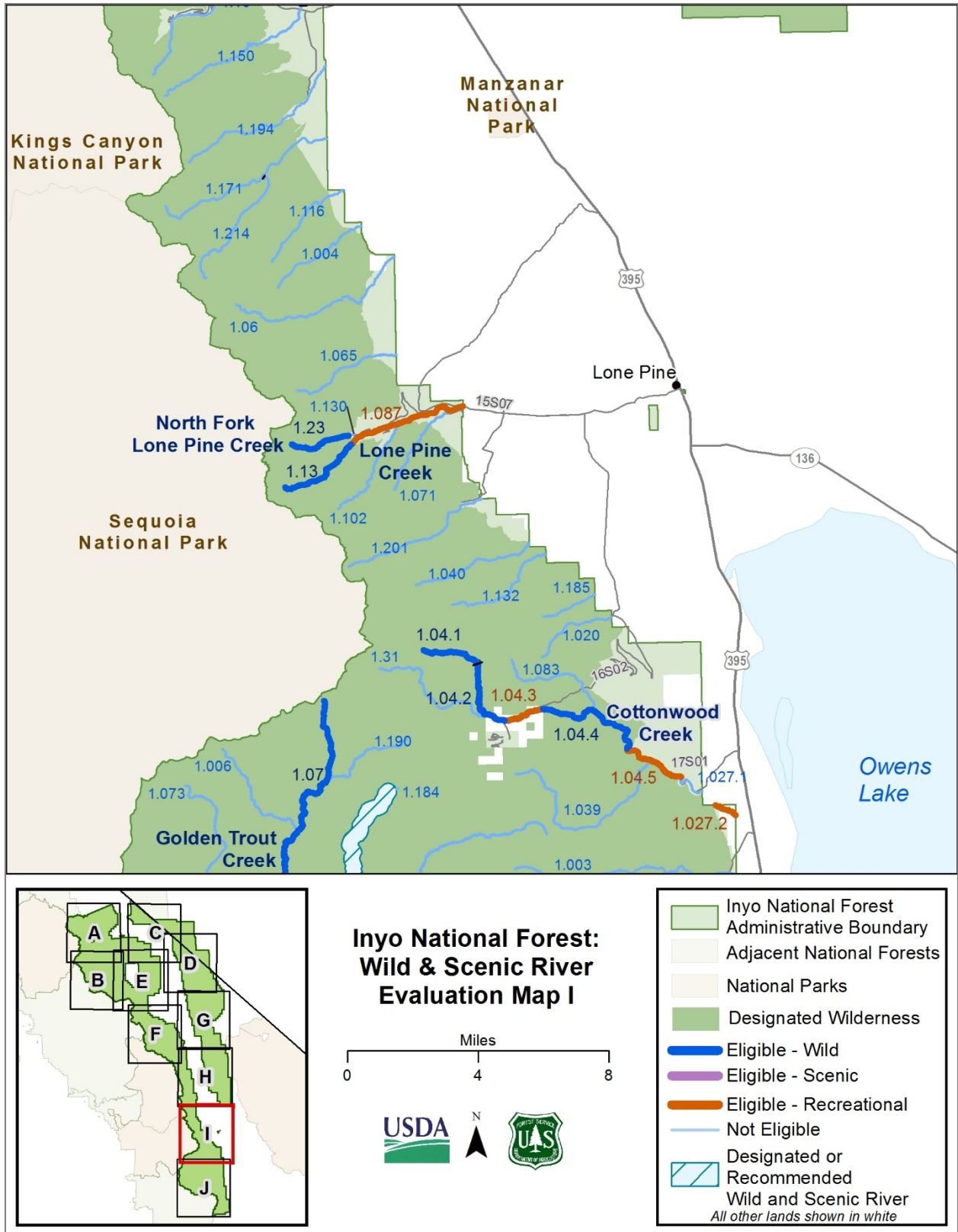
Map C-7. Wild and scenic river evaluation map F



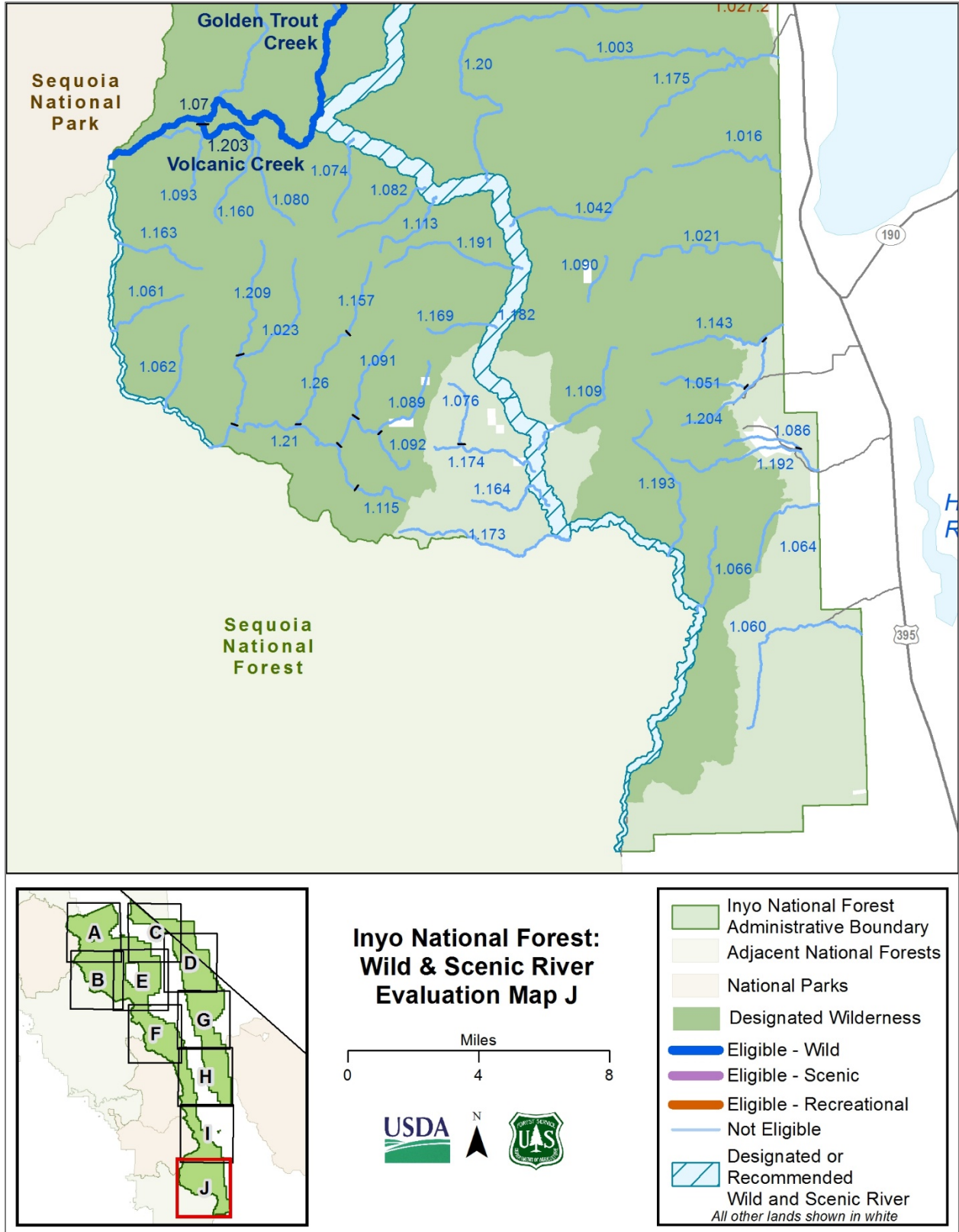
Map C-8. Wild and scenic river evaluation map G



Map C-9. Wild and scenic river evaluation map H



Map C-10. Wild and scenic river evaluation map I



Map C-11. Wild and scenic river evaluation map J

River Segments Not Previously Studied

Free flow was determined based on information in the Inyo National Forest files including the special uses database and anecdotal references from employees involved in land management decision-making processes. Although not all are georeferenced, our staff has knowledge of impoundments of river segments by Southern California Edison, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Recreation Special uses permit holders, and other permit holders with water rights on the creeks within the Inyo National Forest.

The following river segments were determined to be free-flowing:

Adobe Creek	Fuller Creek	Mammoth Creek	Parker Creek
Alger Creek	Furnace Creek	Marble Creek	Pelisier Creek
Ash Creek	Gable Creek	McAfee Creek	Perry Aiken Creek
Bairs Creek	Goodale Creek	McGee Creek	Pinchot Creek
Baker Creek	Gunter Creek	McLaughlin Creek	Pine Creek
Barigan Stringer	Haiwee Creek	Meysan Creek	Pinyon Creek
Beartrack Creek	Hell for Sure Creek	Middle Creek	Piute Creek
Beer Creek	Hells Hole Creek	Middle Fork Bishop Creek	Pizona Creek
Birch Creek	Hilton Creek	Mill Creek	Poison Creek
Bishop Creek	Hogback Creek	Millner Creek	Purple Creek
Boundary Creek	Honeybee Creek	Minaret Creek	Rawson Creek
Braley Creek	Horse Creek	Mine Creek	Red Mountain Creek
Brownie Creek	Hot Creek	Monache Creek	Redrock Creek
Busher Creek	Huntoon Creek	Montgomery Creek	Reds Creek
Cabin Creek	Hutchinson Creek	Morgan Creek	Reversed Creek
Carroll Creek	Indian Creek	Morris Creek	Right Stringer
Cartago Creek	Indian Garden Creek	Movie Stinger	Rock Creek
Chiatovich Creek	Inyo Creek	Ninemile Creek	Rough Creek
Cold Creek	Iron Creek	N. Fork Bairs Creek	Round Mountain Stringer
Cold Water Creek	Johnson Creek	N. Fork Big Pine Creek	Rush Creek
Convict Creek	Kern Peak Stringer	N. Fork Birch Creek	Sawmill Creek
Cottonwood Creek	King Creek	N. Fork Bishop Creek	Schaeffer Stringer
Cow Creek	Kingfisher Stringer	N. Fork Chiatovich Creek	Shadow Creek
Crater Creek	Lamarck Creek	N. Fork Crooked Creek	Shepherd Creek
Crest Creek	Laurel Creek	N. Fork Lamarck Creek	Sherwin Creek
Crooked Creek	Lee Vining Creek	N. Fork Lone Pine Creek	Snake Creek
Davis Creek	Left Stringer	N. Fork Lubken Creek	Soda Creek
Dechambeau Creek	Leidy Creek	N. Fork McAfee Creek	S. Fork Ash Creek
Deer Creek	Lewis Stringer	N. Fork Oak Creek	S. Fork Big Pine Creek
Dexter Creek	Little Cottonwood Creek	N. Fork Perry Aiken Creek	S. Fork Birch Creek
Diaz Creek	Little Hot Creek	N. Fork Willow Creek	S. Fork Chiatovich Creek
Division Creek	Little Pine Creek	O'Harrel Canyon Creek	S. Fork Cottonwood Creek
Dry Creek	Loco Creek	Oak Creek	S. Fork Kern River
East Fork Coyote Creek	Lone Pine Creek	Olancha Creek	S. Fork Lubken Creek
East Fork Rock Creek	Lone Tree Creek	Onion Creek	S. Fork McAfee Creek
Egypt Creek	Long Canyon Creek	Owens River	S. Fork Oak Creek
Falls Creek	Long Stringer		
Fern Creek	Lost Trout Creek		
Fish Creek	Malpais Creek		
Freeman Creek			

S. Fork Perry Aiken Creek	Thibaut Creek	Walker Creek	Williamson Creek
S. Fork Willow Creek	Tinemaha Creek	Warren Fork	Willow Creek
Stokes Stringer	Toler Creek	Waucoba Wash	Wilson Creek
Strawberry Creek	Trail Creek	West Stringer	Witcher Creek
Summit Creek	Tres Plumas Creek	Wet Creek	Wyman Creek
Symmes Creek	Tuttle Creek	Whisky Creek	Yost Creek
Taboose Creek	Unnamed Perennial	Wildhorse Creek	
	Volcanic Creek	Wilfred Creek	

River segments not previously studied and not free flowing

The following river segments listed in Table C-2 were determined to be not free-flowing due to multiple dams and diversions with highly regulated flows that have reduced the system’s natural flow:

Table C-2. River segments not previously studied and not free flowing

Segment Name	GIS Number	Mileage	Free Flow
Bishop Creek	1.014	7.0	No, multiple dams and diversions with highly regulated flows
Crest Creek	1.031.2	0.6	No, Gem Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Lee Vining Creek	1.079.4	1.3	No, Saddlebag Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Lee Vining Creek	1.079.5	0.7	No, Ellery Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Middle Fork Bishop Creek	1.104.2	5.2	No, multiple dams and diversions with highly regulated flows
Middle Fork Bishop Creek	1.104.3	1.2	No, multiple dams and diversions with highly regulated flows
Mill Creek	1.105.3	1.2	No, Lundy Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Rush Creek	1.165.3	4.7	No, Grant Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Rush Creek	1.165.9	1.4	No, Waugh Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Rush Creek	1.165.10	1.0	No, Gem Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Rush Creek	1.165.11	0.7	No, Agnew Lake (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
South Fork Bishop Creek	1.178.2	2.9	No, Lake Sabrina (Reservoir) impedes natural flow
Total		27.9	

179 river segments not previously studied (approximately 759.4 miles) have both free flow and river-related values that were analyzed to determine if they are outstandingly remarkable values. 39 river segments not previously studied (approximately 111.6 miles) are eligible because they have free flow and outstandingly remarkable values. Table C-7, the evaluation maps above, and the River Segment Details section below provide more information about these river segments.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council technical paper “The Wild and Scenic River Study Process,” describes the baseline criteria for outstandingly remarkable scenery, recreation, geology, fish and wildlife populations and habitat, prehistory/cultural, and history values. Outstandingly remarkable botanical values are based upon unique and rare plants and vegetation types. The Inyo National Forest interdisciplinary team identified the following additional criteria for determining if any river-related values are outstandingly remarkable values:

Scenery: The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors

may be considered such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

In applying this scenery criteria, unique scenery considered as an outstandingly remarkable value included scenery with views of unique geologic formations; unique vistas; or unique landscapes with combinations of alpine lakes, high peaks, and water features such as waterfalls.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison. The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

In applying recreation criteria, unique recreation considered as an outstandingly remarkable value included recreation experiences such as unique fishing opportunities (for example fishing for golden trout or Blue Ribbon fishery areas); areas that offered unique scenery that enhanced the recreation experience (for example, unique formations, or vistas); or where a multiple combination of recreational experiences occur, such as hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, photography, and fishing.

Geology: The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures).

In applying these criteria for geology, unique geologic features considered as an outstandingly remarkable value include lava formations, rare mineral deposits, hot springs, or unique rock formations.

Fish: Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- **Populations:** The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State-listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”
- **Habitat:** The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”

In applying these criteria, these features were identified as an outstandingly remarkable value if the area represents important habitat for breeding or are occupied at critical life stages, like breeding; or the area offers exceptional habitat or diverse habitat for the species.

Wildlife: Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

- **Populations:** The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State-listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered, or

sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”

- **Habitat:** The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of “outstandingly remarkable.”

In applying these criteria, these features were identified as an outstandingly remarkable value if the areas represents important habitat for breeding or are occupied at critical life stages, like breeding. Or the area offers exceptional habitat or diverse habitat for the species.

Prehistory: The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the National Park Service (see notes below regarding National Register sites).

History: The river or area within the river corridor contains one or more sites or features associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site or features is 50 years old or older in most cases (see notes below regarding National Register sites).

Other (Cultural): Outstandingly remarkable values were determined for this resource based on well-substantiated knowledge of unique and significant river-related Tribal cultural values.

Other (Botanical): Outstandingly remarkable values were determined for this resource based on the unique combination or numerous botanical values associated with the river segments.

Notes about sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places: The Inyo National Forest heritage database was used to identify documented historic and prehistoric sites within a ¼ mile of each analyzed stream segment as river related values. Because there presently are no National Register of Historic Places listed cultural properties on the Inyo National Forest, the National Register had limited use in identifying outstandingly remarkable values. In absence of identified National Register sites, the following factors were considered to determine if documented sites (if present) might qualify as outstanding and remarkable values:

- **Does an important interrelationship exist between documented cultural sites and the river?** In the case of prehistoric sites, or when insufficient information was available, this relationship was presumed to exist.

Is unique or rare significance of all or any of the documented cultural sites established through National Register of Historic Places evaluation, associative history, site density or other means? The significance of some sites has been established through a consensus determination with the California State Historic Preservation Office as qualifying National Register of Historic Places eligible properties and, in a few cases, draft National Register nomination forms substantiating site significance have been compiled. Other sites, while formally unevaluated against National Register of Historic Places criteria, occur in such great densities or are associated with such well-established themes of significance for the Inyo (such as nationally important high elevation prehistoric habitation

sites in the White Mountains, regionally significant prehistoric obsidian sources, regionally important development of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in Owens Valley and regionally significant historic hydroelectric development) that outstanding and remarkable values were assumed.

The same process was used in the reconsideration of past evaluations as well as for all new evaluations. It is important to note that while known themes of history and prehistory exist throughout the national forest, not all cultural properties have been discovered and documented. For the purposes of the analysis, the ability to recognize prehistory or history values was presumed to rely upon the confirmed presence of associated cultural sites. If the heritage database contains no record of documented prehistoric and/or historic cultural sites within ¼ mile of a stream reach, then no corresponding river-related value (potential outstandingly remarkable value) was identified. If prehistoric and/or historic sites are known, the above criteria were used to determine if available site information warranted identification of an outstandingly remarkable value. This resulted in not carrying forward certain outstandingly remarkable values identified by the past evaluation efforts for a few streams where known sites have not been documented (such as Mill Creek and Walker Creek) or when known sites do not owe their existence to the presence of the river (such as Walker Creek).

Region of Comparison

- **Scenery** – Scenery values were evaluated across the southeastern subregions of the assessment area identified in the Bioregional Assessment Report (USDA Forest Service 2012). This area includes the southern Sierra Nevada and small portions of the Great Basin located in eastern Nevada.
- **Recreation** – Recreation values were evaluated across the southeastern subregions of the assessment area identified in the Bioregional Assessment Report (USDA Forest Service 2012). This area includes the southern Sierra Nevada and Great Basin and Desert areas of eastern California, approximately from the Bodie Hills in the north, to Owens Lake in the southeast, and including portions of the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests.
- **Geology** – Geology values across the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada (Lake Tahoe to the Sequoia National Forest); the Western Great Basin (Nevada); and northern Mojave Desert.
- **Fish and Wildlife** – Fish and wildlife values, population and habitat were evaluated as follows:
 - ◆ Across the species range for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog; Northern distinct population segment of Mountain yellow-legged frog; Yosemite toad; Lahontan cutthroat trout; Paiute cutthroat trout; Golden trout; Western yellow-billed cuckoo; Willow flycatcher; and Panamint alligator lizard
 - ◆ Across the species range, within the Inyo National Forest for Owens pupfish and Owens tui chub
 - ◆ Across the Inyo National Forest for Owens Valley springsnail and Wong’s springsnail
- **Prehistory** – Prehistory values were evaluated across the Inyo National Forest.
- **History** – History values were evaluated across the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)** – Other (botanical) values were evaluated across the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada (Lake Tahoe to the Sequoia National Forest); the Western Great Basin (Nevada); and northern Mojave Desert.
- **Other (Cultural)** – Cultural values were evaluated across the Inyo National Forest.

River Segment Details

Cottonwood Creek (White Mountains) (GIS Number 1.027.2)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Forest Boundary
- End Point Description: Forest Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 0.7
- Eligible: 0.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power aqueduct history and development sites.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Documented sites are significantly associated with stream and regionally important historic themes unique to the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Four prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Cottonwood Creek (White Mountains) (GIS Number 1.027.2) from forest boundary to forest boundary is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Impoundments associated with the Cottonwood Creek power plant.

Shoreline Development: Cottonwood power plant and associated buildings visible from the creek, established dispersed camping along the creek and adjacent to the road.

Accessibility: Accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Cottonwood Creek (White Mountains) (GIS Number 1.028)

Location

- County: Mono County

- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters at White Mountains Wilderness Boundary
- End Point Description: Wild and Scenic River designated segment

Mileage

- Studied: 1.7
- Eligible: 1.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Fish (Populations)**
 - ◆ Description: Paiute cutthroat trout occurs within this segment. This species is listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value because of the uniqueness of this species occurring within the region of comparison.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: One historic corral.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the one known site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Several high elevation prehistoric sites are known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. White Mountains are one of highest elevation prehistoric habitation areas known in the country.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: One population of a rare plant is located along this segment (*Oxytropis deflexa* var. *sericea*)
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Cottonwood Creek (White Mountain) (GIS Number 1.028) from the headwaters at White Mountain Wilderness boundary to the Wild and Scenic River designated segment is eligible because fish (populations) and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, no designated routes access this segment.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Crest Creek (GIS Number 1.031.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Inlet to Gem Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 3.3
- Eligible: 3.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers fishing opportunities and hiking along the creek for approximately one mile.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite Toad occurs.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Analysis determined habitat systems where Yosemite toad occurs are actually lakes or meadow systems that are catch basins of snow and rain. In this instance, "river sections" are not creating habitat that contributes to the persistence of this species.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Baker Cabin, Gem Lake Dam and the NRHP eligible Rush Creek Hydroelectric System.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. The stream reach contains NRHP eligible sites with significant associations to the stream and important hydroelectric development themes on the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Crest Creek from the headwaters to the inlet of Gem Lake is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible except by trail, for a short distance (one mile).

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Division Creek (GIS Number 1.041.2)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point: John Muir Wilderness Boundary
- End Point: Forest Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 3.4
- Eligible: 3.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers fishing, day-use, hiking, and wild-flower viewing opportunities.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstanding remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Variety of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power sites known, including power plant, penstock, sand traps, and ditches.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. The stream reach contains sites with significant associations to the stream and unique themes of regionally significant water extraction development on the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Variety of prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Known sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Division Creek from John Muir Wilderness Boundary to Forest Boundary is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundments or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Fish Creek (GIS Number 1.053)

Location

- County: Madera and Fresno
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Confluence with Middle Fork San Joaquin River

Mileage

- Studied: 20.4
- Eligible: 20.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic river corridor including waterfalls, granite cascades, and soda springs.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Popular hiking trail within the Ansel Adams Wilderness.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Includes granite features, like rounded boulders, that add to the uniqueness of the scenery.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Populations)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite toad breeding populations occur in meadow and upland systems adjacent to this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Populations)**
 - ◆ Description: Planted rainbow and brook trout fishery, no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Populations) is not an outstandingly remarkable value
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Four scattered prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few known sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Moist meadow is present within the river corridor.

- ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Fish Creek from headwaters to confluence with Middle Fork San Joaquin is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, and wildlife (populations) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.067)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Intersection of stream and Forest Road 3S45G

Mileage

- Studied: 5.6
- Eligible: 5.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: A moist meadow is found along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: High concentration of documented historic sites including administrative buildings, sawmill foundation, refuse scatters, and historic sites related to recreation and resource extraction.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large numbers of historic sites are documented that are associated with significant themes of historic settlement, resource extraction and development on the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.

- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing and trade.

Summary: Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.067) from headwaters to intersection of stream and Forest Road 3S45G is eligible because history, prehistory, and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.079.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point: Highway 120
- Ending Point: Inlet to Ellery Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 0.4
- Eligible: 0.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic meadow systems below granite peaks.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Glacial features area highly visible from the creek; scenic geology throughout the reach.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Power line, historic travel corridor, historic camp.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few documented sites are not significantly associated with the river and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

- **Prehistory**

- ◆ Description: Three scattered prehistoric sites.
- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Only a few sites are known and they are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.079.2) from Highway 120 to the inlet to Ellery Lake is eligible because geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundments.

Shoreline Development: Largely primitive and undeveloped.

Accessibility: Accessible in places by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Scenic

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.079.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point: 300 feet below Ellery Lake dam
- Ending Point: Southern California Edison (SCE) Powerhouse

Mileage

- Studied: 1.2
- Eligible: 1.2

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Value

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: Highly scenic meadow systems below granite peaks.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**

- ◆ Description: Glacial features area highly visible from the creek; scenic geology throughout the reach.
- ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **History**

- ◆ Description: Power line, historic travel corridor, historic camp.

- ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few documented sites are not significantly associated with the river and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Three scattered prehistoric sites.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Only a few sites are known and they are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.079.3) from 300 feet below Ellery Lake Dam to Southern California Edison powerhouse is eligible because geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundments.

Shoreline Development: Largely primitive and undeveloped.

Accessibility: Accessible in places by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Scenic

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.079.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Inlet to Greenstone Lake
- End Point Description: Inlet to Saddlebag Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 0.5
- Eligible: 0.5

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Description: Highly scenic meadow systems below granite peaks.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Area includes opportunities for day-use, hiking, back-backing, and fishing.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Glacial features area highly visible from the creek; scenic geology throughout the reach.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite toad, a threatened species, occurs in meadow and upland systems at the beginning of this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: The occurrences of this species are not unique within the region of comparison or this area of the Inyo National Forest. Wildlife (population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite toad habitat occurs in the meadow and upland communities along the beginning of this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: The presence of this species' habitat is not unique within the region of comparison or this area of the Inyo National Forest. Wildlife (Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.079.1) from inlet to Greenstone Lake to inlet to Saddlebag Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Largely primitive and undeveloped, no substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Accessible in places by trail or boat.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Scenic

Little Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.084)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Antelope Spring
- End Point Description: Forest Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 3.9
- Eligible: 3.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: River contributes to vistas of the Sierra Nevada, Glass and White Mountains in the Long Valley area.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Area provides for off-road vehicle use along designated Forest routes.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Unique geologic features; thermally altered volcanic rocks and hot springs.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense concentration of documented prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing and trade.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Extensive alkali flats in the river corridor along with the rare plant Inyo phacelia.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Little Hot Creek from Antelope Spring to the Forest boundary is eligible because prehistory, geology and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundments or diversions.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Lone Pine Creek (GIS Number 1.087)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: John Muir Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Inyo Forest boundary near Lone Pine Campground

Mileage

- Studied: 3.9

- Eligible: 3.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 3/22/91 memo noted extremely popular recreation area and determined that scenery and recreation were outstandingly remarkable values. The currently study interdisciplinary team review noted recreation opportunity and use is tied to Mt. Whitney and designated wilderness, which is not necessarily river related.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon with views of several towering peaks and granitic walls.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking and camping, occur. Whitney Portal National Recreation Trail along creek.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Hiking opportunities to Mt. Whitney, within proximity of the creek are a unique recreation opportunity.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Classic example of alluvial fan formation (geomorphology).
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Whitney Portal Road and trash scatter.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Lone Pine Creek (GIS Number 1.087) from John Muir Wilderness boundary to the Inyo Forest boundary near Lone Pine Campground is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Developed along areas where trail is located and within campgrounds.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.094.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Intersection with Sherwin Creek
- End Point Description: 0.04 miles after intersection with Sherwin Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 0.04
- Eligible: 0.04

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Segment provides for fishing and camping.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: High concentration of documented historic sites associated with early settlement, administration, mining, resource extraction, and recreation.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large numbers of historic sites are documented that are associated with significant themes of historic settlement, resource extraction, and development.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense concentration of documented prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing, and trade.

Summary: Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.094.2) from intersection with Sherwin Creek to 0.04 miles after the intersection with Sherwin Creek is eligible because history and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.094.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: South of Hot Creek by 0.018 miles
- Ending Point Description: Intersection with Hot Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 0.02
- Eligible: 0.02

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: High concentration of documented historic sites associated with early settlement, administration, mining, resource extraction, and recreation.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large numbers of historic sites are documented that are associated with significant themes of historic settlement, resource extraction, and development.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense concentration of documented prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.

Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing, and trade.

Summary: Mammoth Creek GIS Number 1.094.3) from South of Hot Creek by 0.02 miles to the intersection of Hot Creek is eligible because history and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundments or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.094.4)

Location

- County: Mono County

- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness Boundary
- End Point Description: Twin Lakes Outlet

Mileage

- Studied: 3.5
- Eligible: 3.5

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Developed camping, fishing, day-use, and other water activities occur along this segment. These activities are highly concentrated and popular within this area.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value due to the high use occurring in this area that is related to the presence of the water and developed facilities.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: High concentration of documented historic sites associated with early settlement, administration, mining, resource extraction, and recreation.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large numbers of historic sites are documented that are associated with significant themes of historic settlement, resource extraction, and development.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense concentration of documented prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing, and trade.

Summary: Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.094.4) from John Muir Wilderness Boundary to Twin Lakes outlet is eligible because recreation, history, and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

McGee Creek (GIS Number 1.099)

Location

- County: Mono County

- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness Boundary
- End Point Description: Forest Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 3.8
- Eligible: 3.8

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Day-use, fishing, and camping occur along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Unique geology visible from trail; waterfalls on both sides of the canyon; old sierra rocks, roof pendants.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Arborglyph site.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Three prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few known sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: An aspen stand is located along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: McGee Creek (GIS Number 1.099) from wilderness boundary to forest boundary is eligible because geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Middle Fork Bishop Creek (GIS Number 1.104.1)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Intlet of Lake Sabrina

Mileage

- Studied: 4.0
- Eligible: 4.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Offers views of high granite peaks, including Picture Peak, and lakes, including Hungry Packer Lake, along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Hiking trail through the area, however, the majority of the segment is not accessible by trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: One prehistoric site.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Middle Fork Bishop Creek from headwaters to outlet of Lake Sabrina is eligible because scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.105.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Intersection with Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.1)

Mileage

- Studied: 1.1
- Eligible: 1.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Visible evidence of glaciation. Conness Glacier and a large portion of the sierra crest is visible from the top of the canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.105.2) from headwaters to the intersection with Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.1) is eligible because geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Not accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.105.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Lundy Lake
- End Point Description: Forest boundary south of forest road 2N01

Mileage

- Studied: 2.6
- Eligible: 2.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Views of high elevation peaks, steep canyon walls, and Mono Lake.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Developed camping and fishing occur along this stream. Recreational fall color viewing occurs in this segment in the riparian aspen and fir and pine corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Three historic sites are known along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. There is no information about these sites to conclude they are unusual, importantly associated with the stream, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites occur in this area.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Aspen and Ranunculus hydrocharoides.
 - ◆ Determination: does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.105.1) from outlet of Lunday Lake to forest boundary south of forest road 2N01 is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Water diversions exist

Shoreline Development: A few homes, day-use recreation sites, and a campground.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

North Fork Crooked Creek (GIS Number 1.126)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Confluence with South Fork Crooked Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 4.6
- Eligible: 4.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Arborglyphs, research station, historic rock structure.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few known sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible high elevation prehistoric sites.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. NRHP eligible high elevation prehistoric habitation sites of national significance are known.

Summary: North Fork Crooked Creek from headwaters to confluence with South Fork Crooked Creek is eligible because prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Largely primitive and undeveloped, no substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Accessible in places by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Scenic

O'Harrel Canyon Creek (GIS Number 1.141.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Inventoried Roadless Area boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 2.3
- Eligible: 2.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Fish (Populations)**

- ◆ Description: This river includes populations of the federally listed species, Lahontan cutthroat trout.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: O’Harrel Canyon Creek (GIS Number 1.141.1) from headwaters to inventoried roadless area boundary is eligible because fish (populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Inaccessible by road or trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

O’Harrel Canyon Creek (GIS Number 1.141.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point: Inventoried Roadless Area boundary
- End Point Description: Forest boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 3.0
- Eligible: 3.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Fish (Populations)**

- ◆ Description: This river includes populations of the federally listed species, Lahontan cutthroat trout.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Prehistory**

- ◆ Description: O’Harrel Canyon Site (NRHP eligible) and a variety of other prehistoric sites are known.
- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. NRHP eligible prehistoric habitation and obsidian quarry reduction/processing areas are known.

Summary: O’Harrel Canyon Creek (GIS Number 1.141.2) from inventoried roadless area boundary to forest boundary is eligible because fish (populations) and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Accessible in places by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Parker Creek (GIS Number 1.25.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Forest boundary
- End Point Description: Confluence with Rush Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 4.1
- Eligible: 4.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, interesting geologic features of folds, waterfalls and cascades over the headwall.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers hiking, bird watching, and some fishing recreation opportunities.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Historic water diversions exist and are no longer in use.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Parker Creek (GIS Number 1.25.3) from forest boundary to confluence with Rush Creek is eligible because scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundments or diversions exist.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Poison Creek (GIS Number 1.153)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Intersection with South Fork Cottonwood Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 3.4
- Eligible: 3.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Alpine villages and game drive.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Known sites are unique and associated with nationally significant high elevation prehistory.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Multiple rare plants are found in springs within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The rare plants are not directly associated with the river, only springs.

Summary: Poison Creek from headwaters to intersection with South Fork Cottonwood Creek is eligible because prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, even by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Rock Creek (GIS Number 1.161)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Box Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 3.1
- Eligible: 3.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities are primarily hiking, camping, fishing, boating on the lakes, and horseback riding. Popular recreation canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Outstanding and unique glacial features in granitic batholith.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Rock Creek (GIS Number 1.161) from headwaters to Box Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive, some evidence of human use.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters

- End Point Description: Inlet of Waugh Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 3.7
- Eligible: 3.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Outstanding scenery in Upper Rush Creek including the Sierra crest, and many lakes and streams; the stream segment is adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Stream segments are adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail. This area offers hiking, backpacking, and some fishing opportunities. Outstanding scenery of the Ansel Adams Wilderness.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Populations)**
 - ◆ Description: Populations of Yosemite toad occur within this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Arboglyph site.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few known sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.1) from headwaters to inlet of Waugh Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and wildlife (populations) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Waugh Lake below dam
- End Point Description: Inlet to Gem Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 1.9
- Eligible: 1.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Outstanding scenery in Upper Rush Creek including the Sierra crest, and many lakes and streams; the stream segment is adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking and fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible hydroelectric developments, Rush Creek Tramway, and dams.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Numerous documented NRHP eligible sites associated regionally significant early hydroelectric development on the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: A moist meadow with aspen is located along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.2) from outlet of Waugh Lake below dam to inlet to Gem Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and history are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.8)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Gem Lake below dam
- End Point Description: Inlet to Agnew Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 0.3
- Eligible: 0.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible hydroelectric developments, Rush Creek Tramway, Gem and Agnew Lake Dams.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Numerous documented NRHP eligible sites associated regionally significant early hydroelectric development on the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.8) from small dam structure 600 feet below Agnew Lake dam to wilderness boundary is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development along trail.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by trail, but not roads.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.4)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Small dam structure 600 feet below Agnew Lake dam
- End Point Description: Wilderness Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 0.1
- Eligible: 0.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible hydroelectric developments, Rush Creek Tramway.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Numerous documented NRHP eligible sites associated regionally significant early hydroelectric development on the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.4) from small dam structure 600 feet below Agnew Lake dam to wilderness boundary is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development along trail.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by trail, but not roads.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.7)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness Boundary
- End Point Description: Wilderness Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 0.7
- Eligible: 0.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible hydroelectric developments, Rush Creek Tramway.

- ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Numerous documented NRHP eligible sites associated regionally significant early hydroelectric development on the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.7) from wilderness boundary to wilderness boundary is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Generally only accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.6)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Ansel Adams Wilderness Boundary
- End Point Description: Confluence with Reversed Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 0.7
- Eligible: 0.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible hydroelectric developments, Rush Creek Tramway.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Numerous documented NRHP eligible sites associated regionally significant early hydroelectric development on the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.165.6) from Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary to confluence with Reversed Creek is eligible because history is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development along trail.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by trail, but not roads.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Rush Creek (GIS Numbers 1.165.12 and 1.166)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Grant Lake diversion ditch and Rush Creek natural channel confluence
- End Point Description: Private land boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 4.2
- Eligible: 4.2

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: This area provides views of high alpine peaks and canyons, as well as fall color viewing opportunities.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers opportunities for bird watching, photography, and fishing.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: The Grant Lake Dam and a ditch system are known. Other historic diversions are present but many are no longer in use.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Known sites are not NRHP eligible.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Numbers 1.165.12 and 1.166) from Grant Lake diversion ditch and Rush Creek natural channel confluence to private land boundary is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Development along shoreline.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by roads and trails.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

South Fork Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.180)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Intersection with Cottonwood Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 3.7
- Eligible: 3.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Several unique high elevation prehistoric habitation sites.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Sites are unique and associated with significant themes for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Two rare plants are found along this segment (*Oxytropis deflexa* and *Carex scirpoidea*).
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: South Fork Cottonwood Creek from headwaters to the intersection with Cottonwood Creek is eligible because prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Once section of the segment is accessible by road, but the rest of the segment generally inaccessible.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

South Fork Oak Creek (GIS Number 1.187.1)

Location

- Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 3.6
- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: The largest black oak stands on the Inyo National Forest occur in this drainage. Frog's bit buttercup (rare plant) and water birch riparian communities; coupled with the scenic views of Kearsarge Peak, sardine meadows and Parker lakes, South Fork Oak Creek is a highly scenic creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. South Fork Oak Creek does not attract many visitors from outside of the region of comparison due in large part to its remoteness and to the private property located along the creek that is somewhat blocking access.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: One historic water diversion.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few known sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Unique geology includes some of the southern-most rock glaciers and permanent snowfields in the Sierra Nevada. Includes rock glaciers with ice that support water flow and unique metamorphic geology that contribute to unique vegetation systems.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Within the South Fork Oak Creek there is the largest black oak stands on the Inyo National Forest. Frog's big buttercup (rare plant) and water birch riparian communities occur in this area as well.

- ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: South Fork Oak Creek (GIS Number 1.187.1) from headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, geology and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

South Fork Oak Creek (GIS Number 1.187.2)

Location

- Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Road 13S04

Mileage

- Studied: 3.9
- Eligible: 3.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: The largest black oak stands on the Inyo National Forest occur in this drainage. Frog's bit buttercup (rare plant) and water birch riparian communities; coupled with the scenic views of Kearsarge Peak, sardine meadows and Parker lakes, South Fork Oak Creek is a highly scenic creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. South Fork Oak Creek does not attract many visitors from outside of the region of comparison due in large part to its remoteness and to the private property located along the creek that is somewhat blocking access.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: One historic water diversion.

- ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few known sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Unique geology includes some of the southern-most rock glaciers and permanent snowfields in the Sierra Nevada. Includes rock glaciers with ice that support water flow and unique metamorphic geology that contribute to unique vegetation systems.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Within the South Fork Oak Creek there is the largest black oak stands on the Inyo National Forest. Frog's big buttercup (rare plant) and water birch riparian communities occur in this area as well.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: South Fork Oak Creek (GIS Number 1.187.2) from wilderness boundary to road 13S04 is eligible because scenery, geology and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing diversions (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power).

Shoreline Development: Evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Volcanic Creek (GIS Number 1.203)

Location

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning Point Description: Volcano Meadow
- End Point Description: Intersection with Golden Trout Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 2.3
- Eligible: 2.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: River flows through a lava field.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**

- ◆ Description: Tied to golden trout creek, unique cinder cone and malpais (lava flow) formations.
- ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Volcanic Creek from Volcano Meadow to intersection with Golden Trout Creek is eligible because geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Walker Creek (GIS Numbers 1.205.2, 1.205.3, and 1.206)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Walker Lake
- End Point Description: Confluence with Rush Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 6.3
- Eligible: 6.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: Area offers views of high mountain peaks, Walker Lake, and Mono Lake.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**

- ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, bird watching, and fishing exist along these segments.
- ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. These recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison.

- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Historic water diversions exist and are no longer in use.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Dry meadow and aspen is located along these segments.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Walker Creek (GIS Numbers 1.205.2, 1.205.3, and 1.206) from outlet of Walker Lake to Confluence with Rush Creek is eligible because scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some impoundments and diversions exist.

Shoreline Development: Privately owned cabins, roads and trails, water management infrastructure.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Segments Not Previously Studied With No Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The following river segments not previously studied have river-related values but no outstandingly remarkable values (Table C-3).

Table C-3. River segments not previously studied that have river-related values but no outstandingly remarkable values

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Adobe Creek	1.001	<p>History – An earthen dam is known along this segment. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One minor prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and <i>Crepis runcinata</i> population, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Alger Creek	1.002	<p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along portions of the stream, with some fishing access. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>Wildlife (Habitat) – Analysis determined habitat systems where the Yosemite toad occur are actually lakes or meadows that are not supported by Alger Creek, rather catch basins of snow and rain. "River sections" are not creating habitat that contributes to the persistence of this species.</p> <p>History – Historic recreational residences and a resort are known. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Ash Creek	1.003	<p>Prehistory – Numerous prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Bairs Creek	1.004	<p>Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual nor associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Barigan Stringer	1.006	<p>Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Beartrack Creek	1.007	<p>History – Historic sites include the Log Cabin mine (associated with mineral discovery location, not stream) and Lee Vining Ranger Station. The sites are not unusual, have no important interrelationship to the river, and are not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites occur in this area. The sites are not unusual, do not occur in unusual densities, and are not associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Birch Creek	1.009	History – One historic canal occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Four prehistoric sites are known in this area. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or known to be associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Birch Creek	1.010	Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known in this area. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Birch Creek	1.011	Geology – This segment contains travertine geologic features. This was determined not to be unique within the Region of Comparison.
Birch Creek	1.012	Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known within this area. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Birch Creek	1.013	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is located along this segment. The site is not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Cabin Creek	1.019	History – One historic cabin is known. This site is not unusual and it is not known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Cartago Creek	1.021	History – A historic fence occurs along this segment. This site is not unusual and is not known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual and are not known to be associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Chiatovich Creek	1.022	History – Two historic sites are known. These sites are not unusual and they are not known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual and are not known to be associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Cold Creek	1.023	History – A historic cabin occurs in this area. The property is not unusual and it is not known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Cold Creek	1.024	Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Cold Water Creek	1.025	Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along these stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. History – Historic mining sites and recreational residences occur in this area. The sites are not NRHP eligible, unusual, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites occur in this area. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Convict Creek	1.026.1	Recreation – Fishing and boating occurs on Convict Lake (this segment runs within the lake). These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer fishing and boating opportunities. History – A historic road, resort, and dump occur along this creek. The sites are not NRHP eligible, unusual, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Convict Creek	1.026.2	History – A historic road, resort, dump, CCC stove and ice plant occur along this creek. The sites are not NRHP eligible, unusual, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – A handful of scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Dry meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Cottonwood Creek	1.027.1	Prehistory – Four scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Cow Creek	1.029	Other (Botanical) – Dry meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Crater Creek	1.030	Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Davis Creek	1.034	Prehistory – A few prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Dechambeau Creek	1.035	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		Other (Botanical) – <i>Thelypodium integrifolium</i> ssp. <i>complanatum</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Deer Creek	1.036	Recreation – Hiking, backpacking, fishing, and some access to the Pacific Crest Trail occurs along this segment. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking, backpacking, and fishing access or opportunities.
Deer Creek	1.037	Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Dexter Creek	1.038	Scenery – This area offers views of landscapes of geologic features and seasonal variations in vegetation. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as many areas offer views of different geologic features. Geology – These area includes granitic boulders and volcanic mesas; steep walled rim rock canyon, but these features are not outstandingly remarkable within the region of comparison. History – Historic features, such as Basque shelters and cabins and a dam/reservoir, are known. These sites are not importantly associated with the river, unusual, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Numerous prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Diaz Creek	1.039	Prehistory – NRHP eligible prehistoric sites are known. These sites have been associated with another stream. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, canyon live oak, and <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Diaz Creek	1.040	Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Dry Creek	1.042	Prehistory – Numerous prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Dry Creek	1.043	History – One historic ranching facility occurs in this area. This site has no important interrelationship with the river, is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Several scattered prehistoric sites occur in this area. These sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Dry Creek	1.044.1	History – The NRHP eligible Red Rock Mercury Mine occurs in this area. The mine location is associated with mineral deposits, not the stream. Only one site is known and there is no important interrelationship between the site and the river.

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Dry Creek	1.044.2	History – The NRHP eligible Red Rock Mercury Mine occurs in this area. The mine location is associated with mineral deposits, not the stream. Only one site is known and there is no important interrelationship between the site and the river. Prehistory – A prehistoric feature is known along this segment. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Dry Creek	1.046	History – An historic administrative site and a dump have been documented in this area. These sites are not unusual and are not known to be importantly associated with the river or with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are documented. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Dry Fork	1.047	Prehistory – One sparse prehistoric site has been documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
East Fork Coyote Creek	1.048	History – An historic cabin, corral and stone building are known in this area. These sites are not unusual or importantly associated with the river or any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – A couple of prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and <i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
East Fork Rock Creek	1.049	Recreation – Hiking and fishing access along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. History – Scribed aspen and a sheep camp are documented. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – One prehistoric site occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Dry meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Egypt Creek	1.050	History – NRHP eligible historic hydroelectric features associated with Bishop Creek are known. The sites are associated with another stream.
Falls Creek	1.051	History – One historic site known within the river corridor. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Two prehistoric milling sites are known. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Fern Creek	1.052	History – This historic June Lake rope tow occurs in this area. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Recreation – A hiking trail occurs along portions of this creek to Fern Lake. This area offers fishing and hiking opportunities. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Fuller Creek	1.055	History – An historic rancher camp has been documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Three prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and <i>Calochortus excavatus</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Goodale Creek	1.058	Scenery – This area offers views of high alpine peaks and changes in landscape forms as you move from high elevation alpine habitat to lower elevation sagebrush communities. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area showcase contrasting high elevation and lower elevation habitats. Prehistory – Four prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Gunter Creek	1.059	History – One historic mining site is known. This site is not unusual, has no important interrelationship with the river, and is not known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Haiwee Creek	1.060	History – A few historic mining sites and trash scatters are documented. These sites are not unusual and not importantly associated with the river or with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are documented. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Hell for Sure Creek	1.061	Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Hilton Creek	1.063	Scenery – This area offers views of high alpine peaks and changes in landscape forms as you move from high elevation alpine habitat to lower elevation sagebrush communities and offers views of the Glass Mountains. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area showcase contrasting high elevation and lower elevation habitats. Recreation – Hiking, backpacking, and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking, backpacking, and fishing access or opportunities.

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		<p>History – Historic features, such as camps, a foundation, notched log, and carved tree, are known. HThese sites are not unusual or known to be importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Several scattered prehistoric sites occur in this area. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen and <i>Helodium blandowii</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Hogback Creek	1.065	Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Honeybee Creek	1.066	<p>History – One historic artifact scatter is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Horse Creek	1.220	<p>Prehistory – Five prehistoric sites are known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen occur along this creek, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Hutchinson Creek	1.069	<p>History – Historic features related to the Queen Valley Mining Site occur in this area. These sites are not known to be importantly associated with the river.</p> <p>Prehistory – Three prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Indian Creek	1.069.1	History – Historic features, such as a wagon road, cabin, and arborglyph are known. These sites are not unusual and not importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Inyo Creek	1.071	History – A trash scatter and an historic road are documented. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Johnson Creek	1.073	<p>History – Historic sites documented include cow camps and snow survey shelters. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Kern Peak Stringer	1.074	<p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
King Creek	1.075.5	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
King Creek	1.075.4	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
King Creek	1.075.3	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
King Creek	1.075.2	Prehistory - One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
King Creek	1.075.1	Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual or associated with well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – A wet meadow was identified along this segment, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Lamarck Creek	1.077	Scenery – This stream offers scenic views of the high Sierra and alpine lakes. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many of the streams within this area occur in high elevation habitats with alpine lakes. Recreation – Hiking, fishing, and developed camping occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.
Laurel Creek	1.078	Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites occur in this area. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – <i>Salix brachycarpa</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Left Stringer	1.080	Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities. Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Lewis Stringer	1.082	Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Little Cottonwood Creek	1.083	Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. History – An historic pack station and corral are known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Little Pine Creek	1.085	Prehistory – A handful of scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Loco Creek	1.086	Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Lone Tree Creek	1.088	History – Historic features occur such as a foundation, corral and historic refuse are known. These sites are not unusual and not importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Long Canyon Creek	1.089	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Long Stringer	1.090	History – A historic corral occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any significant unique Forest themes. Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Lost Trout Creek	1.092	Prehistory – Five prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Malpais Creek	1.093	Scenery – A small portion of this stream flows through a lava flow and offers views of changing landscapes. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as other streams flow through larger lava flow features. Geology – Flows through lava formations, however this feature is not unique within the Region of Comparison.
Mammoth Creek	1.094.1	Scenery – This area offers views of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and lakes. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area offer views of lakes. Recreation – Hiking, fishing, day-use, and backpacking occur along this segment. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer these recreation opportunities. History – Historic mining features occur in this area. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory- A lithic scatter prehistoric site is known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
McGee Creek	1.098	Scenery – This area offers views of high alpine peaks and changes in landscape forms as you move from high elevation alpine habitat to lower elevation sagebrush communities. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area showcase contrasting high elevation and lower elevation habitats. Recreation – Motorized vehicle use, hiking, and dispersed camping occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer motorized vehicle, hiking and fishing access or opportunities.

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		<p>History – Historic mining features and an administrative site occur in this area. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – About a dozen widely scatter prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
McGee Creek	1.100	<p>Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
McLaughlin Creek	1.101	<p>History – One historic sheep camp known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Meysan Creek	1.102	<p>Scenery – Scenery includes granite peaks and views of Mount Whitney and other high Sierra peaks. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many streams include views of high alpine peaks.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking access or opportunities.</p>
Middle Creek	1.103	<p>Prehistory – A handful of prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Minaret Creek	1.107	<p>Scenery – Stream includes small cascades and views of high Sierra peaks. This scenery is not unique with the Region of Comparison because many areas include streams with cascades or other features similar to this area.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Mine Creek	1.108	<p>History – Historic features from mining activities occur within this area. These sites are associated with mineral discovery locations rather than the river and are not unusual or unique for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – <i>Agrostis humilis</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Monache Creek	1.109	<p>History – An historic cabin and garbage dump are known. These sites are not unusual and not importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Three prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Morgan Creek	1.111	<p>Scenery – Stream offers views of high Sierra peaks. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many streams offer views of high Sierra peaks.</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		<p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities.</p> <p>History – The nationally significant NRHP eligible Pine Creek Tungsten Mine occurs along this creek however, the site is related to the mineral discovery location rather than to the stream.</p>
Morris Creek	1.112	<p>Prehistory – Numerous prehistoric sites are documented. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Movie Stringer	1.113	<p>History – One historic cabin site is documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow, <i>Botrychium</i> spp., and <i>Ivesia campestris</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Ninemile Creek	1.115	<p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer opportunities.</p> <p>History – One historic administrative site (Casa Vieja Guard Station) is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
North Fork Bairs Creek	1.116	<p>Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
North Fork Bishop Creek	1.123	<p>Scenery – Offers scenic views of high elevation peaks and high alpine lakes. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many streams offer views of high peaks and alpine lakes.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking, fishing, and developed camping occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – The National Register of Historic Places eligible Cardinal Gold Mine is documented, as well as a pack station and snow survey shelter however, the mine has been associated with Middle Fork Bishop Creek and the other known sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes or unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Four scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
North Fork Chiatovich Creek	1.124.1	<p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
North Fork Lone Pine Creek	1.130	<p>History – An historic road is documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
North Fork Oak Creek	1.136	<p>Recreation – Motorized uses and hiking occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking or motorized use access or opportunities.</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
		History – Two historic sites, including a stone foundation and rock structure, occur in this area. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Black oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
North Fork Perry Aiken Creek	1.138	Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Olancha Creek	1.143	History – Historic features, such as a ditch and toll road, occur in this area. These sites are not unusual, importantly linked to the river, or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Pinchot Creek	1.148	History – Three historic sites including mine features and a town site are documented in this area. These sites are not unusual and not importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – A prehistoric site occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Pine Creek	1.149	Scenery – This area offers views of high alpine peaks and changes in landscape forms as you move from high elevation alpine habitat to lower elevation sagebrush communities. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area showcase contrasting high elevation and lower elevation habitats. Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities. Wildlife (Habitat) – Several Yosemite toad detections occur at meadows and ponds near Pine Creek, but the few detections near the creek are not confirmed breeders. This creek provides dispersal habitat but not necessarily suitable breeding habitat. "River sections" are not creating habitat that contributes to the persistence of this species. History – Historic features related to mining activity such as road and settlement. These sites are connected to mineral discovery locations rather than the stream. Other (Botanical) – Cottonwood, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Pinyon Creek	1.150	History – One historic trash scatter is documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Piute Creek	1.151	History – Historic mining features and an aqueduct occur in this area. These sites are not unusual and not importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Pizona Creek	1.152	Prehistory – Four scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Purple Creek	1.154	<p>Scenery – Stream has cascades and views of high Sierra peaks. This scenery is not unique with the Region of Comparison because many streams in this area share these features.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>Geology – Cascades and views of granitic peaks and other features occur along this stream. These features are not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p>
Rawson Creek	1.155	<p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Red Mountain Creek	1.156	<p>Recreation – Hiking and motorized uses occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and motorized access or opportunities.</p>
Redrock Creek	1.157	<p>History – A few historic sites such as cabins, a corral and historic camp are known. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – <i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Reds Creek	1.158	<p>Scenery – High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the quality of the river corridor. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p> <p>History – An historic administrative site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Reversed Creek	1.159.2	<p>History – Several historic sites are known, including the Rush Creek Powerhouse and Tramway, the June Lake Rope Tow, a recreation residence tract and an administrative site. The NRHP eligible Rush Creek hydroelectric system is associated with Rush Creek rather than Reversed Creek. The sites are either not NRHP eligible or not unusual or not importantly associated with the river or to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Five scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Right Stringer	1.160	<p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow, <i>Ivesia campestris</i>, and <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Round Mountain Stringer	1.164	<p>Prehistory – Numerous prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Rush Creek	1.165.3	<p>Scenery – This area provides views of high alpine peaks and canyons, as well as fall color opportunities. The scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as other streams offer this same scenery.</p> <p>Recreation – Fishing and boating occur within Grant Lake. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer fishing and boating access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – The Grant Lake Dam and a ditch system are known. The sites are not NRHP eligible, unusual, or associated with significant unique themes for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Rush Creek	1.165.5	<p>Scenery – This area provides views of high alpine peaks and canyons, as well as fall color opportunities. The scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as other streams offer this same scenery.</p> <p>Recreation – This area offers opportunities for fishing. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – The Grant Lake Dam and a ditch system are known. The sites are not NRHP eligible, unusual, or associated with significant unique themes for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Sawmill Creek	1.167	<p>Scenery – Area offers scenic views of high peaks. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities.</p> <p>History – A few historic sites including arborglyphs, a corral, and a sawmill/flume are known. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Sawmill Creek	1.168	<p>Prehistory – Four scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Shadow Creek	1.170	<p>Scenery – Area offers scenic views of high alpine peaks and cascades along creek. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as many areas offer views of these same features.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking, fishing, and backpacking occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – One mining prospect is known in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Shepherd Creek	1.171	<p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Sherwin Creek	1.172	<p>History – One cabin and historic trash scatter are known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Prehistoric sites are known. These sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Snake Creek	1.173	Prehistory – Multiple prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Soda Creek	1.174	Recreation – Hiking and some motorized uses occur along this creek. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and motorized access or opportunities. Prehistory – Eleven scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
South Fork Birch Creek	1.177	Prehistory – A couple of prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
South Fork Chiatovich Creek	1.179	Other (Botanical) – Meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
South Fork Crooked Creek	1.181	Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
South Fork Lubken Creek	1.185	Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
South Fork McAfee Creek	1.186	Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Stokes Stringer	1.190	Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Strawberry Creek	1.191	Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. History – An historic trash scatter is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Multiple prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Summit Creek	1.192	History – An historic flume is known along this segment. This site is not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Multiple prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Summit Creek	1.193	<p>History – Historic dendroglyphs are known within this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Multiple prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Meadow, <i>Ivesia campestris</i>, and <i>Cordylanthus eremicus</i> ssp. <i>kernensis</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Taboose Creek	1.195	<p>Recreation – Hiking and some motorized uses occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and motorized access or opportunities.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – <i>Sphenopholis obtusata</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Tinemaha Creek	1.197	<p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Trail Creek	1.199	<p>Scenery – Area offers scenic views of high elevation peaks, including Boundary Peak and views of Fish Lake Valley. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as many streams in this area offer views of mountain peaks.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking, fishing, and motorized uses occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking, motorized use and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – An historic rock structure is known along this creek. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Multiple scattered prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – <i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Tres Plumas Creek	1.200	<p>History – Five historic sites including a corral, herder camps, a bridge, and two dendroglyphs are known. The sites are not unusual and not importantly associated to any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Tuttle Creek	1.201	<p>History – An NRHP eligible Ashram is known. The location of the Ashram is linked to its ridge top location rather than the stream. This site is has no important interrelationship with the river.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Unnamed Perennial	1.202	<p>Prehistory – Numerous prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Walker Creek	1.204	<p>History – An historic residential site and ditch are known. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites occur in this area. The sites are not unusual and or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Walker Creek	1.205.1	<p>Scenery – Area offers views of high mountain peaks, Walker Lake, and Mono Lake. The scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as other streams offer this same scenery.</p> <p>Recreation – Boating and fishing occur on this segment of Walker Creek, which occurs in Walker Lake. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer boating and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is documented. The site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Warren Fork	1.207	<p>Recreation – Hiking occurs along this creek. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities.</p> <p>History – An historic power line is documented along this creek. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
West Stringer	1.209	<p>Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p>
Wet Fork	1.210.2	<p>Geology – Granitic boulders and volcanic mesas are known. These features are not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p>
Wet Fork	1.210.1	<p>Geology – Granitic boulders and volcanic mesas are known. These features are not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p> <p>Prehistory – Three prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Whisky Creek	1.211	<p>History – A historic recreational residence tract occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – One sparse prehistoric site is known in this area. The site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> ssp. <i>pseudoscirpoidea</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Wildhorse Creek	1.212	<p>Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Wilfred Creek	1.213	<p>Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p>
Wilson Creek	1.216	<p>Geology – River is located within the Mono Basin and flows through different geologic features. This is not unique within the Region of Comparison.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Alkali flat near Mono Lake, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>

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River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River Related Values
Witcher Creek	1.217	Prehistory – Three prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Wyman Creek	1.218	History – An historic road and building occur in this area. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Wet meadow, <i>Physocarpus alternans</i> , and <i>Thelypodium integrifolium</i> ssp. <i>complanatum</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Yost Creek	1.219	Scenery – Stream offers views of the June Lake area and high elevation peaks. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many streams in this area offer views of high peaks. Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities. History – The June Lake Rope Tow and a mining prospect occur in this area. These sites are not NRHP eligible, unusual, or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known to occur. This site known is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

River Segments Previously Studied

Description of Previous Studies Completed

65 river segments were previously studied (approximately 245.9 miles) and documented in a series of memos between 1990 and 1993. 42 of those river segments were determined to be eligible (approximately 129.1 miles). All 245.9 miles of river segments previously studied were included in the current study. 63 river segments previously studied (approximately 240 miles) have both free flow and river-related values that were analyzed to determine if they are outstandingly remarkable values. 49 river segments previously studied (approximately 153.5 miles) are eligible because they have free flow and outstandingly remarkable values. Table C-7, the evaluation maps above, and the River Segment Details section below provide more information about these river segments. In addition, portions of the Middle Fork San Joaquin on the Inyo National Forest were determined eligible and found suitable as part of the 1986 Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan DEIS, Appendix E as shown in Table C-4. In 1992, the four segments of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River were found as suitable and are currently being managed as a recommended wild and scenic river.

Table C-4. Middle Fork San Joaquin River Findings of the 1988 Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix E of the Sierra National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement and determined Suitable in the 1991 Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Scenery Recreation Geology Fish	Scenery Recreation Geology	Scenery Recreation Geology	Scenery Recreation Geology
Beginning and Ending Points	Headwaters at Thousand Island Lake to Agnew Meadows (6.0 miles)	Agnew Meadows to Soda Springs footbridge (4.5 miles)	Soda Springs footbridge to Rainbow Falls (2.5 miles)	Rainbow Falls to confluence with North Fork San Joaquin (9.0 miles)
Free Flowing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Impoundments	No	Yes	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No	No
Classification	Wild	Recreational	Scenic	Wild

Notes: With updated GIS data, segment 1 is actually 6.4 miles, all on the Inyo National Forest. Segment 2 includes 4.0 miles on the Inyo National Forest and 0.5 miles within Devils Postpile National Monument (National Park Service). Segment 3 is actually 2 miles and includes 1.5 miles within Devils Postpile National Monument and 0.5 miles on the Inyo National Forest. Segment 4 is actually 10 miles and includes 0.5 miles within Devils Postpile National Monument, 5.5 miles on the Inyo National Forest, and 4.0 miles on the Sierra National Forest.

Changed Circumstances and New Information Since Previous Studies

To determine if there were any changed conditions or new information since these evaluations, we considered new federally listed species, changes to management within previously eligible river segments, historical records, and any changes to the outstandingly remarkable values identified for these river segments. We determined that all the previously eligible river segments should be brought forward as eligible in this review. This was due to two factors: 1) the previous studies were conducted prior to the availability of “The Wild and Scenic River Study Process,” which outlines the steps, definitions, and criteria used in evaluation, and 2) the 1990s study record does not give a clear indication of what made the outstandingly remarkable values a unique, rare, or exemplary feature at a regional or national scale. In

addition to these factors, the majority of these river segments were identified as eligible as part of a settlement agreement and a decision was made that they should continue to be considered eligible because of this status.

Eligibility was reaffirmed on all but one of the previously eligible river segments (Mine Creek GIS Number 1.19, 0.1 miles does not have any outstandingly remarkable values). Eight of the river segments that were previously found to be ineligible were found eligible in this study (approximately 24.5 miles). On the reaffirmed eligible river segments, outstandingly remarkable values were reviewed and were updated based on changed circumstances or new information, resulting in some changes to the specific outstandingly remarkable values identified for each river segment.

River Segment Details

Convict Creek (GIS Number 1.03)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Convict Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 7.0
- Eligible: 7.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1991 documentation (3/22/91 memo) noted that scenery and geology were outstandingly remarkable values. The current study noted high quality aspen and cottonwood stands, largely maintained by strong water flow with frequent flooding regime. The interdisciplinary team determined that Convict Creek has outstandingly remarkable values for scenery, recreation, geology, and other (botanical).

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Scenic creek canyon with numerous lakes and outstanding geologic features, and the Sierra Crest as a backdrop.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for nonnative trout species, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Prehistoric**
 - ◆ Description: Numerous prehistoric sites known.

- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The sites are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Widely varied geologic formations providing visible evidence of geologic processes spanning 150 million years: Mount Morrison roof pendant; Sevenhall cliff; Bright Dot formation; Mount Baldwin Marble; Mildred Lake Hornfelds; highly visible from trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Riparian corridor supports numerous rare plants, including moonworts, snow willow, Rollands bulrush, Bellardi bog sedge, shortfruit willow, and kinnikinnik; Outstanding carbonate and metamorphic formations (roof pendant), with unique plant communities and rare species.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Convict Creek from the headwaters to Convict Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Cottonwood Creek (GIS Numbers 1.04.1 and 1.04.2)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02 (Horseshoe Meadows Road)

Mileage

- Studied: 4.7
- Eligible: 4.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1991 documentation (3/22/91 memo) noted that scenery, recreation, and fish (population and habitat) were outstandingly remarkable values.

• **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: Scenic forested creek corridor with breaks with vistas of nearby Sierra Crest, transects large, open Horseshoe Meadows.

- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout species, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Large, high elevation meadow with little evidence of glaciation.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value because it is unique in the region of comparison.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Pristine environment for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is an outstandingly remarkable value. It is the only stream population of golden trout in the area.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: The upper segment is associated with Golden Trout, the earliest recreation resort in this portion of the Sierras. The lower segment is associated with numerous sites associated with late 1800s logging to support the Cerro Gordo Mine charcoal kilns.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. NRHP eligible sites are associated with unique themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Cottonwood Creek (GIS Numbers 1.04.1 and 1.04.2) from the headwaters to the southeast side of Forest Road 16S02 is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, fish (population and habitat), and history are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Upper section is essentially primitive, with little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Upper section is generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.04.3)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02
- End Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Sawmill site

Mileage

- Studied: 1.4
- Eligible: 1.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Little information was noted from the 1990s study for this segment of Cottonwood Creek. The 3/22/91 memo noted campsites along the road on Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land and recreation was an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Largely forested area, with occasional openings and views of Trail peak. Along the road portion of the creek, stock corrals and fences, and a snow survey cabin are visible from the creek.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout species, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Geologic formations nearby include trail peak and Owens point.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. There are no unique features within the corridor
- **Fish (Populations)**
 - ◆ Description: Unique fishing experience for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout in an area easily accessed by road.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Los Angeles Aqueduct.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Documented NRHP eligible sites are importantly associated with the river and unique Inyo National Forest theme of developments related historic water extraction.
- **Prehistoric**
 - ◆ Description: Numerous prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.04.3) from the southeast side of Forest Road 16S02 to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site is eligible because recreation, history and fish (populations) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment
- Shoreline Development: Evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.
- Water Quality: Unknown
- Classification: Recreational

Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.04.4)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site.
- End Point Description: Golden Trout Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 3.8
- Eligible: 3.8

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Little information was noted from the 1990s study for this segment of Cottonwood Creek.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Largely forested area, with openings and views of Owens dry lake and the Owens Valley.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and (very little) camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. This segment of Cottonwood Creek is remote, overgrown, access to the creek is limited due to the steep canyon walls, and does not draw visitation from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique features within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **History**

- ◆ Description: Documented sites include Colonel Stevens Cottonwood sawmill and flume.
- ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Documented sites are associated with locally significant and unique themes of early historic resource extraction and processing.

- **Fish (Populations)**

- ◆ Description: Unique fishing experience for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout in an area easily accessed by road.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.04.4) from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site to Golden Trout Wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, history, and fish (populations) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Minimal historic impoundments associated with the Cottonwood Creek power plant downstream, and the Sawmill operations upstream.

Shoreline Development: little evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Accessible by road at both termini.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.04.5)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Golden Trout Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Intake in Section 27 just east of Forest Service Road 17S01

Mileage

- Studied: 2.1
- Eligible: 2.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Little information was noted from the 1990s study for this segment of Cottonwood Creek.

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: Largely forested area, with openings and views of Owens dry lake and the Owens Valley.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**

- ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and camping occur. This segment of Cottonwood Creek is in close proximity to National Forest Road 17S01.
- ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, likely not attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique features within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Populations)**
 - ◆ Description: Unique fishing experience for fishing for naturally reproducing golden trout in an area easily accessed by road.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Populations) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Documented sites include a variety of historic Los Angeles Department of Water and Power developments, such as a caretaker's cabin and water diversions.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Documented sites are associated with regionally significant theme of water extraction on the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistoric**
 - ◆ Description: Numerous NRHP eligible prehistoric sites are known, including one where a regional point style was first identified (Cottonwood).
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Many known sites are NRHP eligible or have a unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Cottonwood Creek (GIS Number 1.04.5) from the Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to the intake in Section 27 just east of Forest Service Road 17S01 is eligible because scenery, fish (population), prehistory, and history are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Impoundments associated with the Cottonwood Creek power plant.

Shoreline Development: Cottonwood power plant and associated buildings visible from the creek, established dispersed camping along the creek and adjacent to the road.

Accessibility: Accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Golden Trout Creek (GIS Number 1.07)

Location

- County: Tulare County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters above Big Whitney Meadows
- End Point Description: Confluence with the Kern River

Mileage

- Studied: 19.0
- Eligible: 19.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1991 documentation (3/22/91 memo) noted, Volcano Falls (about 100 feet high), natural rock bridge, volcanic domes, lava flows, vegetative diversity (from alpine meadows to chinquapin, manzanita), tunnel feud in 1880s (water diversion to serve for irrigation for farmers in what is the area covered by Lake Isabella), golden trout fishery and determined outstandingly remarkable values for scenery, geology, and fish. The interdisciplinary team review noted, least compromised golden trout populations. The current study is consistent with the 1991 documentation.

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: Highly scenic creek corridor, with vegetative diversity from alpine meadows to chinquapin and manzanita, with Sierra Crest as back drop, woodlands and unique geological formations.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**

- ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout, and camping occur.
- ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. These are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison, but not to the same degree as other creeks within the region of comparison.

- **Geology**

- ◆ Description: Evidence of unique volcanic activity including 100 foot-high Volcano Falls natural rock bridge, volcanic domes, and lava flows.
- ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **History**

- ◆ Description: Guard station, cow camps and snow survey shelter. The past evaluation speaks to the corridor being the home of one of California's earliest water wars at Tunnel Meadows, where a clandestine tunnel was attempted to transfer water from the Owens Valley watershed to the Kern River Watershed.
- ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. At least one site (failed tunnel) is associated with a rather unique theme of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

- **Prehistory**

- ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites known.
- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

- **Fish (Population)**

- ◆ Description: Least compromised population of Golden Trout occurs here; this population is significant to the species ability to thrive in the future.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Fish (Habitat)**

- ◆ Description: River offers suitable habitat requirements for the Golden Trout population occurring in this river. This habitat is significant for the species to thrive in this area.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Habitat) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Golden Trout Creek from the Headwaters above Big Whitney Meadows to the confluence with the Kern River is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, history, fish (habitat), and fish (population) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.09.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Intersection of stream and Forest Road 3S45G
- End Point Description: Fish Hatchery

Mileage

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Geology**

- ◆ Description: Unique geologic features and hot springs.
- ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Prehistory**

- ◆ Description: Dense prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian procurement, processing, habitation and trade.

- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large number of documented sites associated with unique Inyo National Forest theme.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Extensive meadows and alkali flats in the river floodplain along with the rare plant meadow hawksbeard.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.091.1) from the intersection of stream and Forest Road 3S45G to the fish hatchery is eligible because geology, prehistory, and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.09.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Fish Hatchery
- End Point Description: Forest boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 2.9
- Eligible: 2.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly Scenic creek corridor with dramatic views of the Sierra Crest, Scenic geologic formations.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Primarily a day hiking and fishing destination, world class fishery and views of the remnants of the Long Valley Caldera provide a unique recreation setting. There are opportunities for class II whitewater rafting during peak spring run-off.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Remnants of the Long Valley Caldera are evident in the form of unique geological features including thermal pools, surface thermal flow and fumarols.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population)**
 - ◆ Description: Wild Trout Fishery offers a world-class Blue Ribbon Fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: River habitat offers suitable live-stage needs for trout species.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Habitat) is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian procurement, processing, habitation, and trade.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large number of documented sites associated with unique Inyo National Forest theme.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Extensive meadows and alkali flats in the river floodplain along with the rare plant meadow hawksbeard.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Hot Creek (GIS Number 1.09.2) from the fish hatchery to the forest boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, fish (population), fish (habitat), prehistory, and other (botanical) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Laurel Creek (GIS Number 1.11)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land

Mileage

- Studied: 3.8

- Eligible: 3.8

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, geology, and fish were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon with distinctive riparian vegetation.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for golden trout species, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Visible unique geologic features in canyon walls including very visible evidence of glaciation.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: One documented site.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the one known site is not known to be unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Golden Trout are found within Laurel Lake, but not downstream in this stream segment nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: A rare botanical species, *Salix brachycarpa*, occurs in this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Laurel Creek from the wilderness boundary to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally accessible by 4-wheel-drive road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Scenic

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters tributaries
- End Point Description: Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area (RNA) boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 1.4
- Eligible: 1.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery was an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon with views of several towering peaks and granitic walls.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Glaciated Alpine Peaks, with Conness Glacier at the headwaters.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.1) from the headwaters tributaries to the Harvey Monroe Hall RNA boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area (RNA) boundary
- End Point Description: Greenstone Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 0.2
- Eligible: 0.2

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 3/22/91 memo noted campgrounds, planted rainbow and brook trout, and trail to historic site. The 1990s study determined that scenery, geology, and history were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic meadow systems below granite peaks.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Hiking opportunities to Bennettville mining center within proximity of the creek are a unique recreation opportunity.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Highly visible glacial feature (Conness Glacier).
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population)**
 - ◆ Description: Planted rainbow and brook trout fishery, no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.2) from Harvey Monroe Hall RNA boundary to Greenstone Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally accessible by 4-wheel-drive road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Saddlebag Lake
- End Point Description: Highway 120

Mileage

- Studied: 3.0
- Eligible: 3.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Controlled at the dam at Saddlebag Lake; free-flowing until inlet at Ellery Lake and Highway 120.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, history, and geology were outstandingly remarkable values. No historic sites have been documented in this reach, but the past study notes possible themes of early mining and travel.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon with distinctive riparian vegetation.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking and fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Although Bighorn sheep are not in the river corridor, the potential to view them from the river corridor is a unique recreation opportunity.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Highly visible glacial feature (Conness Glacier).
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Prehistory**

- ◆ Description: One prehistoric site is located along this segment.
- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the site was not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**

- ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Other (Botanical)**

- ◆ Description: Moist meadow is present within the river corridor.
- ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.3) from Saddlebag Lake to Highway 120 is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Some development. Substantial evidence of human occupation, with several campgrounds occurring along this segment.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road. National Forest Road 1N04 parallels the segment to the junction at Highway 120.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.4)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Southern California Edison Powerhouse
- End Point Description: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond

Mileage

- Studied: 6.0
- Eligible: 6.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Controlled at Southern California Edison's powerhouse; diverted by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for irrigation purposes downstream; diversion for the Lee Vining Public Utility for domestic water use; diversion at lower end for power purposes. Generally free flowing in between.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, and geology were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon with distinctive riparian vegetation.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking and fishing for planted rainbow and brook trout occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Although bighorn sheep are not in the river corridor, the potential to view them from the river corridor is a unique recreation opportunity.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Visible geologic features within canyon, including Conness Glacier.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: A few sites documented.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Moist meadow is present within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.4) from SCE Powerhouse to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Some development. Substantial evidence of human occupation with the presence of multiple campgrounds and a SCE powerhouse.

Accessibility: Generally accessible by road. Forest Service road parallels the segment, as well as Highway 395.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.5)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Inlet to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond
- End Point Description: Outlet of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond

Mileage

- Studied: 0.1
- Eligible: 0.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Views of high elevation peaks, steep canyon walls, and riparian vegetation.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Fishing occurs along this segment of Lee Vining Creek. Recreational fall color viewing occurs in this segment in the riparian aspen.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.5) from inlet to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond outlet of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Generally accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.6)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond
- End Point Description: Inlet to Mono Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 4.2
- Eligible: 4.2

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: This segment offers views of Mono Lake, the town of Lee Vining, the Sierra Nevada, volcanic islands, the Mono Craters, distinctive tufa towers at Lee Vining Tufa, and thousands of birds using the rich delta terminus. The broad riparian bottomland offers an extensive ribbon of green in summer and blaze of orange and yellow in fall, the richest source of fall color display anywhere along the Lee Vining Creek drainage.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: The Lee Vining Creek Trail which connects the town of Lee Vining to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center occurs along this segment. Other recreational opportunities exist include hiking, birding, photography, fishing, swimming, and canoeing/kayaking (at the delta terminus).
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: The historic Lee Vining Ranger Station is known.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. This site is not unusual and is not known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Numerous prehistoric sites exist in this area.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. This sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Remarkably diverse Riparian corridors and habitat/protection for plants.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While a key habitat type on the landscape, the riparian vegetation characteristics are not an outstandingly remarkable value within the Region of Comparison, because they do not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources.

Summary: Lee Vining Creek (GIS Number 1.12.6) from outlet of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion pond to inlet to Mono Lake is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Substantial development and evidence of human occupation with the presence of multiple buildings, infrastructure, and a SCE substation along the upper portions of the segment.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail. Forest Service road parallels the segment, as well as Highway 395.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Lone Pine Creek/North Fork Lone Pine Creek (GIS Numbers 1.13 and 1.23)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: North Fork and South Fork Headwaters
- End Point Description: John Muir Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 4.7
- Eligible: 4.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 3/22/91 memo noted extremely popular recreation area and determined that scenery and recreation were outstandingly remarkable values. In the current study, the interdisciplinary team review noted recreation opportunity and use is tied to Mt. Whitney and designated wilderness, which is not necessarily river related.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon with views of several towering peaks and granitic walls.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Hiking opportunities to Mt. Whitney, within proximity of the creek are a unique recreation opportunity.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Classic example of alluvial fan formation (geomorphology).
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Lone Pine Creek/North Fork Lone Pine Creek (GIS Numbers 1.13 and 1.23) from North Fork and South Fork headwaters to the John Muir Wilderness boundary are eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.15.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Twin Lakes
- End Point Description: Sherwin Campground

Mileage

- Studied: 4.5
- Eligible: 4.5

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Area is accessible for day-use, hiking, fishing, biking, and camping.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: High concentration of documented historic sites, including administrative buildings, sawmill foundation, refuse scatters, and historic sites related to recreation and resource extraction.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. Large numbers of historic sites are documented that are associated with Forest significant themes of historic settlement, resource extraction, and development.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense concentration of documented prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing, and trade.

Summary: Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.15.1) from Twin Lakes to Sherwin Campground is eligible because history and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.15.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Sherwin Campground
- End Point Description: South of Hot Creek by 0.02 miles

Mileage

- Studied: 2.4
- Eligible: 2.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Area offers camping, biking, fishing, and off-highway vehicle use along Forest designated routes.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Dense concentration of documented prehistoric sites associated with regionally significant obsidian quarry and processing areas.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Unusually large numbers of sites associated with regionally significant themes of prehistoric obsidian extraction, processing, and trade.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Moist meadow is present within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Mammoth Creek (GIS Number 1.15.2) from Sherwin Campground to south of Hot Creek by 0.02 miles is eligible because prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundment or diversion.

Shoreline Development: Some development, substantial evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Recreational

McGee Creek (GIS Number 1.16)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 6.7
- Eligible: 6.7

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery and geology were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon. The diversity of vegetation and watercourse, and unique geology, including different striations of minerals within the canyon walls, is easily identifiable from trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping. Very popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Unique geology visible from trail; waterfalls on both sides of the canyon; old sierra rocks, roof pendants.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Prospects and a culvert are documented.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Several prehistoric sites recorded.

- ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Wildlife (Population)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite toad populations occur in the high elevations of this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because breeding populations are not known to occur within the river corridor.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Aspen are present within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: McGee Creek (GIS Number 1.16) from headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Middle Fork San Joaquin River (GIS Number 1.17)

Location

- County: Madera
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters are from an unnamed lake southwest of Thousand Island Lake
- End Point Description: Middle Fork San Joaquin River at the northeast end of Thousand Island Lake

Mileage:

- Studied: 3.5
- Eligible: 3.5

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- Scenery

- ◆ Description: Area offers views of large, naturally occurring, high alpine lakes, and high Sierra peaks.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Fishing for unique fish, natural occurring lakes, areas of rock climbing near headwaters, accessed by Pacific Crest Trail/John Muir Trail
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Granitic formations at high elevations.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite toad population have been documented in the upland and meadow habitats within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the river does not contribute to the occurrence of the Yosemite toad.
- **Wildlife (Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Upland and meadow habitats suitable for amphibian species occur within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the river does not contribute to the presence of these habitats.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: One prehistoric site recorded.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one site known is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Middle Fork San Joaquin River is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: No development

Accessibility: Nonmotorized trails.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Mill Creek (GIS Numbers 1.18.1 and 1.18.2)

Location

- County: Mono County

- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 4.0
- Eligible: 4.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery and geology were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon. Extremely scenic due to the diversity both in the watercourse and in the surrounding terrain and vegetation. The watercourse ranges from lakes to steep-dropping waterfalls, fast-moving cascades, and braided meadows. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking and camping. Very popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Visible evidence of glaciation. Conness Glacier and a large portion of the sierra crest is visible from the top of the canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Wildlife (Population)**
 - ◆ Description: Yosemite toad population have been documented in the upland and meadow habitats within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Population) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the river does not contribute to the occurrence of the Yosemite toad.
- **Wildlife (Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Upland and meadow habitats suitable for amphibian species occur within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Wildlife (Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because the river is not contributing to the presence of these habitats.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Other (Botanical)**

- ◆ Description: The presence of a rare species, *Kobresia myosuroides*, occurs within the river corridor.
- ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Numbers 1.18.1 and 1.18.2) from headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Private Property

Mileage

- Studied: 1.4
- Eligible: 1.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined scenery, geology, and history related to early Hess and Parrot mining activity (though no sites have been documented) were outstandingly remarkable values. The current study determined that the location of mining activity was not river-related.

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**

- ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities are primarily hiking (very popular trail), camping, and picnicking.

- ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of Hess and Parrott Mine sites.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Visible evidence of glaciation. Conness Glacier and a large portion of the sierra crest is visible from the top of the canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: One prehistoric site recorded.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Aspen and moist meadows are present within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Numbers 1.18.1 and 1.18.2) from the wilderness boundary to private property is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Scenic

Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.4)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Private Property
- End Point Description: Lundy Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 0.8
- Eligible: 0.8

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery and history related to early Hess and Parrot mining activity (though no sites have been documented) were outstandingly remarkable values. The current study determined that the location of mining activity was not river related.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic canyon. Aspen stands provide shade and fall colors. There are a few scenic overlooks of Lundy Canyon and Lundy Lake as a significant scenic spot.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and picnicking. Popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of historic mining sites.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Visible evidence of glaciation. Conness Glacier and a large portion of the sierra crest is visible from the top of the canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: One linear historic feature.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not known to be unusual and or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.4) from private property to Lundy Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.5)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Forest boundary south of forest road 2N01
- End Point Description: Forest boundary southeast of Mono City

Mileage

- Studied: 2.3
- Eligible: 2.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Views of Mono Lake and high Sierra peaks.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities include fishing, birding, hiking, and sight-seeing along the creek.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Several prehistoric sites are known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.5) from forest boundary south of forest road 2N01 to forest boundary southeast of Mono City is eligible because scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources A few minor diversions exist.

Shoreline Development: Private homes, a highway, and road exist along the shoreline.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.12)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Forest boundary southeast of Mono City
- End Point Description: Inlet to Mono Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 2.5
- Eligible: 2.5

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Views of Mono Lake and high Sierra peaks.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers fishing, birding, hiking, and sight-seeing opportunities.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: This segment exposes significant lake bottom, deltaic, and volcanic ash strata that are unique to the geologic history of the Mono Basin and reveal important data for constructing past lake levels and climate regimes in the Eastern Sierra and Great Basin.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Alkali flats exist near Mono Lake.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.18.12) from forest boundary southeast of Mono City to inlet to Mono Lake is eligible because scenery and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Cemetery Road runs along a portion of the creek and crosses the creek.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

North Fork Big Pine Creek (GIS Numbers 1.22.1 and 1.22.2)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Northern headwaters on flank of Cloudripper
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 5.5
- Eligible: 5.5

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Scenery within this segment of the river showcases high Sierra peaks, including the Palisades Glacier, and alpine lakes which are light blue because of the glacial run-off.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for nonnative trout species, and camping occur. Lon Chaney Cabin was designed by Paul Revere Williams, the first African American inducted in the American Association of Architects. The cabin is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to its architectural distinction and associations with architect Paul Revere Williams and actor Lon Chaney.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Visiting the Lon Chaney Cabin is a unique recreation experience.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Palisades Glacier in the headwaters which is a unique glacial feature.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: NRHP eligible Lon Chaney Cabin.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is NRHP eligible, is associated with the nationally acclaimed architect Paul Revere Williams, and is intimately connected to the stream. The cabin was built on the stream edge for silent film actor Lon Chaney, an avid fisherman.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: This creek does not contain populations of wild stocks or federally listed species nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: North Fork Big Pine Creek (GIS Numbers 1.22.1 and 1.22.2) from the norther headwaters on the flank of Cloudripper to the wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, and history are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible, except by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

North Fork Big Pine Creek/Big Pine Creek (GIS Numbers 1.02.1, 1.22.3, and 1.22.4)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Private Property

Mileage

- Studied: 3.6
- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Largely forested area, with occasional openings and views of spectacular geologic formations, traversed by Big Pine Creek trail. Along the roaded portion of the creek, recreation cabins, five campgrounds, pack station, resort, and picnic area are visible from the creek.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunities, such as hiking, fishing for nonnative trout species, and camping occur.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but do attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Unique geology, Palisades Glacier in the headwaters is visible from openings in the trail and along the road.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**

- ◆ Description: This creek does not contain populations of wild stocks or federally listed species nor does the stream provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species.
- ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Several prehistoric lithic scatters occur in this area.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this site is not unusual and not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Big Pine Recreation Resident Tract.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual, is not NRHP eligible, and is not associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: Big Pine Creek (GIS Numbers 1.02.1, 1.22.3, and 1.22.4) from the wilderness boundary to private property is eligible because recreation and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Minimum impoundment associated with a small hydroelectric project at the Glacier lodge.

Shoreline Development: Evidence of human activity: cabins, campgrounds, recreation residences, resort, paved road.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Parker Creek (GIS Number 1.25.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 4.4
- Eligible: 4.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery was an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, interesting geologic features of folds, waterfalls and cascades over the headwall.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing. Popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, geology is not unique within the region of comparison.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (population and habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Aspen is present within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Parker Creek (GIS Number 1.25.1) from headwaters to wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

Parker Creek (GIS Number 1.25.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Forest boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 1.9
- Eligible: 1.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: River offers views of high mountain peaks and Mono Lake.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers hiking, bird watching, and some fishing recreation opportunities.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Historic water diversions exist and are no longer in use.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Parker Creek (GIS Number 1.25.2) from wilderness boundary to forest boundary is eligible because scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive, some evidence of human use.

Accessibility: Accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Rock Creek (GIS Numbers 1.27.1 and 1.27.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Box Lake
- End Point Description: Wilderness Boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 1.2
- Eligible: 1.2

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery and geology were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing. Popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Outstanding and unique glacial features in granitic batholith.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mono Pass Trail, has been documented.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. The trans-Sierra trail up Rock Creek and over Mono Pass was a significant prehistoric travel and trade route. Rock Creek drainage to Mono Pass is a uniquely significant and long established prehistoric trade-travel route on the Inyo National Forest, with continuing use in historic/modern times as associated with the NRHP eligible Mono Pass Trail.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Rock Creek (GIS Numbers 1.27.1 and 1.27.2) from outlet of Box Lake to wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown
- Classification: Wild

Rock Creek (GIS Number 1.27.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Wilderness boundary

- End Point Description: Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place

Mileage

- Studied: 12.0
- Eligible: 12.0

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, and fish were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, fishing, boating on the lakes, and horseback riding. Popular recreation canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Outstanding and unique glacial features in granitic batholith.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Three recreation residence tracts, a resort, historic camps, a guard station, trash, foundations, and rock alignments.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mono Pass Trail, has been documented. Numerous prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. The trans-Sierra trail up Rock Creek and over Mono Pass was a significant prehistoric travel and trade route. Rock Creek drainage to Mono Pass is a uniquely significant and long established prehistoric trade-travel route on the Forest, with continuing use in historic/modern times as associated with the NRHP eligible Mono Pass Trail.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Other (Botanical)**

- ◆ Description: Aspen, moist meadows, and a rare species, *Cares scirpoidea* ssp. *pseudoscirpoidea*, occur within the river corridor.
- ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Rock Creek (GIS Number 1.27.3) from wilderness boundary to Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place is eligible because scenery, recreation, geology, and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Several campgrounds, paved roads and parking lots, two resorts and one pack station, 3 recreation residence tracts within the creek corridor.

Accessibility: Accessible paved road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Rock Creek - Lower (GIS Numbers 1.14.1 and 1.14.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place
- End Point Description: Forest boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 6.9
- Eligible: 6.9

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, and fish were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**

- ◆ Description: A series of cascades. Dense and excellent quality riparian vegetation with old growth Jeffrey pine trees.
- ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Recreation**

- ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, driving for pleasure, fishing, and biking. Popular recreation canyon.

- ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, geology is not unique within the region of comparison.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Historical features such as recreational residences, several foundations, and trash scatters occur.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Numerous prehistoric sites known and are likely linked to the importance of the trans-Sierra trail up Rock Creek and over Mono Pass, a significant prehistoric travel and trade route.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is an outstandingly remarkable value. Concentration of prehistoric sites likely connected to a significant and long established prehistoric trade-travel route on the Inyo National Forest up Rock Creek drainage.

Summary: Rock Creek – Lower (GIS Numbers 1.14.1 and 1.14.2) from Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place to the forest boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, and prehistory are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Paved roads and parking lots, nearby highway 395 visible in some spots.

Accessibility: Accessible paved road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.28.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Outlet of Silver Lake
- End Point Description: Inlet to Grant Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 2.6
- Eligible: 2.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Views of high alpine peaks and canyons stands of aspens, a dramatic, narrow, glacially carved stretch of canyon, and exceptional fall color displays. This segment also includes views of Horsetail Falls, the largest waterfall in the region.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: This area offers opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking, photography, and fall color recreation.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Historic features, such as recreational residences, a resort and two trash scatters are known.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. These sites are not NRHP eligible and not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Aspen stands occur along this segment.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value. This does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.28.1) from outlet of Silver Lake to inlet to Grant Lake is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundments or diversions.

Shoreline Development: Substantial developments including a campground exist showing extensive evidence of human use.

Accessibility: Readily accessible by road and trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.28.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Private Land Boundary
- End Point Description: Inlet to Mono Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 4.3
- Eligible: 4.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Views of Mono Lake and high Sierra peaks.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Through Mono Basin, unique geology and ice age lake bed features.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value. It is the best delta feature in Mono Basin.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Two historic settlements (multicomponent sites).
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Several prehistoric sites known.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Other (Cultural)**
 - ◆ Description: Contemporary unique tribal significance and value associated with river/delta is known.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Cultural) is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Rush Creek (GIS Number 1.28.2) from private land boundary to inlet to Mono Lake is eligible because scenery, geology, and other (cultural) are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Some existing impoundments or diversions.

Shoreline Development: Some development.

Accessibility: Accessible by road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

South Fork Bishop Creek (GIS Number 1.30.1)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwaters
- End Point Description: Inlet at South Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 3.6
- Eligible: 3.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery and other (minerals) were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, many lakes and tributary streams, highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing. Popular hiking trail. Heavily-visited recreation canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: The only site of cobalt deposits in the United States.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Minerals)**
 - ◆ Description: A rare mineral, cobalt, was described to occur within this area of the Bishop Creek drainage.

- ◆ Determination: Although the rare mineral cobalt is found within this watershed, it does not occur within the river corridor and its presence is not due to the river. Other (Minerals) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: South Fork Bishop Creek (GIS Number 1.30.1) from headwaters to the inlet at South Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

- Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.
- Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.
- Accessibility: Accessible by trail.
- Water Quality: Unknown
- Classification: Wild

South Fork Bishop Creek (GIS Number 1.30.2)

Location

- County: Inyo County
- Beginning Point Description: Dam outlet at South Lake
- End Point Description: Habeggens RV Park

Mileage

- Studied: 5.2
- Eligible: 5.2

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that recreation was an outstandingly remarkable value.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: High country vistas and scenery, highly scenic Aspen stands and riparian vegetation stand in contrast to the steep, open canyon walls. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, fishing, boating on South Lake, and horseback riding. Popular recreation canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.

- ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, geology is not unique within the region of comparison.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation residences (one NRHP eligible tract), outfitter camp, NRHP eligible Bishop Creek Hydroelectric District, historic camps, and cabins.
 - ◆ Determination: History is an outstandingly remarkable value. There are NRHP eligible sites associated with the stream and to themes of early hydroelectric development of regional importance and of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Aspen and a rare species, *Tricholporum pumilium*, occur within the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: South Fork Bishop Creek (GIS Number 1.30.2) from the dam outlet at South Lake to Habeggars RV Park is eligible because scenery, recreation, and history are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Several campgrounds, picnic areas trailheads and other paved parking areas, two resorts and one pack station within the creek corridor.

Accessibility: Accessible paved road.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Recreational

South Fork Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.32.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Dore Pass Lake
- End Point Description: Crystal Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 1.1
- Eligible: 1.1

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 3/21/91 memo notes historic resources (historic mining activity) and rainbow and brook trout. The 1990s study determined that scenery, geology, and history were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing for nonnative brook and rainbow trout. Popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of historic mining sites.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Extent of historic mining activity and scenic beauty of rocks in the canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Documented early mining sites.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Mining sites are not river related.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: South Fork Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.32.1) from Dore Pass Lake to Crystal Lake is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification Findings:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

South Fork Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.32.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Crystal Lake

- End Point Description: Hoover Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 1.6
- Eligible: 1.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, geology, and history were outstandingly remarkable values.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic forested area including a section that traverses a very steep gorge within one mile of Mill Creek.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and picnicking. Popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique opportunities around visitation of historic mining sites, Lundy and Tioga worlds highest telephone line, historic trail associated with Tioga Mining District, and the historic mining road provide an outstandingly remarkable recreation experience.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: Extent of historic mining activity and scenic beauty of rocks in the canyon.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **History**
 - ◆ Description: Documented early mining sites.
 - ◆ Determination: History is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Mining sites are not river related.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: South Fork Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.32.2) from Crystal Lake to the Hoover Wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery, recreation, and geology are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown

Classification: Wild

South Fork Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.32.3)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Hoover Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Confluence with Mill Creek

Mileage

- Studied: 0.3
- Eligible: 0.3

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 3/21/91 memo notes historic resources (historic mining activity). The 1990s study determined that scenery, geology, and history were outstandingly remarkable values. The current study found no historic sites documented in this segment.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Highly scenic due to the majesty of the canyon and the visible evidence of glaciation. Dramatic geologic evidence throughout the canyon adds to the outstanding scenic quality of the river corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing for nonnative brook and rainbow trout. Popular hiking trail.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, geology is not unique within the region of comparison.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: One prehistoric site.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The one known site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.

Summary: South Fork Mill Creek (GIS Number 1.32.3) from Hoover Wilderness boundary to the confluence with Mill Creek is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Scenic

Walker Creek (GIS Number 1.33.1)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Headwater tributaries
- End Point Description: Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary

Mileage

- Studied: 2.6
- Eligible: 2.6

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, geology, and history were outstandingly remarkable values. The current study determined that there are no historic sites along this segment.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: Diverse watercourse beginning at the headwaters where the water is characterized by small snow tarns and pocket meadows, transitioning through steep sections with waterfalls and fissures, and cascades. Vegetation is scenic and varied, glacial polish and grooves on bedrock add to the scenic quality.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique recreation opportunities are associated with visiting remnants of historic cabins and historic mining route, and potential to view Bighorn sheep from the river corridor.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, geology is not unique within the region of comparison.

- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Five scattered prehistoric sites.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. Known sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Other (Botanical)**
 - ◆ Description: Two rare plant species occur within this area, *Carex tiogana* and *Agrostis humilis*.
 - ◆ Determination: Other (Botanical) is not an outstandingly remarkable value because this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Summary: Walker Creek (GIS Number 1.33.2) from headwater tributaries to Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary is eligible because scenery and recreation are outstandingly remarkable values.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive and undeveloped.

Accessibility: Accessible by trail.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Wild

Walker Creek (GIS Number 1.33.2)

Location

- County: Mono County
- Beginning Point Description: Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary
- End Point Description: Walker Lake

Mileage

- Studied: 0.4
- Eligible: 0.4

Eligibility Determination

Free Flow: Yes

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The 1990s study determined that scenery, recreation, geology, and history were outstandingly remarkable values. The current study determined that there are no historic sites along this segment.

- **Scenery**
 - ◆ Description: At inlet to Walker Lake scenery includes views of lake and Bloody Canyon area, but it is not unique within the region of comparison.
 - ◆ Determination: Scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value.
- **Recreation**
 - ◆ Description: Recreation opportunity is primarily hiking, camping, and fishing.
 - ◆ Determination: Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value. Recreation opportunities are not unique or rare within the region of comparison, but are attracting large numbers of visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Unique recreation opportunities are associated with visiting remnants of historic cabins and historic mining route, and potential to view Bighorn sheep from the river corridor.
- **Geology**
 - ◆ Description: No unique geologic processes evident along and within the creek corridor.
 - ◆ Determination: Geology is not an outstandingly remarkable value. While adding to the scenic quality of the canyon, geology is not unique within the region of comparison.
- **Prehistory**
 - ◆ Description: Two prehistoric sites.
 - ◆ Determination: Prehistory is not an outstandingly remarkable value. The few sites known are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
- **Fish (Population and Habitat)**
 - ◆ Description: Rainbow and brook trout are planted here. There is no native fishery.
 - ◆ Determination: Fish (Population and Habitat) is not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Summary: Walker Creek (GIS Number 1.33.2) from the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary to Walker Lake is eligible because recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Preliminary Classification

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Hiking and user trails for access to waterways.

Accessibility: Accessible by trails.

Water Quality: Unknown.

Classification: Scenic

Previously studied river segments with river-related values but no outstandingly remarkable values

Table C-5 details the river segments previously studied that have river-related values but no outstandingly remarkable values.

Table C-5. River segments previously studied that have river-related values but no outstandingly remarkable values

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River-Related Values
Baker Creek	1.01.1	Prehistory – One prehistoric site is known along this segment. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Big Pine Creek	1.02.2	History – One recreation residence track is documented along this segment. The site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
George Creek	1.06	<p>Fish – Desirable non-native trout occur within this creek, however this does not represent unique fishery populations within the region of comparison.</p> <p>Wildlife habitat – Riparian areas offer habitat to a variety of wildlife species, however this does not represent unique wildlife habitat within the region of comparison.</p> <p>Scenery – This area offers views of high alpine peaks and changes in landscape forms as you move from high elevation alpine habitat to lower elevation sagebrush communities. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area showcase contrasting high elevation and lower elevation habitats.</p> <p>History – A historic cabin occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Horton Creek	1.08	<p>Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – A historic cabin occurs in this area. This site is not unusual or associated with well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Aspen, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.</p>
Independence Creek	1.10	<p>Fish – Desirable non-native trout occur within this creek, however this does not represent unique fishery populations within the region of comparison.</p> <p>Scenery – This area offers views of high alpine peaks and changes in landscape forms as you move from high elevation alpine habitat to lower elevation sagebrush communities. This scenery is not unique within the Region of Comparison, as the majority of streams within this area showcase contrasting high elevation and lower elevation habitats.</p> <p>Recreation – Hiking, fishing, and developed camping occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities.</p> <p>History – Historic sites documented include a recreational residence tract, concrete foundation, and a drift fence. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.</p> <p>Other (Botanical) – Black oak and <i>Carex petasata</i>, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or</p>

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River-Related Values
		an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Mine Creek	1.19	History – Historic features from mining activities occur within this area. These sites are not associated with the river and are not unusual or unique for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – A prehistoric site is known. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest.
Mulkey Creek	1.20	History – One historic camp is documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Six prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual, unusually dense, or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Meadow and <i>Ivesia campestris</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Ninemile Creek	1.21	Recreation – Hiking occurs along this stream. This use is not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking opportunities. Geology – Hot spring features occur in this area, however these are not unique within the Region of Comparison. History – The Jordon Hot Springs Resort is documented. The resort is abandoned and largely burnt down. This site is not NRHP eligible. Other (Botanical) – Meadow and canyon live oak, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Owens River	1.24.1	Prehistory – Several prehistoric sites are documented in this area. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Owens River	1.24.2	Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
Redrock Creek	1.26	Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this stream. These uses are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and fishing access or opportunities. History – A few historic features such as a cabin and corral are known. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – Two prehistoric sites are known. The sites are not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – <i>Bruchia bolanderi</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	River-Related Values
South Fork Big Pine Creek	1.29	Recreation – Hiking and fishing occur along this creek. These activities are not unique within the Region of Comparison because many areas offer hiking and motorized access or opportunities. History – Two sites, a recreational residence tract and resort, are known. These sites are not NRHP eligible.
South Fork Cottonwood Creek	1.31	History – An historic cabin and camps are known. These sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – Moist meadow, however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.
West Fork Coyote Creek	1.34	History – An historic log structure and mine are known. The sites are not unusual or known to be associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Prehistory – One prehistoric site is documented. This site is not unusual or associated with any well-established themes of unique significance for the Inyo National Forest. Other (Botanical) – <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> ssp. <i>pseudoscirpoidea</i> , however this does not represent an extensive and unique combination of botanical resources, or an outstanding example of a botanical resource, within the region of comparison.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility and Preliminary Classifications Summary

A total of approximately 1,241.6 miles of river were included in the inventory that was studied for wild and scenic river eligibility. Of that inventory, approximately 245.9 miles of river had been previously studied and approximately 129.1 miles had previously been determined to be eligible and have been managed to protect the values that support their inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Of the 129.1 miles that had previously been determined to be eligible, 129.0 miles were reaffirmed as eligible. 8 of the river segments that were previously found to be ineligible were found eligible in this study (approximately 24.5 miles).

Of the 995.7 miles that were that were not previously studied, approximately 111.6 miles were determined to be eligible. The total miles of river currently determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is approximately 265.4 miles (see Table C-6). Refer to Table C-7 for the river segments determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System including preliminary classification.

Table C-6. Inyo National Forest wild and scenic river eligibility study results summary

Study Results	# of River Segments	Approximate Mileage
Total Eligible	88	265.4
Preliminarily Classification: Wild	36	129.7
Preliminarily Classification: Scenic	8	12.5
Preliminarily Classification: Recreational	44	123.2

Table C-7. Inyo National Forest river segments determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	Length (Miles)	Preliminary Classification	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Convict Creek	1.03	7.0	Wild	Headwaters	Convict Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Other (Botanical)
Cottonwood Creek (White Mountains)	1.028	1.7	Wild	Headwaters at White Mountains Wilderness Boundary	Wild and Scenic designated segment	Fish Populations, Prehistory
Cottonwood Creek (White Mountains)	1.027.2	0.7	Recreational	Forest boundary	Forest boundary	History
Cottonwood Creek	1.04.1 1.04.2	4.7	Wild	Headwaters	Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish Habitat, Fish Populations, History
Cottonwood Creek	1.04.3	1.4	Recreational	Southeast side of Forest Road 16S02	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site	Recreation, Fish Populations, History
Cottonwood Creek	1.04.4	3.8	Wild	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land east of the Old Cottonwood Mill site	Golden Trout Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Fish Populations, History
Cottonwood Creek	1.04.5	2.1	Recreational	Golden Trout Wilderness boundary	Intake in Section 27 just east of Forest Service Road 17S01	Scenery, Fish Populations, History, Prehistory
Crest Creek	1.031.1	3.3	Wild	Headwaters	Inlet to Gem Lake	History
Division Creek	1.041.2	3.4	Recreational	Wilderness Boundary	Forest Boundary	History
Fish Creek	1.053	20.4	Wild	Headwaters	Confluence with Middle Fork San Joaquin River	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Wildlife Populations
Golden Trout Creek	1.07	19.0	Wild	Headwaters above Big Whitney Meadows	Confluence with the Kern River	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish Populations, Fish Habitat, History
Hot Creek	1.067	5.6	Recreational	Headwaters	Intersection of stream and Forest Road 3S45G	History, Prehistory, Other
Hot Creek	1.09.1	4.4	Recreational	Intersection of stream and Forest Road 3S45G	Fish Hatchery	Geology, Prehistory, Other (Botanical)
Hot Creek	1.09.2	2.9	Recreational	Fish Hatchery	national forest boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish Populations, Fish Habitat, Prehistory, Other (Botanical)
Laurel Creek	1.11	3.8	Scenic	Wilderness boundary	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land	Scenery, Recreation, Geology

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	Length (Miles)	Preliminary Classification	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Lee Vining Creek	1.12.1	1.4	Wild	Headwaters tributaries	Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.12.2	0.2	Wild	Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area	Greenstone Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.079.1	0.5	Scenic	Inlet to Greenstone Lake	Inlet to Saddlebag Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.12.3	3.0	Recreational	Saddlebag Lake	Hwy 120	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.079.2	0.4	Scenic	Highway 120	Inlet to Ellery Lake	Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.079.3	1.2	Scenic	300 feet below Ellery Lake dam	Southern California Edison (SCE) Powerhouse	Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.12.4	6.0	Recreational	Southern CA Edison Powerhouse	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Diversion (DWP) Pond	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lee Vining Creek	1.12.5	0.1	Recreational	Inlet to DWP Diversion Pond	Outlet of DWP Diversion Pond	Scenery, Recreation
Lee Vining Creek	1.12.6	4.2	Recreational	Outlet of DWP Diversion Pond	Inlet to Mono Lake	Scenery, Recreation
Little Hot Creek	1.084	3.9	Recreational	Antelope Spring	Forest Boundary	Geology, Prehistory, Other
Lone Pine Creek/North Fork Lone Pine Creek	1.13 1.23	4.7	Wild	North Fork and South fork Headwaters	John Muir Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Lone Pine Creek	1.087	3.9	Recreational	John Muir Wilderness boundary	Inyo national forest boundary near Lone Pine Campground	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Mammoth Creek	1.094.4	3.5	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Twin Lakes Outlet	Recreation, History, Prehistory
Mammoth Creek	1.15.1	4.5	Recreational	Twin Lakes	Sherwin Campground	History, Prehistory
Mammoth Creek	1.094.2	0.04	Recreational	Intersection with Sherwin Creek	0.04 miles after intersection with Sherwin Creek	History, Prehistory
Mammoth Creek	1.15.2	2.4	Recreational	Sherwin Campground	South of Hot Creek by 0.02 miles	Prehistory
Mammoth Creek	1.094.3	0.02	Recreational	South of Hot Creek by 0.02 miles	Intersection with Hot Creek	History, Prehistory
McGee Creek	1.16	6.7	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
McGee Creek	1.099	3.8	Recreational	Wilderness Boundary	Forest Boundary	Geology
Middle Fork Bishop Creek	1.104.1	4.0	Wild	Headwaters	Inlet of Sabrina Lake	Scenery

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	Length (Miles)	Preliminary Classification	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Middle Fork San Joaquin River	1.17	3.5	Wild	Headwaters are from an unnamed lake southwest of Thousand Island Lake	Middle Fork San Joaquin River at the northeast end of Thousand Island Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Mill Creek	1.105.2	1.1	Wild	Headwaters	Intersection with Mill Creek 1.18.1	Geology
Mill Creek	1.18.1 1.18.2	4.0	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Mill Creek	1.18.3	1.4	Scenic	Wilderness boundary	Private Property	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Mill Creek	1.18.4	0.8	Recreational	Private Property	Lundy Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Mill Creek	1.105.1	2.6	Recreational	Outlet of Lundy Lake	Forest boundary south of forest road 2N01	Scenery, Recreation
Mill Creek	1.18.5	2.3	Recreational	Forest boundary south of forest road 2N01	Forest boundary southeast of Mono City	Scenery
Mill Creek	1.18.12	2.5	Recreational	Forest boundary southeast of Mono City	Inlet to Mono Lake	Scenery, Geology
North Fork Big Pine Creek	1.22.1 1.22.2	5.5	Wild	Northern headwaters on flank of Cloudripper	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, History
North Fork Big Pine Creek/Big Pine Creek	1.02.1 1.22.3 1.22.4	3.6	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Private Property	Recreation, Geology
North Fork Crooked Creek	1.126	4.6	Scenic	Headwaters	Confluence with South Fork Crooked Creek	Prehistory
O'Harrel Canyon Creek	1.141.1	2.3	Wild	Headwaters	Inventoried Roadless Area boundary	Fish Populations
O'Harrel Canyon Creek	1.141.2	3.0	Recreational	Inventoried Roadless Area boundary	Forest boundary	Fish Populations, Prehistory
Parker Creek	1.25.1	4.4	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness Boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Parker Creek	1.25.2	1.9	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Forest boundary	Scenery
Parker Creek	1.25.3	4.1	Recreational	Forest boundary	Confluence with Rush Creek	Scenery
Poison Creek	1.153	3.4	Wild	Headwaters	Intersection with South Fork Cottonwood Creek	Prehistory
Rock Creek	1.161	3.1	Wild	Headwaters	Box Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
Rock Creek	1.27.1 1.27.2	1.2	Wild	Outlet of Box Lake	Wilderness Boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Prehistory

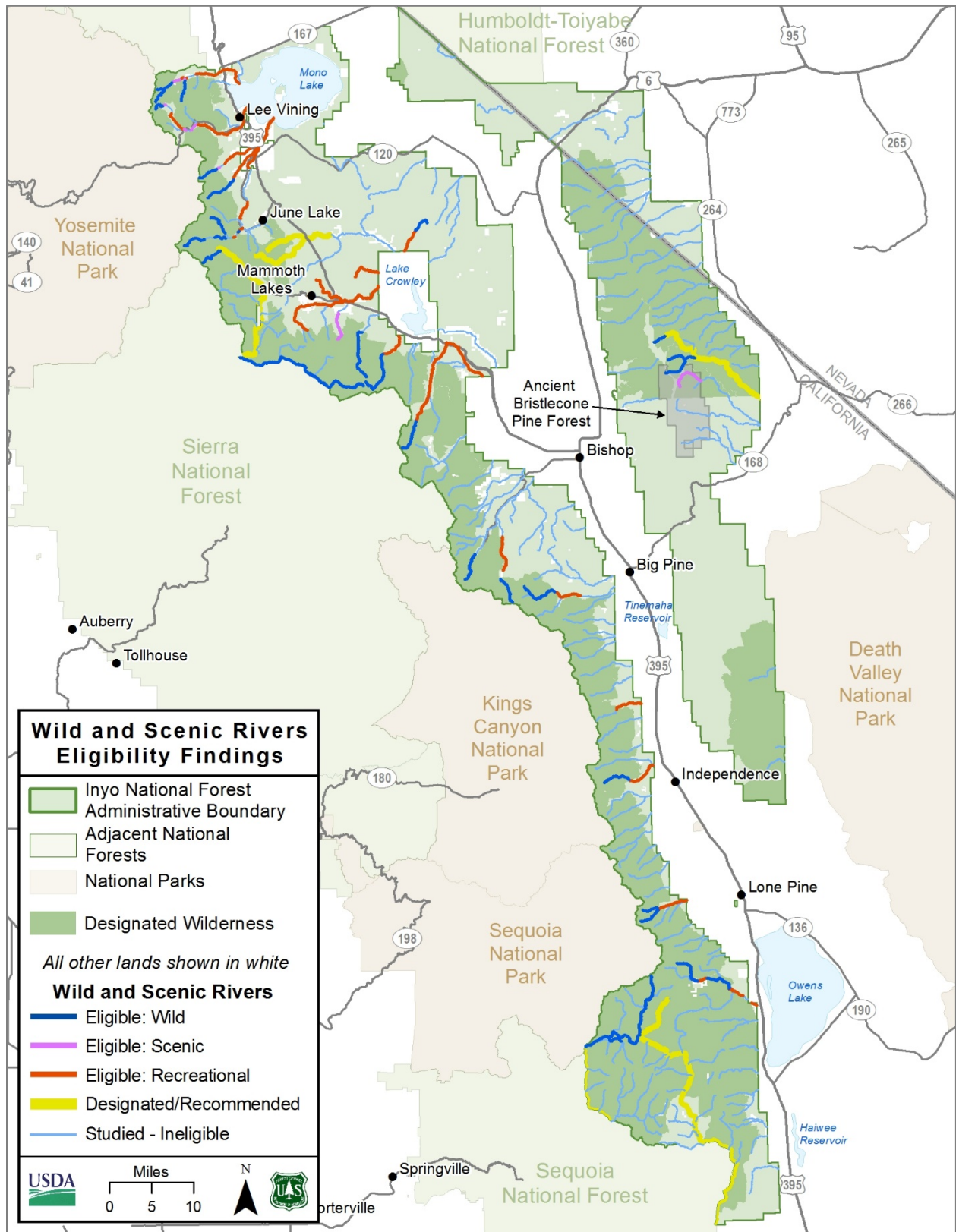
Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	Length (Miles)	Preliminary Classification	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Rock Creek	1.27.3	12.0	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Prehistory
Rock Creek –Lower	1.14.1 1.14.2	6.9	Recreational	Highway 395 bridge near Toms Place	national forest boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Prehistory
Rush Creek	1.165.1	3.7	Wild	Headwaters	Inlet of Waugh Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife Populations
Rush Creek	1.165.2	1.9	Wild	Outlet of Waugh Lake below dam	Inlet to Gem Lake	Scenery, Recreation, History, Prehistory
Rush Creek	1.165.8	0.3	Recreational	Outlet of Gem Lake below dam	Inlet to Agnew Lake	History
Rush Creek	1.165.4	0.1	Recreational	Small dam structure 600 feet below Agnew Lake dam	Wilderness boundary	History
Rush Creek	1.165.7	0.2	Wild	Wilderness boundary	Wilderness boundary	History
Rush Creek	1.165.6	0.7	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Confluence with Reversed Creek	History
Rush Creek	1.28.1	2.6	Recreational	Outlet of Silver Lake	Inlet to Grant Lake	Scenery, Recreation
Rush Creek	1.165.12 1.166	4.2	Recreational	Grant Lake diversion ditch and Rush Creek natural channel confluence	Private land boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Rush Creek	1.28.2	4.3	Recreational	Private land boundary	Inlet to Mono Lake	Scenery, Geology, Other (Cultural)
South Fork Bishop Creek	1.30.1	3.6	Wild	Headwaters	Inlet at South Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
South Fork Bishop Creek	1.30.2	5.2	Recreational	Dam outlet at South Lake	Habegggers RV Park	Scenery, Recreation, History
South Fork Cottonwood Creek	1.180	3.7	Wild	Headwaters	Intersection with Cottonwood Creek	Prehistory
South Fork Mill Creek	1.32.1	1.1	Wild	Dore Pass Lake	Crystal Lake	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
South Fork Mill Creek	1.32.2	1.6	Wild	Crystal Lake	Hoover Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation, Geology
South Fork Mill Creek	1.32.3	0.2	Scenic	Hoover Wilderness boundary	Confluence with Mill Creek	Scenery, Recreation
South Fork Oak Creek	1.187.1	3.6	Wild	Headwaters	Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Geology, Other (Botanical)

Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation for the Inyo National Forest

River Name	Segment ID No.(s)	Length (Miles)	Preliminary Classification	Beginning Point	End Point	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
South Fork Oak Creek	1.187.2	3.9	Recreational	Wilderness boundary	Road 13S04	Scenery, Geology, Other (Botanical)
Volcanic Creek	1.203	2.3	Wild	Volcano Meadow	Intersection with Golden Trout Creek	Geology
Walker Creek	1.33.1	2.6	Wild	Headwaters tributaries	Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary	Scenery, Recreation
Walker Creek	1.33.2	0.4	Scenic	Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary	Walker Lake	Recreation
Walker Creek	1.205.2 1.205.3 1.206	6.3	Recreational	Outlet of Walker Lake	Confluence with Rush Creek	Scenery

Refer to Map C-12 for the wild and scenic river eligibility findings. Larger, higher resolution maps are available to view online at the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) Web page at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3833668>.



Map C-12. Wild and Scenic river eligibility findings

Appendix D – Range Management

Status of Livestock Production Rangelands

On the Inyo National Forest, 852,200 acres are available for livestock grazing. Of these, 12 allotments (275,740 acres) are either vacant or in nonuse for resource protection. The remaining acres (576,460 acres) are currently being grazed by cattle or sheep (Table D-1 and Figure D-1).

Determinations of the status of livestock grazing allotments, changes in livestock class, season of use, timing of use, and established utilization standards, are all determined during project-level environmental analysis. The plan components found in the final plan are used as a baseline for determining utilization standards at the project-level. Vacant allotments would need project-level environmental analysis prior to reactivation.

Table D-1. Summary data of current grazing allotments

ID	Allotment	Kind/ Class	Status	Acres
100	Montgomery Pass WH	Wild horse	Active	69,265
123	Mcbride Flat	Cattle	Closed	69,265
300	White Mountain WH	Wild horse	Active	181,820
400	Saline Valley WB	Wild burro	Active	27,764
102	Alger Lake S&G	Sheep	Vacant	2,947
103	Alper's Canyon C&H	Cattle	Active	317
104	Black Canyon C&H	Cattle	Vacant	34,274
105	Bloody Canyon S&G	Sheep	Vacant	5,364
107	Dexter Creek S&G	Sheep	Active	18,557
108	Horse Meadow S&G	Sheep	Vacant	1,531
109	June Lake S&G	Sheep	Active	14,855
111	Long Valley C&H	Cattle	Active	15,539
112	Mono Mills S&G	Sheep	Active	29,101
114	Turner C&H	Cattle	Active	13,257
115	Clark Canyon C&H	Cattle	Active	3,252
120	Mono Sand Flat C&H	Cattle	Active	7,461
121	Mono Lake C&H	Cattle	Closed	1,553
201	Hot Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	10,072
202	Antelope C&H	Cattle	Active	9,085
203	McGee S&G	Sheep	Closed	4,214
204	Sherwin/Deadman S&G	Sheep	Active	29,757
205	Tobacco Flat C&H	Cattle	Active	1,603
303	Buttermilk C&H	Cattle	Active	18,910
304	Casa Diablo S&G	Sheep	Active	49,613
306	Clover Patch C&H	Cattle	Active	9,214
307	Cottonwood C&H	Cattle	Vacant	23,405
308	Crooked Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	40,961
309	Davis Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	10,820
310	Deep Springs C&H	Cattle	Active	24,438

Appendix D: Range Suitability and Management

ID	Allotment	Kind/ Class	Status	Acres
311	Glass Mountain C&H	Cattle	Active	987
312	Indian Creek C&H	Cattle	Vacant	16,781
314	McMurry Meadows C&H	Cattle	Active	9,753
315	Perry Aiken C&H	Cattle	Vacant	29,386
316	Coyote C&H	Cattle	Active	49,758
317	Rock Creek S&G	Sheep	Active	13,131
319	Shannon Canyon C&H	Sheep	Active	10,152
320	Taboose Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	4,199
321	Trail Canyon C&H	Cattle	Active	27,033
322	Tres Plumas C&H	Cattle	Vacant	40,216
323	Watterson Meadow C&H	Sheep	Active	15,956
325	Wilfred Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	5,229
328	Queen Valley C&H	Cattle	Vacant	15,943
350	Fish Creek S&G	Sheep	Closed	25,765
401	Alabama Hills C&H	Cattle	Active	1,837
402	Ash Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	10,850
403	George Creek C&H	Cattle	Active	1,869
404	Independence C&H	Cattle	Active	15,916
405	Mazourka C&H	Cattle	Active	16,794
406	Monache C&H	Cattle	Active	48,573
407	Mulkey C&H	Cattle	Active	18,622
408	Olancha C&H	Cattle	Active	14,734
409	Templeton C&H	Cattle	Vacant	43,641
410	Tunawee C&H	Cattle	Active	4,250
412	Whitney C&H	Cattle	Vacant	44,972

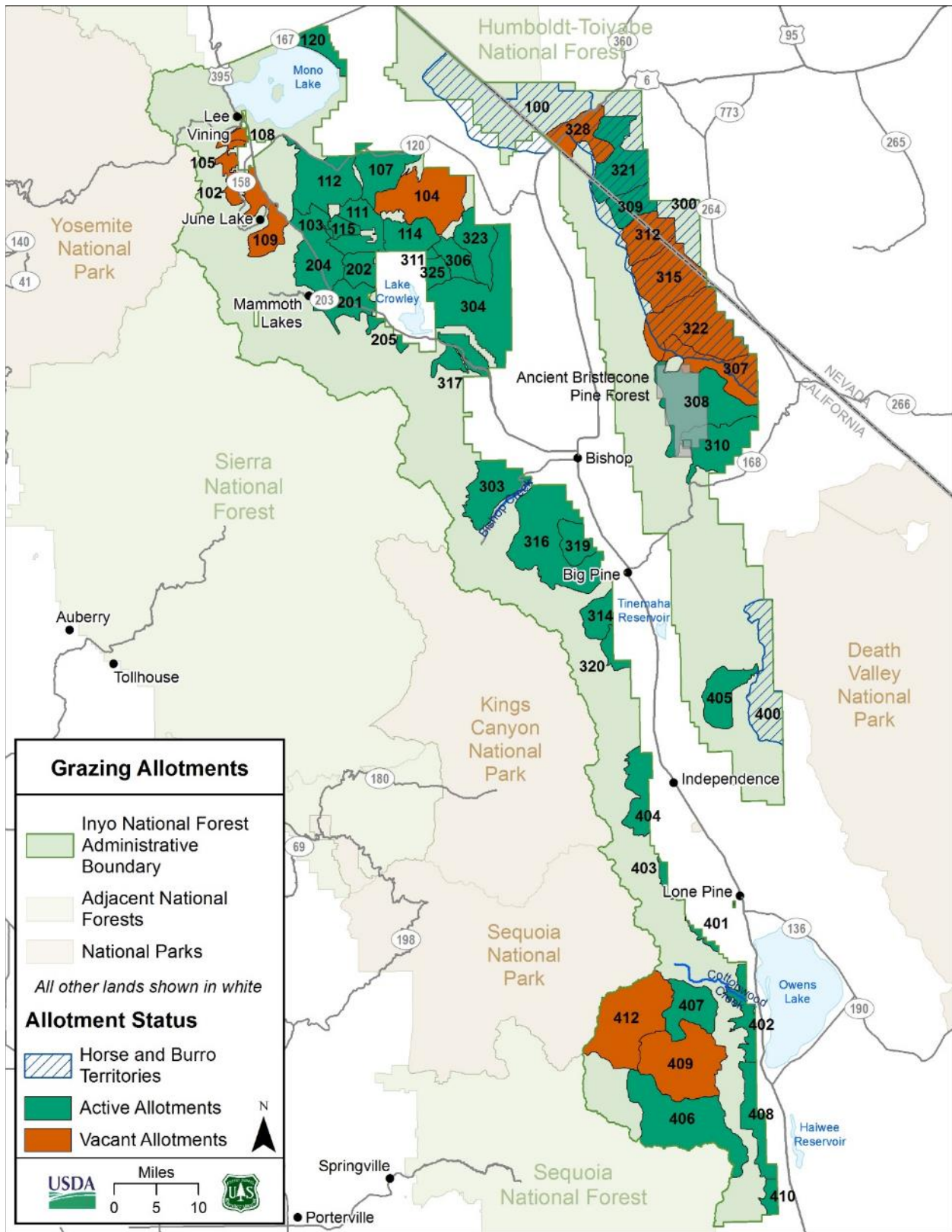


Figure D-1. Livestock grazing allotments; wild horse and burro territories on Inyo National Forest 2017

Appendix E – Consistency with Other Planning Efforts

Introduction

The 2012 Planning Rule regulations (36 CFR 219.4(2)) require national forest planners to review the planning and land use policies of local governments, where relevant to the plan area. This appendix displays the results of this review.

The review included consideration of:

- The objectives of local governments, as expressed in their plans and policies;
- Opportunities for the plan to address the impacts identified or to contribute to joint objectives; and
- Opportunities to resolve or reduce conflicts, within the context of developing the plan's desired conditions or objectives.

County Governments

The Inyo National Forest occurs within seven counties: Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Mono, and Tulare Counties in California and Esmeralda and Mineral Counties in Nevada. County plans can be used as a source of information on the history of land use within the region, patterns of development, desired conditions, and current county land use goals, objectives, and policies. County governments hold no legal authority over independent jurisdictions such as Federal and State lands, incorporated cities and towns, or Native American Tribal reservations.

County land use within the planning area ranges from traditional uses such as farming and ranching in rural areas (Inyo, Mono, Esmeralda, and Mineral Counties) to denser concentrations of residential, industrial, and commercial uses in and around suburban and urban areas (Fresno and Madera Counties). One of the common themes is how, and whether, private owners and public land managers can manage the competing priorities of resource conservation and economic development; in particular, how to cope with the growing demands for housing and recreation while ensuring preservation of a shrinking natural resource base that contributes to the Eastern Sierra and western Nevada's highly valued rural character.

Fresno County

In reviewing the Fresno County General Plan for Agriculture and Land Use (2000), there were no policies or elements that pertained to the Inyo National Forest or would conflict with the Inyo National Forest revised plan.

Inyo County

Inyo County was a cooperating agency with the Inyo National Forest and this relationship was defined in the Memorandum of Understanding dated June 10, 2014. Throughout the plan revision process, the County provided local economic and social information that was used in the analysis of effects to those resources as described in this environmental impact statement. The Inyo County Board of Supervisors identified the goals from the General Plan that they felt needed to be considered during plan revision. They also provided additional priorities that they felt were related to plan revision. The following section displays these goals and priorities and how the

Inyo National Forest revised plan addresses or blends with these goals. No conflicts between the Inyo County Plan goals and priorities and the components of the revised plan have been discovered.

Inyo County Goals and Policies Related to the Inyo National Forest Revised Plan

Policy Gov-3.1: No Net Loss

The County shall work with Federal and State agencies, local districts, utilities (e.g., LADWP), and Native American tribes to encourage that land exchanges have a net positive impact on the County. In its evaluation, the County may consider factors such as impacts on the County's tax base and revenues, orderly community growth, future development, future revenues and/or other gains, and impacts on the environment, both natural and created.

Policy Gov-3.2: Private Land Increase

The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, and utilities to find opportunities to expand private land ownership in the County through land transfers and other mechanisms.

Policy Gov-3.3: Land Release Locations

The County shall work with federal and state agencies, local districts, and utilities to target desired locations for land releases to private ownership.

Policy Gov-4.1: Federal Land Dispositions and Acquisitions

It is the policy of the Board that the design and development of all federal and state land dispositions and acquisitions, including land adjustments and exchanges, be carried out to the benefit of the citizens of the planning area to ensure the following.

- a. That the County property tax base shall be maintained unless the Board determines there is an overriding benefit to the County.
- b. That the private property interests including, but not limited to, land patents, drilling rights, mining claims, easements, rights-of-way and forage rights are protected and enhanced.
- c. That residents within the planning area shall suffer no adverse aggregate economic impacts.
- d. That incentives be developed to provide an increase in local economic development by increasing, where possible, the amount of private and non-federal and non-state land within the planning area.
- e. That private use of federal and/or state controlled land within the planning area be increased in order to enhance opportunities for local economic development.
- f. That federal and/or state land agencies are discouraged from acquiring any private lands or rights in private lands within the planning area without first coordinating with the County.
- g. That federally and/or state managed lands that are difficult to manage or which lie in isolated tracts, or that could contribute to orderly expansion of existing communities should be considered for exchange or sale to private ownership.

- h. That the County be notified of, consulted about, and otherwise involved in all federal and state land adjustments in the planning area. The Board may review all proposed changes to determine if the proposals are in the best interest of the County.
- i. That before federal and state agencies change land uses, impact studies on land uses are conducted at the expense of the agency proposing the change and necessary mitigation measures adopted in coordination with the County. Impact studies should address community stability, local custom and culture, flood prone areas, access, or any other issue identified as a concern to the County.
- j. Due to the extensive state and federal ownership in the County, it is noted that the management of these areas should include: provision for continued and improved access through and within the County; continued provision of public recreational facilities and access; multi use management where applicable; and interconnection or coordination of state, federal, and local facilities and programs when possible.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Management direction for land exchanges can be found in the “Lands” section of the plan. Plan components in this section have been incorporated from the 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan. These plan components do not prohibit land exchanges with the County, but rather display the priorities in which land exchanges may be considered. The Inyo National Forest would continue to work with the County on any proposed land exchanges.

Policy Gov-4.2: Economic Development

With more than 98 percent of the land area of Inyo County owned by the federal, state and city governments, it is clear that the economic viability of the County is inextricably tied to operational decisions made on public lands. Among other policies contained in the Economic Development Element are:

- a. The County shall encourage public agencies to develop new tourist serving facilities or otherwise enhance their capacity to serve visitors on the public lands they manage.
- b. Encourage public land management and service agencies, including BLM, USFS, National Park Service (NPS), Caltrans, and LADWP (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) to increase their capacity to serve visitors on properties they manage.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The Inyo National Forest recognizes the importance economic sustainability to the local economy and the plan includes many plan components that address economic development. The information in the general plan was considered when creating new plan components in the “Local Communities” section of the plan. These plan components can be found here:

- LOC-FW-DC 01, 02, 03, 05, and 07
- LOC-FW-DC 01, 02, 03, and 04.

5.2.3 Economic Development: Economic Development Issues

Work closely with both public and private landowners and operators to ensure expanded tourism opportunities and to ensure proper long-term management of the County’s lands and water.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

These components were considered in the “Sustainable Recreation” sections of the plan, both forestwide direction and within the Sustainable Recreation Management Areas. Pieces of the “Local Communities” section also address the work needed with local governments for tourism

opportunities. The watershed, riparian conservation area, and conservation watersheds plan components address the sustainability and management of water resources on the national forest.

Goal ED-1

Promote increased capacity to serve tourists within the County's established urbanized areas, and in those areas with established tourist attractions.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Addressing capacity issues was considered when developing the General Recreation Area. This area offers the opportunities for expansion of recreational opportunities, if additional capacity is needed, or to address resource impacts from high-use areas, such as within the Destination Recreation Areas.

Circulation Element: Implementation Measure 9.0

Work with Federal land management agencies and LADWP to coordinate trail efforts and ensure connections between trail systems in federally managed lands and Inyo County communities and locations of interest.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considers the cooperation of multiple agencies and land-owners in trail management. This direction is found within the forestwide Sustainable Recreation section, as well as the Volunteers, Interpretation, Partnerships, and Stewardship section of the plan.

- REC-FW-DC 11 and 12;
- REC-FW-GOAL 03, 08, and 10;
- VIPS-FW-DC 01 and 02; and
- VIPS-FW-GOAL 04

The plan did consider and incorporate the need to ensure connections between trail systems on federally managed lands and Inyo County communities with the inclusion of REC-FW-DC 12, which states: Trails provide access to destinations, provide for opportunities that connect to a larger trail system, provide linkage from local communities to the national forest, and are compatible with other resources.

Policy AG-1.6

Support the continued use and expansion of public lands for agricultural operations. The plan allows for the continuation of multiple uses, including livestock operations on the Inyo National Forest.

Goal AQ-1

Provide good air quality for Inyo County to reduce impacts to human health and the economy. Air quality plan components address the needs to manage for ecological restoration while adhering to air quality standards and the importance of addressing human health issues and impacts to local economies.

Goal WF-1

Prevent wildfires and provide public safety from wildfire hazards.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The Strategic Fire Management Zones help support decisionmakers before a fire ignition occurs by pre-assessing the risk and benefits from wildland fire to areas on the landscape. Fire suppression is an available tool within all these fire zones. The forest would continue to work with adjacent landowners and agencies in fire suppression and management efforts for protection of public health and safety.

Inyo County Priorities Related to the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision

Access:

A sustainable road system should be implemented to enhance and accommodate vehicular use, packing, hunting, hiking, and other recreational opportunities, as well as mining and other uses of the Inyo National Forest. Mitigation opportunities for potential environmental impacts resulting from increased access should be identified and implemented.

- Roads and trails should be protected and expanded to provide access for recreation and exploration for natural resources and other uses of the national forest, including grazing, mining, and the activities of native peoples (such as gathering).
- Roadless areas should be identified for removal or evaluation if they are not roadless.
- Conflicts between biological resources and human access should be identified and planned for.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Responds:

The designation, or removal, of authorized roads or trails was not part of the revised planning process.

- The Travel Management decision established authorized roads on the Inyo National Forest and the Travel Analysis Process determined the minimum road system for the forest. Conflicts of resources are addressed at the project-level.
- As noted above, the plan includes many plan components related to access and trails.
- Evaluation of the removal of roadless areas is outside the scope of plan revision.

Vibrant Economy

The Plan should contribute substantially to the local economy due to the impact of the Forest on the County's culture and fiscal health, and should not result in significant socioeconomic impacts.

- Grazing, Mining, Recreation, and other Multiple Uses – the Plan should support and encourage consumptive and sustainable uses of the Forest to contribute to the County's economy and culture.
- Roads and trails should be protected and expanded to provide access for recreation and exploration for natural resources. This type of recreation is an important economic driver for the County.
- Use permits should be facilitated and streamlined for timely issuance and evaluated based upon scientific criteria.
- Mitigation Bank – rather than acquire land for mitigation of environmental impacts, the Plan should promote restoration of degraded public lands to accommodate mitigation of human development elsewhere in the County.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Responds:

As directed by the 2012 Planning Rule the plan must provide for economic sustainability. The plan addresses this in many ways and in multiple sections of the document.

- Multiple Uses – including grazing and mining: These uses were considered and the plan includes language that provides for the continuation of these uses of the forest (“Rangeland Livestock Grazing” and “Geology and Mineral” sections). New proposed recommended wilderness and wild and scenic river eligibility would not prohibit these uses outright and plan direction does allow for these to continue, as long as they do not hinder the river values identified or the wilderness characteristics.
- Roads and Trails – Please see how these were addressed following other sections of the plan or priorities. The consideration of this priority lead to the development of the Challenging Backroad Area. These areas of the national forest emphasize the use of roads and trails within remote areas and that this use is an important piece of these areas. Identifying these areas also highlight their importance as economic drivers for the County.
- Use Permits – The plan did not consider this issue because this is in relation to Forest Service policies, which is not managed by a forest plan.
- Mitigation Bank – A plan component was created to consider this county priority. LOC-FW-GOAL 04 states: Continue working with other Federal and State agencies on identifying areas on the Inyo that can be part of restoration mitigation banks. Work with other entities, such as local governments, or private businesses, if they are interested in establishing mitigation banks.

Local Culture

The Plan should support and enhance the culture of local communities to the extent social and cultural issues revolve around the forest.

- Public Safety – access and accommodation for public safety purposes should be of paramount concern in the Plan, including for law enforcement (such as eradicating illegal drug production), fire management and suppression, and search and rescue.
- Provide access to the Forest for gathering activities, prospecting, sightseeing, exploration, and camping.
- Provide a continuing voice to the people living around the forest through their local government representatives.
- Increase use of partnering with local communities, agencies, and non-profits.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Responds:

The plan directly considered the increase of partnering with local communities, agencies, and non-profits with the creation of the “Local Communities” and “Volunteers, Interpretation, Partnership, and Stewardship” sections of the plan. These sections outline management direction to continue working with our local governments on many issues and developing partnerships to address national forest needs.

Public safety is addressed through law, regulation, and Forest Service policy and this direction will not be repeated in the revised plan.

Madera County

The Inyo National Forest only occupies a small area of Madera County (approximately 50,500 acres) west of Mammoth Lakes in the Reds Meadow area. The majority of this area is within designated wilderness, with only about 4,000 acres outside wilderness. The Agriculture and Natural Resource elements of the Madera County General Plan Policy Document (1995) were reviewed for consistency with the Inyo National Forest plan and are displayed below. Several goals were reviewed, including “Forest Resources,” “Wetland and Riparian Areas,” “Fish and Wildlife Habitat,” “Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources,” and “Fire Hazards.” No conflicts between the Madera County Plan elements and the components of the revised plan have been discovered.

Madera County Goals and Policies Related to the Inyo National Forest Revised Plan

Goal 5B

To conserve Madera Countys forest resources, enhance the quality and diversity of forest ecosystems, reduce conflicts between forestry and other uses, and encourage a sustained yield of forest products.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Timber suitability was determined for the Inyo National Forest and can be found in Appendix D of the plan. For the small portion of Madera County, outside of wilderness, about 800 acres are suitable for timber. The plan provides management direction for any timber harvest that may occur on the forest, but this use is not a primary use occurring on the forest. Commercial and personnel fuelwood are the main forest product driver on the national forest. This type of use within the Reds Meadow area of Madera County is extremely limited due to limited access and steep terrain. Large trees have been removed from this area for timber use due to a blow-down event, in which large red fir trees were toppled and available for timber.

Goal 5D

To protect wetland communities and related riparian areas throughout Madera County as valuable resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan includes management direction for watersheds, riparian conservation areas, and conservation watersheds within the Inyo National Forest. Madera County is included within the Middle Fork San Joaquin River Headwaters Conservation Watershed. All this plan direction allows for the continuance of wetland communities and riparian areas.

Goal 5E

To protect, restore, and enhance habitats that support fish and wildlife species so as to maintain populations at viable levels.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan includes management direction for animal and plant species and their habitats (see “Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation” and “Animal and Plant Species” sections of the plan). This direction allows for the continued viability of these species.

Goal 5H

To preserve and enhance open space lands to maintain the natural resources of the county.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The majority of the Inyo in Madera County is designated wilderness (about 50,500 acres). These areas will remain designated as wilderness in the plan. The remaining acres (about 4,000) occur in the Reds Meadow area, which receives high recreation use. There are developed sites (campgrounds, trailheads, a pack station and resort) and these uses will continue. Recreation use will be managed under the Destination Recreation Area direction in the plan. No further development or loss of open space is proposed in the plan.

Goal 6C

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and damage to property and watershed resources resulting from unwanted fires.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The Strategic Fire Management Zones help support decisionmakers before a fire ignition occurs by pre-assessing the risk and benefits from wildland fire to areas on the landscape. Fire suppression is an available tool within all these fire zones. The majority of this area of Madera County is within the Wildfire Maintenance Zone; followed by the General Wildfire Protection Zone; and then the Community Protection Zone.

Mono County

Goals, objectives, and policies from the Mono County General Plan (2013) were considered and are displayed below. The policies related to the Inyo National Forest revised plan were found in the Land Use Element and Conservation and Open Space Element. No conflicts between the Tulare County Plan elements and the components of the revised plan have been discovered.

Mono County Goals and Policies Related to the Inyo National Forest Revised Plan

Objective F

Policy 2

Preserve and protect open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources and to provide for a variety of recreational opportunities.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan allows for the continuance of open space within Mono County and provides for a variety of recreational opportunities. These opportunities were considered when developing the Sustainable Recreation Management Areas. These areas identify management for different recreation areas developed based on levels of use and available facilities. The majority of the Inyo in Mono County is within the Challenging Backroad Area (about 312,070 acres); followed by the General Recreation Area (22,545 acres); and then the Destination Recreation Area (28,500 acres). Plan direction for these areas can be found in Chapter 3 of the plan, “Sustainable Recreation Management Areas” section.

Objective H

Maintain and enhance the local economy.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considered the importance of maintaining and enhancing the local economies and as such includes the “Local Communities” section of the plan in Chapter 2 that provides

management direction to provide for this. Specific direction that addresses local economies includes:

- LOC-FW-DC 01, 02, 03, and 07
- LOC-FW-GOAL 01, 02, and 03

Goal

Maintain an abundance and variety of vegetation, aquatic and wildlife types in Mono County for recreation use, natural diversity, scenic value, and economic benefits.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan provides direction for all vegetation types that occur on the Inyo National Forest in Mono County. This direction also provides for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife as well as plan specific language for some of these species. This direction can be found in the Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation Management and Animal and Plant Species sections of Chapter 2. These systems are available for recreation use, as mentioned above, and scenic values were considered in the establishment of scenic integrity objectives. On the Inyo National Forest in Mono County, the scenic integrity objectives range from very high, high, to moderate, and a few acres are low.

Goal

Preserve and protect agriculture and grazing lands in order to promote both the economic and open space values of those lands.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Livestock grazing is addressed in the plan and this use would continue on the forest in Mono County. The plan does not reduce acres suitable for grazing and the management direction for livestock grazing will continue as described in the 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan.

Goal

Provide for the conservation and development of mineral resources in a manner that minimizes land use conflicts and maintains a quality environment.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan carries forward management direction for mineral resources and does not prohibit these activities from occurring on the forest in Mono County.

Goal

Permit the productive and beneficial development of alternative energy sources, including geothermal resources, consistent with the objectives of Goal I and national and local interests.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan does not prohibit the development of energy sources, such as geothermal. Plan direction is included for these uses in Chapter 2.

Goal

Protect and enhance the visual resources and landscapes of Mono County.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

As mentioned above, scenic integrity objectives were developed in consideration of visual

resources in Mono County. On the Inyo National Forest in Mono County the Scenic integrity objectives range from very high, high, to moderate, and a few acres are low.

Goal

Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation to meet the needs of residents and visitors in a manner that conserves natural and cultural resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Recreation uses were considered when developing the Sustainable Recreation Management Areas in the plan. These areas identify management for different recreation areas developed based on levels of use and available facilities. The majority of the Inyo in Mono County is within the Challenging Backroad Area (about 312,070 acres); followed by the General Recreation Area (22,545 acres); and then the Destination Recreation Area (28,500 acres). Plan direction for these areas can be found in Chapter 3 of the plan, “Sustainable Recreation Management Areas” section.

Additional plan direction provides for the protection of natural and cultural resources in these recreation areas, as forestwide direction for cultural resources and natural resources (Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation Management, Watersheds, Riparian Conservation Areas, Conservation Watersheds) all apply to these recreation management areas as well.

Goal

Identify, preserve, restore, and interpret cultural resources in Mono County.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Cultural resources were considered in many areas of the plan. This includes the “Cultural Resources” and “Tribal Relations and Uses” sections of Chapter 2 as well as VIPS-FW-DC 06, 08, and 09.

Goal

Achieve and maintain excellent air quality, water quality, and noise quality such that public health is protected and to protect the public from adverse impacts from hazardous waste and materials.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Air quality, especially smoke impacts, were considered in the plan and are included in the “Air Quality” section of Chapter 2. Water quality is addressed in the “Watersheds” section of Chapter 2 as well. This plan direction provides for maintaining air and water quality standards throughout the forest, including within Mono County.

Tulare County

Portions of the Inyo National Forest that occur within Tulare County are in the southern portion of the Inyo National Forest on the Kern Plateau. The majority of this area is within designated wilderness (about 161,900 acres), with the remaining 22,830 acres outside designated wilderness. The Inyo National Forest falls within the “Open Space” designation in the Environmental Resource Management Component of the Tulare County General Plan (2015). Seven elements have been identified in the Environmental Resource Management Component which was considered in this revision process. Portions of the Inyo National Forest also fall within watersheds found within Tulare County which was identified in the Water Resource Component of the General Plan. Three elements were considered in this revision process. These are displayed below. No conflicts between the Tulare County Plan elements and the components of the revised plan have been discovered.

Tulare County Goals and Policies Related to the Inyo National Forest Revised Plan

ERM-1

To preserve and protect sensitive significant habitats, enhance biodiversity, and promote healthy ecosystems throughout the County.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considers all vegetation types, or habitats, that occur on the Inyo National Forest and provides plan direction at the habitat-level, as well as species-specific level to provide for biodiversity. This direction is found within the “Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation Management” and “Animal and Plant Species” sections of Chapter 2.

ERM-2

To conserve, protect and encourage the development of areas containing mineral deposits while considering values relating to water resources, air quality, agriculture, traffic, biotic, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and other public interest values.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Mineral direction is included in the plan and the plan does not prohibit this use on the Inyo National Forest within Tulare County. Forestwide direction for watersheds, air quality, recreation, and other uses would also apply to areas where mineral development may occur in order to protect those values.

ERM-3

To protect the current and future extraction of mineral resources that are important to the County’s economy while minimizing impacts of this use on the public and the environment.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

As mentioned above, mineral direction in the plan does not prohibit this use, however this use may be minimal within the portion of the Inyo National Forest in Tulare County due to the amount of designated wilderness and limited interest in mineral extraction in this area of the national forest.

ERM-4

To encourage energy conservation in new and existing developments throughout the County.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considers energy conservation of the Inyo’s facilities and includes direction to address this in the desired condition INFR-FW-DC 02.

ERM-5

To provide a parks, recreation, and open space system that serves the recreational needs of County residents and visitors, with special emphasis on recreation related to Environmental Resource Management.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Recreation opportunities and uses were considered when developing the Sustainable Recreation Management Areas in the plan. In Tulare County, the areas outside designated wilderness are included in the General Recreation Area.

ERM-6

To manage and protect sites of cultural and archaeological importance for the benefit of present and future generations.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considers cultural and Tribal importance and provides direction for these in the “Cultural Resources” and “Tribal Relations and Uses” sections of Chapter 2.

ERM-7

To preserve and protect soil resources in the County for agricultural and timber productivity and protect public health and safety.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Management direction for soils can be found in the “Watersheds” section of Chapter 2. Timber suitability was determined for the Inyo National Forest and within Tulare County very little of the areas outside wilderness were determined suitable for timber. This is due to the vegetation types present within these areas.

WR-1

To provide for the current and long-range water needs for the County and for this protection of the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Management for water can be found in several areas of the plan, this includes the “Watersheds,” “Riparian Conservation Areas,” and “Conservation Watersheds” sections. This portion of the Inyo National Forest is included in the South Fork Kern River Headwaters Conservation Watershed.

WR-2

To provide for the current and long-range water needs of the County and for the protection of the quality of surface water and groundwater resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

See above.

WR-3

To provide a sustainable, long-term supply of water resources to meet domestic, agricultural, industrial, and recreational needs and to assure that new urban development is consistent with available water resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

In developing Conservation Watersheds, an important element considered for this management area was the long-term benefits of downstream uses of water, this includes for recreational, domestic, and agricultural purposes. The South Fork Kern River Headwaters Conservation Area was chosen because it offers these downstream beneficial uses and management direction would allow for the continuance of maintaining the functional watersheds that provide these beneficial uses.

Esmeralda County

The Esmeralda County Public Lands Policy Plan (2013) and Master Plan (2011) were considered during the plan revision process. The “Economic Activity and Development” section of the Master Plan and the majority of the policy sections in the Public Lands Plan are included below, as well as how the Inyo National Forest revised plan responds to these policies. No conflicts between the Esmeralda County Plan elements and the components of the revised plan have been discovered.

Esmeralda County Goals and Policies Related to the Inyo National Forest Revised Plan

Master Plan: Economic Activity

1-1

The entire county shall be kept open for prospecting, mining, agriculture, and related activities.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Multiple uses were considered in the plan and are included in the “Geology and Minerals,” “Rangeland Livestock Grazing,” “Energy,” and “Timber and Other Forest Products” sections of the plan in Chapter 2.

1-5

Any designation of any public lands for any non-public purpose is opposed, including but not necessarily limited to designations for Wilderness, Wilderness Study Area, or Wild Land.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

As required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S. C. 1600 *et seq.*) the 2012 Planning Rule establishes the regulations for developed land management plans for all National Forest System lands (36 CFR Part 219). Within these regulations for revising a forest plan, the national forest must “Identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation.” (36 CFR 219.7 (2)(v)).

The Inyo National Forest has followed the regulations and completed a wilderness evaluation process (Appendix B of this document) and did evaluate several polygons within Esmeralda County as recommended within alternative C: McBride Flat, Pizona-Truman Meadows, and Marble Creek.

These areas are not being recommended as wilderness under Alternative B-modified and therefore the plan is consistent with the Esmeralda County’s language in regards to designating additional wilderness areas.

1-11

Agriculture, e.g., farming and ranching, provide both sustainable revenues and employment. Existing grazing permits should be continued. In those areas where there is a conflict between wildlife (e.g., antelope, deer, and bighorn sheep) or cattle with wild horses or burros, a reasonable removal and management of the wild horses or burros is required.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Plan direction did consider wild horses and burros, but all decisions on wild horse management

would be made at the project-level or within separate wild horse and burro management plans. Plan direction included for wild horses and burros includes:

- DA-WHT-GOAL 01 - Continue working with other agencies and Forest Service units, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and other partners or collaborative groups to manage wild horse herds or in the development of wild horse management plans.
- Potential Management Approach - Continue to monitor wild horse populations to determine numbers and use.

Public Lands Policy Plan: Management of Public Lands

2-1

Support Esmeralda County's concept of Multiple Use Management as an overriding philosophy for management of the public lands based on multiple use and sustainable yield concepts, and in a way that will conserve natural resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Multiple uses were considered in the plan and included in the "Geology and Minerals," "Rangeland Livestock Grazing," "Energy," and "Timber and Other Forest Products" sections of the plan in Chapter 2. Other plan direction that would apply when these uses occur, in order to conserve natural resources and limit impacts, include the "Ecological Sustainability and Diversity" section of Chapter 2 and the "Cultural Resources" and "Tribal Relations and Uses" sections of Chapter 2 under the "Social and Economic Sustainability" and "Multiple Uses" section.

2-2

Protect and preserve:

- The quality of the environment and wildlife habitat;
- Economic, cultural, scenic, historical, and archeological values.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Wildlife habitat is considered in several sections of the plan, this includes the "Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation Management," "Animal and Plant Species," "Watersheds" sections of Chapter 2 and the "Riparian Conservation Area" section of Chapter 3.

Economic considerations are included in the "Local Communities" section in which plan direction provides for the continuance to support local economies. Cultural and historical values are included in the "Cultural Resources" section of the plan and are outlined in the "Distinctive Roles and Contributions" section of Chapter 1. Scenic values of Esmeralda County were considered when developing the scenic integrity objectives for the forest. In Esmeralda County these objectives are very high, high and moderate.

Federal Land Transactions

3-1

Specially designated lands (e.g., National Recreation Areas, National Conservation Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness, State parks, etc.) are valuable assets to the State, the County, and the citizens. Within Esmeralda County, any new specially designated areas should be reviewed carefully in a public forum to determine if they are suitable and beneficial to our citizens.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

As required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S. C. 1600 *et seq.*) the 2012 Planning Rule establishes the regulations for developed land management plans for all National Forest System lands (36 CFR Part 219). Within these regulations for revising a forest plan, the national forest must “Identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation.” (36 CFR 219.7 (2)(v)).

The Inyo National Forest has followed the regulations and completed a wilderness evaluation process (Appendix B of this document) and did evaluate several polygons within Esmeralda County as recommended within Alternative C: McBride Flat, Pizona-Truman Meadows, and Marble Creek. Public comment periods occurred throughout this process and this information was used to update the description of these evaluated areas. This includes updates on information regarding a motorized road within the Marble Creek polygon and other uses such as water rights and infrastructure and historic uses such as mining camps.

These areas are not being recommended as wilderness under Alternative B-modified and therefore the plan is consistent with the Esmeralda County’s language in regards to designating additional wilderness areas.

3-2

Government agencies should not acquire additional private lands without first ensuring:

1. That private land is not disposed of unless the disposal clearly benefits the citizens of Esmeralda County;
2. That environmental and cultural values are protected;
3. That private property interests are protected or enhanced;
4. That socioeconomic impacts are duly considered;
5. That acquisitions in any form are fully compensated and proven to meet the highest public need;
6. That the local tax base is not negatively impacted;
7. That due process is guaranteed to all private parties involved in land use controversies, by means that do not demand or create a financial hardship; and
8. That the State and local government within those jurisdictions where the land is located be consulted in regard to the acquisition.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan includes direction carried forward from the 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan regarding lands and land exchanges. This direction can be found in the “Lands” section of Chapter 2 and provides the following direction pertaining to working with local governments:

- LAND-FW-DC 02
- Potential Management Approaches that outline the priority of acquiring lands by exchange, purchase, or donation.

3-7

Leasing of public lands for economic development and public purposes is allowed within Federal law.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Forest management not only is directed by the plan, but also other relevant laws, regulations, and policies. Any leasing of public lands for energy developments or other uses would be in compliance with, not only the plan, but other laws, regulations, or policies.

Agriculture and Livestock Production

4-2

Opportunities for agriculture development on public lands should continue.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considers livestock grazing and provides direction for this use in the “Rangeland Livestock Grazing” section of the plan. The plan also includes an Appendix E that addresses suitable grazing lands on the Inyo National Forest, including in Esmeralda County. The plan does not prohibit or reduce lands suitable for livestock grazing.

4-5

Grazing should utilize sound adaptive and allotment management practices. Esmeralda County supports the periodic updating of the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook to help establish proper levels of grazing.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan provides livestock grazing standards in Chapter 2, which have been carried over from the 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan. A supplement to the Pacific Southwest Region’s “Rangeland Analysis and Planning Guide” (R5-EM-TP-004) was also created to describe the methodologies used to determine the rangeland standards provided in the plan.

4-7

Range water rights and improvements such as those associated with seeps, springs, streams, lakes, and wells used by livestock and wildlife should be protected. Encourage cooperation between the public land management agencies and the grazing operator in protecting the riparian values of these water sources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Water sources such as seeps, springs, streams, and lakes are included in the “Riparian Conservation Areas” direction in Chapter 3 of the plan. Direction specific to grazing and wildlife uses of these areas have been included:

- RANG-FW-GOAL 03

Forestry

5-1

Promote multiple uses of public forest resources to realize sustainable and continuous provisions of timber, forage, firewood, wildlife, fisheries, recreation, and water.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Timber suitability was determined for the Inyo National Forest and within Esmeralda County no acreage was determined suitable. This is due to the types of vegetation that occur on the forest, mainly pinyon-juniper. Other forest products that do occur in this area include commercial and personal fuelwood gathering. Direction for this use can be found in the “Timber and Other Forest Products” section of Chapter 2. Direction for wildlife and fisheries can be found in the “Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation” and “Animal and Plant Species” sections of the plan in Chapter 2. Recreation direction is found within the “Sustainable Recreation” section in Chapter 2 and the “Sustainable Recreation Management Area” section of Chapter 3.

5-2

Support the prompt salvage of forest losses due to fire, insect infestation, or other events.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The consideration of salvaging forests after a fire or insect infestation would be considered at the project-level, but plan direction does provide for this type of activity in the “Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation” and “Timber and Other Forest Products” sections of the Chapter 2. Due to the vegetation that occurs in Esmeralda County on the Inyo, majority is pinyon-juniper woodlands, the use of salvage may not be the preferred method of use, however, that would be determined at the project level.

5-3

Support the management of forests with ecological conditions for a diversity of vegetation communities. Native grass and shrub ecosystems, with no or few invasive species, are preferable to pinyon-juniper monocultures.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The “Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation” and “Invasive Species” sections of Chapter 2 in the plan address the need to reduce invasive species and prevent the expansion or introduction of new invasive or noxious species. Specific direction within sagebrush and pinyon-juniper types can be found here:

- TERR-SAGE-DC 01, 02, and 05;
- TERR-PINY-DC 01;
- INV-FW-DC 02;
- INV-FW-GOAL 01, 04;
- INV-FW-STD 03;
- INV-FW-GDL 01, 02, 03, 04, and 05

5-4

Urge BLM and Forest Service to allow and promote thinning of selected areas. Thinning should be done in a manner so that local citizens derive economic benefit.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The determination of how fuels or vegetation treatments would be developed occurs at the project level, however, plan direction does address the need to include economic benefits when conducting these activities:

- LOC-FW-DC 03 – National Forest uses such as recreation, forest products, mining, and grazing are provided in an ecologically sustainable way that also contributes to economic and social sustainability in local communities.

5-5

Recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy forest and encourage activities that will retain and improve the vigor of these forests.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Plan components developed for ecological sustainability and diversity can be found in the “Ecological Sustainability and Diversity” section of the plan in Chapter 2.

Public Lands Policy Plan

6-2

No public lands shall be designated as Wilderness, Wilderness Study Area, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC), Wild Lands, or any such similar designation, since a designation of this type would reduce the multiple use aspect of the land.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

As required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S. C. 1600 *et seq.*) the 2012 Planning Rule establishes the regulations for developed land management plans for all National Forest System lands (36 CFR Part 219). Within these regulations for revising a forest plan, the national forest must “Identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation” (36 CFR 219.7 (2)(v)).

The forest has followed the regulations and completed a wilderness evaluation process (Appendix B of this document) and did evaluate several polygons within Esmeralda County as recommended within Alternative C: McBride Flat, Pizona-Truman Meadows, and Marble Creek.

These areas are not being recommended as wilderness under Alternative B-modified and therefore the plan is consistent with the Esmeralda County’s language in regards to designating additional wilderness areas.

Mineral and Geothermal Resources

7-1

Encourage the careful development and production of Esmeralda County’s metal, mineral, and geothermal resources while recognizing the need to protect the environment and ecologic resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan considers mineral and energy development and included plan direction for these uses in the “Energy” and “Geology and Minerals” sections of Chapter 2.

7-4

Metal, mineral, and geothermal operations should be consistent with best management practices for the protection of the environmental qualities and the multiple uses of public lands.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Any mineral, energy, or geothermal operation would also have to comply with plan direction found in the “Ecological Sustainability and Diversity” section of Chapter 2 and “Area-specific Desired Conditions” section of Chapter 3. These additional plan components address the protection of environmental qualities of the area. Other applicable laws, regulations, and policies would also apply.

7-9

Federal, State, and County governments should cooperate in continuing to provide sources of sand, gravel, topsoil, rock, and other mineral materials for local communities. County, State, and Federal agencies should jointly plan for the efficient development and use of material sites for both the government agencies and the private sector.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Plan direction considers these cooperative efforts in the “Local Governments” section of Chapter 2. Although mineral material sites might not be addressed specifically, the plan direction provides for all activities or uses that might need to have cooperation with other Federal or State agencies, or local governments.

- LOC-FW-DC 01 and 02
- LOC-FW-GOAL 01 and 02

Wildlife

9-3

Support habitat restoration and preservation to improve wildlife habitat when balanced and compatible with other multiple uses.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Wildlife habitat restoration is considered in the plan, with overall direction providing opportunities to do these activities. Desired conditions lay the foundation for these activities, as national forest management must strive to achieve these conditions over time. The consideration of other multiple uses in the development of these projects would occur at the project level.

Recreation and Open Space

13-2

Encourage sustainable recreational use in Esmeralda County with marketing efforts that describe the opportunities available and patronize county communities and businesses.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Sustainable recreation use was considered when developing the Sustainable Recreation Management Areas. Portions of the Inyo National Forest within Esmeralda County have been categorized as Challenging Backroad Areas. These areas allow for continued motorized use on authorized roads and maintaining few developed opportunities, such as developed campgrounds or trailheads. Direction for this area can be found in the “Sustainable Recreation Management Areas” section of Chapter 3.

Plan direction considering local economies is provided in the “Local Communities” section of the plan in Chapter 2 (see above).

Wetlands, Riparian Habitat, and Waters of Esmeralda County

14-2

Wetlands, riparian habitat, and waters should be managed in a responsible and balanced manner with other resources.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Plan direction for wetlands, riparian habitat, and waters is considered and found in the “Watersheds” section of Chapter 2 and “Riparian Conservation Areas” and “Conservation Watersheds” sections of Chapter 3.

Fire Management

15-1

Wildland-urban interface fire policies should be practiced. Defensible space should be a responsibility of Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the private property owner.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The Strategic Fire Management Zones help support decisionmakers before a fire ignition occurs by pre-assessing the risk and benefits from wildland fire to areas on the landscape. Fire suppression is an available tool within all these fire zones. The location of communities within Esmeralda County was considered when developing the Strategic Fire Management Zones. Due to the limited amount of development adjacent to the Inyo National Forest, the majority of the national forest in Esmeralda County was determined to be in the Wildfire Maintenance Zone in the higher elevations of the national forest and within the Wildfire Protection Zone in the lower elevations of the national forest, closest to any developments.

15-7

All fire equipment should be cleaned to assure the equipment is “weed-free” before being dispatched to a fire.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan includes language to be used during fire suppression activities to reduce the risk of spreading invasive or noxious species.

- FIRE-FW-GDL 06 and
- INV-FW-STD 01

15-8

Encourage the Federal agencies to develop and implement fire management practices to incorporate thinning, fire use areas, prescribed burns, and reseeding to restore natural flora, while reducing the impact of invasive species.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Management direction for fire within the plan does consider the use of thinning, fire use, prescribed fire, and reseeding. This direction can be found in several areas of the plan, including the “Fire” and “Timber and Other Forest Products” sections in chapter 2 and the Strategic Fire Management Zones section in chapter 3. Any use of these tools in managing for desired conditions found in the “Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation” section in chapter 2 would have to apply direction for invasive species, found in the “Invasive Species” section in chapter 2 of the plan.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species

16-1

Support cooperative weed management programs to control noxious weeds and invasive species, including instituting a revegetation program in areas where weeds are treated.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The plan includes language to address noxious and invasive weeds, including cooperating with local, State and Federal agencies. See INV-FW-GOAL 01 and 04.

16-5

Support the Nevada Weed Free Forage Certification program. Any hay being transported for feed on Esmeralda County public lands shall be from a certified weed free field.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

A guideline has been added to the plan that would need support from this portion of the Esmeralda Public Lands Policy Plan, as there is a continued need for obtaining weed-free forage.

- INV-FW-GDL 02: Hay, straw and other crop-related forage or mulch products used for animal feed or bedding, soil stabilization and land rehabilitation, or other purposes should be certified by California or Nevada or the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) standards as being weed-free to prevent unintentional introduction of invasive species. Deviations from this guideline may be approved on a case-by-case basis when certified weed-free material is not reasonably available, in consultation with the Inyo National Forest Invasive Species Coordinator.

16-6

Federal and State agencies should investigate and treat noxious weeds and invasive species as soon as they are detected on public lands in the County, before those noxious weeds and invasive species develop an infestation. Proactive treatment at first detection will cost much less than treatment of established populations.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

The Inyo National Forest has brought forward direction to add the ability to address new detections of noxious weeds. Although the actual treatment of weeds would be determined at the project level, the plan has created a foundation for these activities to occur:

- INV-FW-STD 03 - Use an integrated pest management approach in the planning and implementation of all projects and activities.

Habitat Conservation

24-1

Promote proactive habitat conservation measures to improve the habitat of native beneficial species.

How the Inyo National Forest Plan Considered These Components:

Within the “Terrestrial Ecosystem and Vegetation” section of the plan, desired conditions address the needs of wildlife species, not just at-risk species, but other beneficial species such as deer.

- TERR-FW-DC 06: The landscape contains a mosaic of vegetation types and structures that provide habitat, movement and connectivity for a variety of species including wide-ranging

generalists such as bear, mountain lion, and deer; more localized, semi-specialists such as ground-nesting, shrub-nesting, and cavity-nesting birds and various bats; and specialists such as old forest and sagebrush-associated species.

Other direction to address the need to provide habitat for beneficial species can be found in the “Rangeland Livestock Grazing” section:

- RANG-FW-STD 06: Account for mule deer forage when determining livestock animal unit months on key deer winter range and other important habitats such as migration routes, holding areas, and fawning areas.

Mineral County

In reviewing the Mineral County Open Space (2010) and Land Use Master Plans (2006), there were no policies or elements that pertained to the Inyo National Forest or would conflict with the Inyo National Forest revised plan.

Appendix F – Aquatic and Riparian Strategy

This appendix provides clarification on how the water, watersheds, and aquatic and riparian plan components of the Inyo National Forest’s Land Management Plan are integrated and provide for a forestwide strategy with the intent of retaining, restoring, and protecting the processes and landforms that provide habitat for aquatic and riparian-dependent organisms, and produce and deliver high-quality waters for which the national forest was established.

Relationship of Strategy Elements

The forestwide aquatic and riparian strategy (strategy) integrates water, watersheds, and aquatic and riparian management direction for the Inyo National Forest. The strategy considers several integrated strategic and tactical elements: Forestwide plan direction for watersheds (chapter 2); **Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs)** and **conservation watersheds**, which are management areas designated through forest planning for which there are plan components (chapter 3); and unit-level **monitoring** questions and indicators (chapter 4). Another element that informs program and project-level decisions, but is not included in a forest plan, is **watershed restoration**, which focuses on reestablishing watershed functions and processes and related biological, physical and chemical characteristics to support aquatic and riparian systems. **Priority Watersheds** are considered part of the strategy and are used as a short-term tactical approach to focus efforts. Other primary restoration guidance used by the Forest Service includes recovery plans for federally listed threatened or endangered species, rare species conservation strategies, and water quality restoration plans.

Relationship of Plan Components

The aquatic and riparian strategy adopts an approach focused on maintaining and restoring ecological integrity and dynamic processes across broad landscapes, based on best available science related to watershed dynamics.³ Plan components were developed to maintain or restore watershed conditions so they are moving towards or are in concert with the natural range of variation.

Forestwide watershed direction is the cornerstone of the strategy, in that these components address the watershed conditions as a whole at the coarse, most-broad, scale. Conservation watershed direction is additive to the forestwide watershed direction, and only applies to those watersheds identified as conservation watersheds. This additional direction emphasizes the conditions in conservation watersheds that provide for connectivity of habitats for species of conservation concern and maintain the functioning condition of the watershed, which provide for high quality water for beneficial uses downstream. These plan components are also tied to the coarse, land scape-scale, level.

Plan direction for riparian conservation areas address the individual, site-specific, aquatic and riparian systems within the watershed. These components are used whenever the aquatic systems, as defined in Chapter 3, for these areas are present within a watershed. Aquatic and riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis in these areas and special management direction applies. Specifically, management activities in riparian conservation areas are designed to protect, restore, or enhance water quality and the ecological health and function of aquatic and riparian

³ This strategy updates the Aquatic Management Strategy of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment in two ways: It incorporates BASI and it supports requirements of the 2012 planning rule.

ecosystems and associated resources. These components are also additive to the forestwide direction, as both component for watersheds and riparian conservation areas would be used at the project-level. Riparian conservation area direction also functions at the ecosystem level (coarse filter) to represent and maintain the full range of aquatic and riparian ecological diversity. Riparian conservation area direction also applies within conservation watersheds.

Relationship between Priority Watersheds and Conservation Watersheds

Priority watersheds are also an element of the strategy. These watersheds are designated using the Watershed Condition Framework, a national assessment and reporting tool. Watershed Restoration Action Plans are developed and implemented over a 5 to 7 year period, and once completed, watershed managers move on to a new priority watershed. Priority watersheds are a short-term tactical approach to restoration across all habitat types in the national forest, depending on the need.

As opposed to a short-term approach to watershed restoration, conservation watersheds represent a long-term prioritization for maintenance and restoration of watersheds particularly focused on aquatic resources. Achievement of desired conditions could take one or more planning cycles.

Conservation watersheds may be identified as priority watersheds by the Inyo National Forest staff, if there are watershed condition framework indicators that result in some needed short-term restoration actions. Conservation watersheds do not need to be identified for restoration activities to occur because the functionality of these systems make them a priority for restoration. The designation of a watershed as a conservation watershed does not lead to a creation of a watershed restoration action plan, like a priority watershed. The development of a watershed restoration action plan is specific to priority watersheds only.

Priority watersheds for short-term actions and conservation watersheds for more long-term maintenance both help complete the aquatic and riparian strategy by highlighting areas on the Inyo that may need restoration efforts, leading to improvement of aquatic systems.

Conservation Watershed Descriptions

The following section provides information on the four conservation watersheds identified on the Inyo National Forest.

Conservation Watersheds Identified for the Inyo National Forest

Mono Lake Headwaters

- Lee Vining Creek-Frontal Mono Lake
- Walker Creek-Rush Creek
- Grant Lake-Rush Creek

Middle Fork San Joaquin River Headwaters

- Upper Middle Fork San Joaquin
- Middle Fork San Joaquin

Cottonwood-Crooked Creek Headwaters

- Cottonwood Creek
- Upper Wyman Creek

South Fork Kern River Headwaters

- Golden Trout Creek
- Lewis Stringer-South Fork Kern
- Mulkey Creek-South Fork Kern
- Coyote Creek-Kern
- Ninemile Creek
- Soda Creek-South Fork Kern
- Snake Creek-South Fork Kern
- Lost Creek-South Fork Kern
- Pine Creek-South Fork Kern

The following sections provide further detail and information on the conservation watersheds identified for the Inyo National Forest. This includes rationale on why these watersheds were chosen.

Mono Lake Headwaters

The Mono Lake Headwaters Conservation Watershed encompasses three HUC 12 watersheds: Lee Vining Creek-Frontal Mono Lake, Walker Creek-Rush Creek, and Grant Lake-Rush Creek and total approximately 92,000 acres (Figure G-1). These watersheds include major water courses such as Lee Vining Creek, Walker Creek, Parker Creek, and Rush Creek, which all flow into Mono Lake. The Mono Lake Headwaters Conservation Watershed includes both the headwaters and the outlet for these systems. Approximately 58 percent of this conservation watershed is within the Ansel Adams Wilderness. All three of the HUC 12 watersheds are rated as properly functioning under the Watershed Condition Framework.

Habitats within this area include low elevation sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, Jeffrey pine, aspen, lodgepole pine, and then moves into subalpine and alpine types. Meadows, riparian areas, and lakes are also present throughout the conservation watershed.

When determining the at-risk species present within the HUC 12 watersheds, special habitat considerations for sage-grouse, willow flycatcher, Mono Lake checkerspot, Yosemite toad, and bald eagle were considered. These species were considered because habitats for these species (1) only occur in these watersheds (Mono Lake checkerspot and willow flycatcher) or (2) are limited on the forest and the species occurs within these watersheds (sage-grouse, bald eagles). Suitable habitat within these areas offers connectivity for these species, which allows for dispersal of the species throughout the conservation watershed. These watersheds also offer suitable habitat to many plant species of conservation concern, including: Mingan moonwort, western single-spiked sedge, golden violet, mountain bent grass, scalloped moonwort, western valley sedge, Bodie Hills rockcress, Tiehms' rockcress, northern meadow sedge, fell-fields claytonia, Tioga Pass sedge, Davy's sedge, and Mono Lake lupine.

The beneficial uses identified for this conservation watershed include, recreation and irrigation uses and water flow into Mono Lake. Although beneficial uses of the water may not include drinking water, these creeks are important to maintaining water-levels in Mono Lake. Restoration activities along these creeks has led to the return of water flowing through previously dry channels and creation of wildlife habitat.

Middle Fork San Joaquin River Headwaters

The Middle Fork San Joaquin Headwaters Conservation Watershed contains two HUC 12 watersheds: Upper Middle Fork San Joaquin and Middle Fork San Joaquin (Figure F-1). This area totals approximately 48,600 acres, of which 92 percent is within the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas. Minaret Creek, King Creek, Reds Creek, Crater Creek, and the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River are the major water courses in this conservation watershed. These waterways, along with the multitude of lakes within this area, form the headwaters for the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, which flows southwest onto the Sierra National Forest. This conservation watershed only includes the headwaters, and not the outlet of the river. The Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River has been determined to be suitable and is currently being managed as a Wild and Scenic River (1991 Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan). Both of the HUC 12 watersheds are rated as properly functioning under the Watershed Condition Framework.

Habitats within this watershed are unique on the Inyo National Forest as they include west side Sierra Nevada vegetation types such as red fir, dry mixed conifer, and the Sierra Nevada montane zone in which old forest habitats can occur. This makes the species present in these watersheds unique from the rest of the Inyo National Forest in that California spotted owl habitat only occurs in these west side vegetation types. At-risk species identified for this conservation watershed include: California spotted owl, marten, great gray owl, Yosemite toad, fell-fields claytonia, short-leaved hulsea, and Bolander's bruchia. These watersheds were chosen as conservation watersheds because they offer unique habitat for west side species occurring on the national forest.

The beneficial uses of this watershed include not only uses in the headwaters, mainly recreation uses, but also downstream for drinking water. These uses were essential in the determination of this area as a conservation watershed.

South Fork Kern River Headwaters

This conservation watershed includes several HUC 12 watersheds, including: Golden Trout Creek, Lewis Stringer-South Fork Kern, Mulkey Creek-South Fork Kern, Coyote Creek-Kern, Ninemile Creek, Soda Creek-South Fork Kern, Snake Creek-South Fork Kern, Lost Creek-South Fork Kern, and Pine Creek-South Fork Kern (Figure F-2). This is the largest conservation watershed on the Inyo at approximately 184,100 acres. About 89 percent of this watershed is located within the Golden Trout and South Sierra Wilderness areas. The major water courses within this watershed include, Golden Trout Creek, Mulkey Creek, Strawberry Creek, Cold Meadow Creek, Volcano Creek, Monache Creek, Ninemile Creek, Cold Creek, Soda Creek, Long Canyon Creek, Snake Creek, and the South Fork of the Kern River. This area is the headwaters for the South Fork of the Kern River, a designated wild and scenic river, which flows south onto the Sequoia National Forest.

All of these watersheds are rated as properly functioning, except for Soda Creek-South Fork Kern River, which is rated as functioning at risk. Although this watershed does not meet the criteria listed in the previous section for establishing conservation watersheds, it was included in this conservation watershed because it is completely surrounded by functioning watersheds, is in the middle of the conservation watershed, and it provides habitat for essential at-risk species.

Habitats within this watershed are similar to that of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River Conservation Watershed, in that it includes some west side Sierra Nevada vegetation types. This area also includes very large meadow systems and connected water courses, which offer suitable habitat for at-risk species, such as golden trout and salamanders.

Given the large acreage and unique habitats and vegetation found within this area, many at-risk species were identified for this conservation watershed. This includes: California golden trout, western pearlshell, Kern Plateau salamander, California spotted owl, mountain yellow-legged frog, Ramshaw abronia, Father Crowley's lupine, rosette cushion cryptantha, field ivesia, Bodie Hills rockcress, Tulare rockcress, Sharsmith's stickseed, Kern Plateau milk-vetch, Dedecker's clover, sweet-smelling monardella, Olancha Peak buckwheat, slender moonwort, Mingan moonwort, scalloped moonwort, Sharsmith's stickseed, and Kern Plateau birds'-beak.

Beneficial uses of the water, specifically the South Fork of the Kern River, include recreation and irrigation on the Inyo National Forest and further downstream drinking water. These essential uses, as well as the unique habitats and species that occur in this area, were the main drivers that designated this as a conservation watershed.

Cottonwood-Crooked Creek Headwaters

The Cottonwood-Crooked Creek Headwaters Conservation Watershed is located in the White Mountains on the Inyo National Forest and includes two HUC 12 watersheds, Cottonwood Creek and Upper Wyman Creek (Figure F-3). This area totals approximately 62,700 acres, of which about 57 percent is within the White Mountains Wilderness. Another 12 percent is found within the Alternative B-modified proposed recommended White Mountains Wilderness Additions. The major water courses within this area include Cottonwood Creek, a designated wild and scenic river, Poison Creek, Crooked Creek, and Wyman Creek. Although these systems do not form into a larger river system, they drain into the Fishlake Valley and Deep Springs Valley on the eastside of the White Mountains. Both of these HUC 12 watersheds are rated as properly functioning under the Watershed Condition Framework.

Habitats within these areas include mostly sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, riparian corridors, springs, and bristlecone pine at the higher elevations in the subalpine and alpine zones. Terrestrial and aquatic at-risk species in this area include Paiute cutthroat trout, sage-grouse, and desert bighorn sheep. Although this could be considered low diversity for terrestrial and aquatic species, the abundance of at-risk plant species within this area was very high. This is most likely due to the number of endemic species found within the higher elevations of the White Mountains. Plant species include: horned dandelion, Poison Canyon stickseed, slender townsendia, Morefield's cinquefoil, western valley sedge, compact daisy, spiny-leaved milkvetch, White Mountains horkelia, blue pendent-pod oxytrope, beautiful cinquefoil, Idaho sedge, Pinyon Mesa buckwheat, foxtail thelypodium, Nevada ninebark, little bulrush, White Mountains draba, scalloped moonwort, Dedecker's clover, limestone daisy, western single-spiked sedge, and upswept moonwort. The diversity of at-risk plant species was one of the main drivers for designating this area as a conservation watershed.

Beneficial uses of water include recreation uses and irrigation, both on and off the national forest. The downstream beneficial uses occur in the Fish Lake Valley and Deep Springs Valley areas.

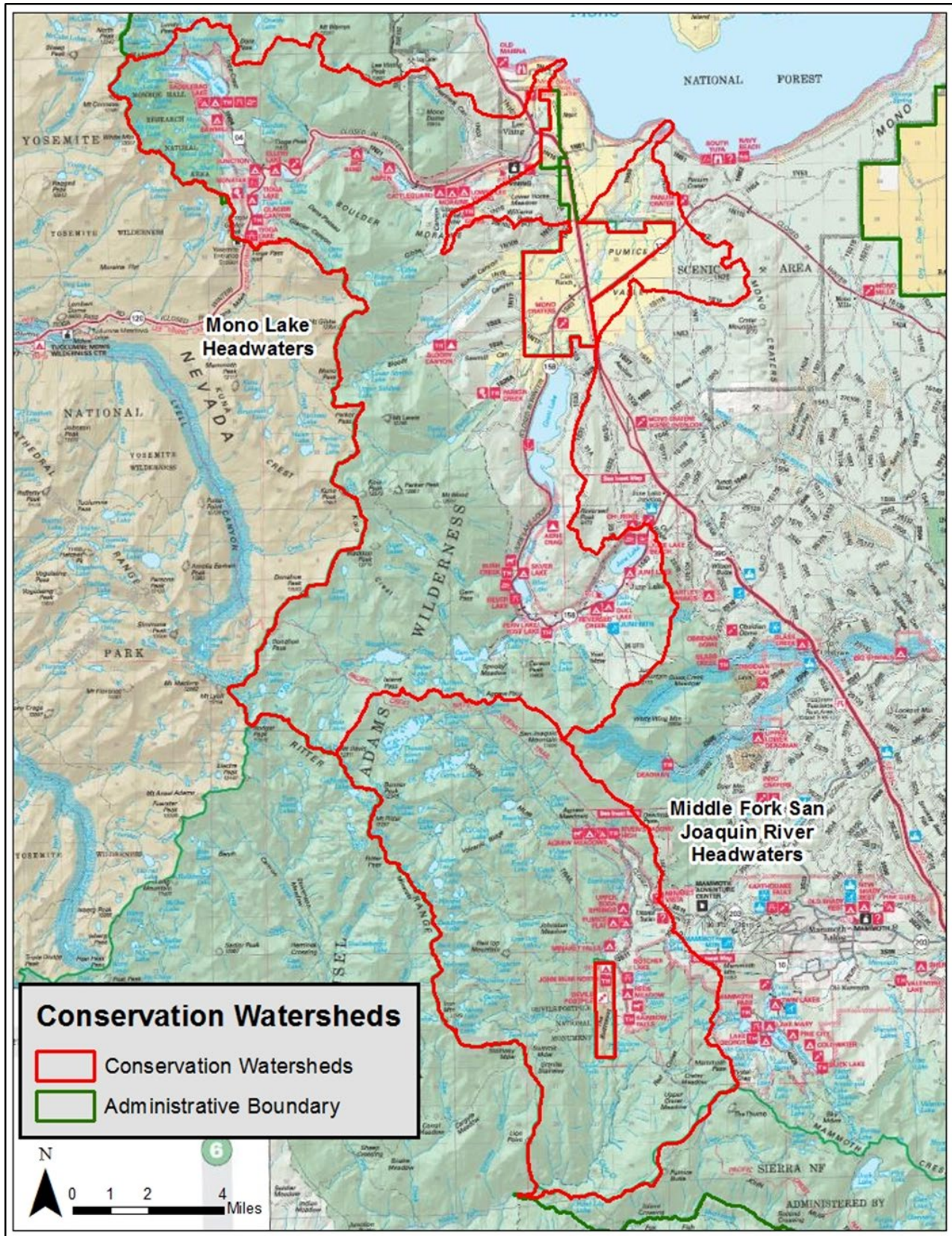


Figure F-1. Map of the Mono Lake Headwaters and Middle Fork San Joaquin Headwaters Conservation Watersheds

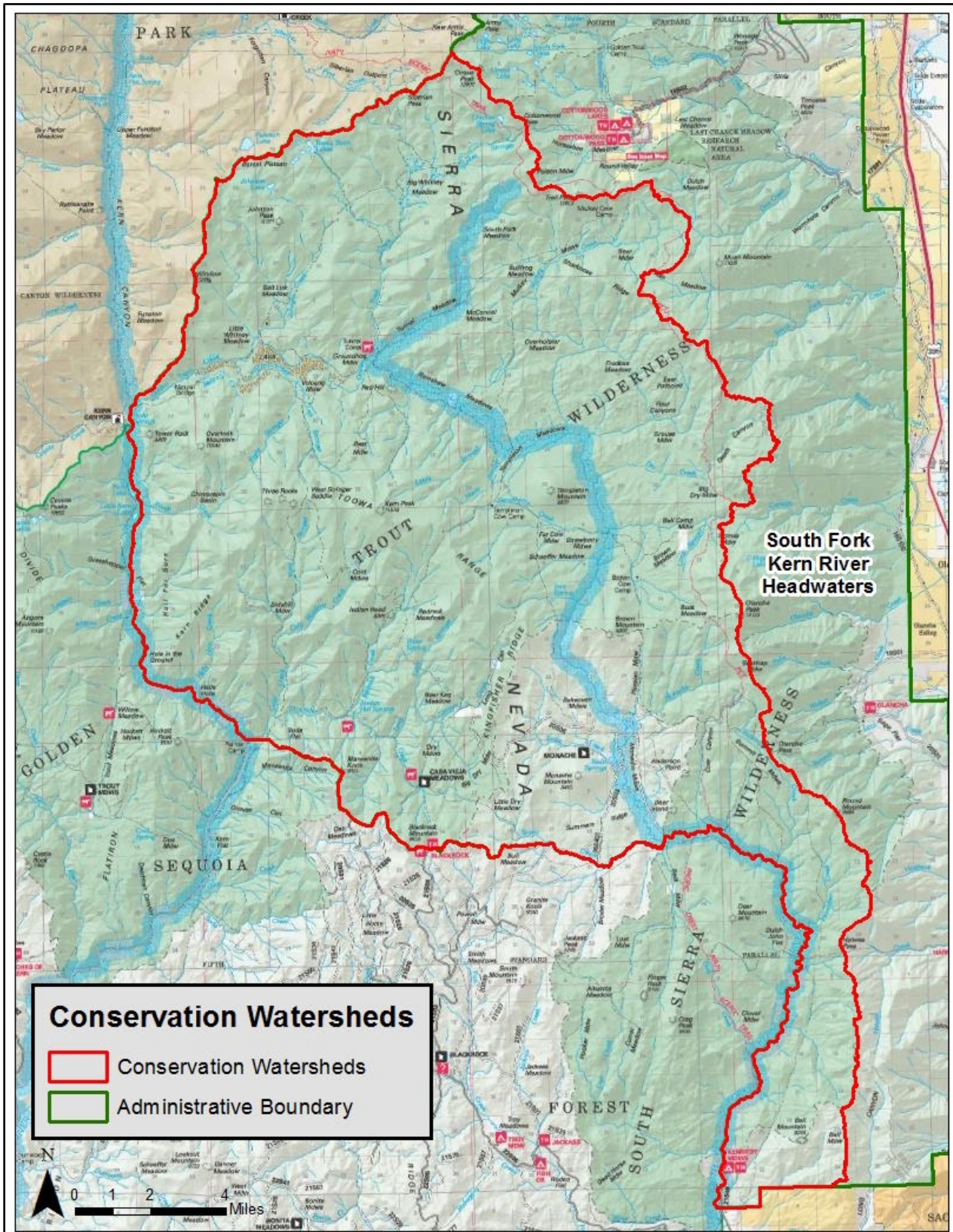


Figure F-2. Map of the South Fork Kern River Headwaters Conservation Watershed

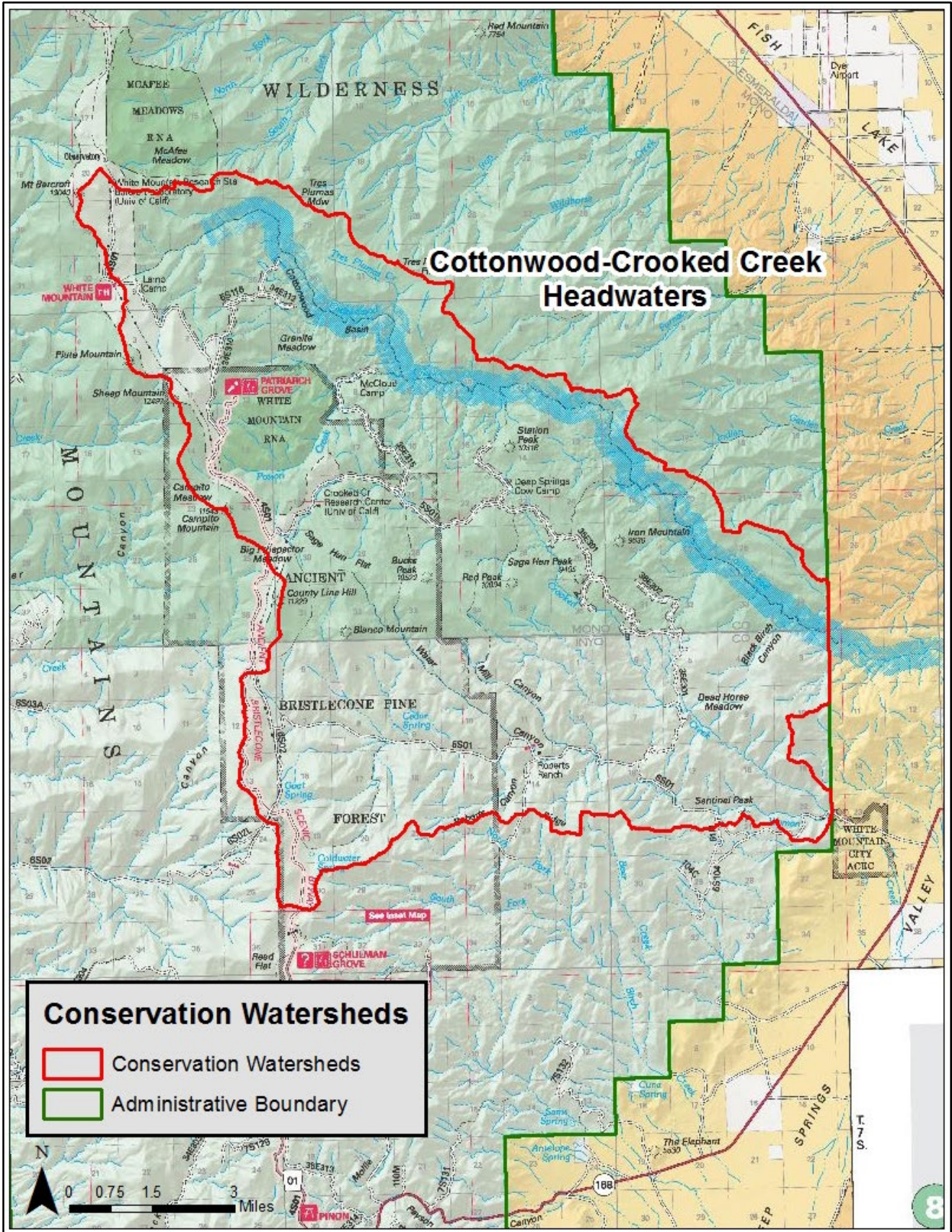


Figure F-3. Map of the Cottonwood-Crooked Creek Headwaters Conservation Watershed