**Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests**

***Evaluation Criteria and Comment Form for***

***Areas That May Be Suitable for Inclusion in the***

***National Wilderness Preservation System***

The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are in the process of revising the forest plan. A required part of the revision process includes identifying and evaluating lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determining whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation. A description of this process can be found in the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule and Chapter 70 of the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook 1909.12. This process includes the following four steps:

1. Identify and inventory all lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System
2. Evaluate the wilderness characteristics of each area based on a given set of criteria
3. Determine which areas to further analyze in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process
4. Decide which areas, if any, to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).

To complete the second step, the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Plan revision team developed the following questions to gather information related to each of the five criteria for wilderness characteristics listed in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70 - Wilderness. Responses to these questions from planning team members, other national forest staff, and interested members of the public will be used to evaluate areas that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This information will be used to determine which areas, or portions thereof, will be included in the forest plan alternatives considered in the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement.

Please use this form to comment on areas identified in the inventory. Use one form per area and note the area name in the space provided. If your comment is not addressed in the “considerations” column of each criterion, please include additional information in the “other” narrative section. If additional space is needed, provide your comments on separate sheets of paper and reference area name, evaluation criterion, and question number being addressed. Completed forms may be submitted by email to NCplanrevision@fs.fed.us with the subject line: “Wilderness evaluation input”, or by mail at the following address:

Attn: Plan Revision Team Leader,

National Forests in North Carolina

160 Zillicoa St., Suite A

Asheville, NC 28801

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| **Area Name: Wilson Creek**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |

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| **Area Name: Harper Creek Ext Sugar Knob**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
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**Criterion 2- Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation: the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |
| **Area Name: Steels Creek** |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
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| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |
| **Area Name: Woods Mountain**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
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* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
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| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
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| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
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**Criterion 2- Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation: the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
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| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
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| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |
| **Area Name: Mackey Mountain**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
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| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
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| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
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**Criterion 2- Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation: the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
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| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |
| **Area Name: Mackey Mountain** |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |
| **Area Name: Jarrett Creek**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

|  |  |
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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |
| **Area Name: Laurel Mountain**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |

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| **Area Name: South Mills River**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |

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| **Area Name: Daniel Ridge**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

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| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |

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| **Area Name: Cedar Rock Mountain**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

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| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

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| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

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| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |

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| **Area Name: Panthertown Valley**  |

**Criterion 1- Apparent Naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.**

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| --- | --- |
| * **Considerations**
 | **Narrative** |
| * 1a) Within the area, do ecological conditions appear natural or to be noticeably modified by human intervention? Describe the natural appearance of the area. Consider the composition of plant and animal communities, water, and soil.
 |  |
| * 1b) Describe deviations from the natural condition and the extent to which they occur, including evidence of past management activities.
* Are vegetation management, timber harvest, or restoration treatments substantially noticeable? Describe the type and extent of vegetation management activities and associated landscape modifications; including existence of recent even-aged harvests, plantation style forest, low maintenance-level roads, skid roads, logging decks, cable yarder landings, fire lines, etc.
* Are there maintained wildlife fields or linear wildlife openings, straightened or modified stream channels, modifications from past agricultural practices, etc.
* Are there concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals within the area which appear substantially unnatural? Describe species, locations, and extent of occurrences.
 |  |
| * 1c) Describe the presence and extent of improvements in the area, including the type of improvement, approximate size of affected area, and whether structures may be considered historic (>50 years old).
* Does the area contain constructed improvements such as airstrips, heliports/landing zones, vertical structures (towers), utility corridors, buildings, dams, water tanks, penstocks, remnants of past occupation, etc.?
* Are there recreation improvements within the area that are substantially noticeable modifications to the landscape; such as highly developed trails, day-use or overnight developed recreation sites, recreation structures, access roads, etc.?
 |  |
| * 1d) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 1)
 |  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| 2a) Describe the opportunities for, or impacts to, solitude within the area.* Are pervasive sights and sounds of civilization evident? Describe type, extent, and duration of sights and/or sounds, and the general location from which they are experienced. Consider topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, and degree of permanent intrusions.
* Are there developments or recurring activities immediately adjacent to the area that impact opportunities for solitude? Describe the type of development and proximity to area. Consider recreation developments and high use areas, private lands and associated infrastructure, roads/highways, airport flight paths, etc.
 |   |
| 2b) Describe the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.* Are there opportunities to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation activities that connect visitors to nature; such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, floating, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, observing wildlife, or enjoying nature? Describe type of activity and extent of availability throughout area.
* If other recreation activities occur within the area which would not be considered primitive and unconfined, describe those uses; such as mountain bike trails, concentrated use/large group gatherings, wagon trains, motorized-use trails, etc.
 |  |
| 2c) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 2) |  |

**Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |
| * 3a) If the area is less than 5000 acres in size and not adjacent to existing designated or administratively recommended wilderness, is it of sufficient size to be preserved and used in an unimpaired condition?
* Consider if the area is self-contained or topographically isolated.
* Can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics?
 |  |
| * 3b) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 3)
 |  |

**Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 4a) Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities, or ecosystems?
* Consider the extent and general location of rare communities or ecosystems.
 |  |
| 4b) Does the area contain outstanding scenery or landscape features such as waterfalls, rivers, mountains, viewpoints, or geologic features? |  |
| 4c) Is there a presence of structures, dwellings, sites or other remnants of past occupation that are considered part of the pre-historic, historic, or cultural landscape of the area? Note: Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056). |  |
| 4d) Does the area contain sites of scientific or educational value, such as research natural areas or ongoing research? |  |
| 4e) Does the area contain high quality water resources or important watershed features? Consider municipal water sources, brook trout habitat, and/or eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River segments. |  |
| 4f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 4) |  |

**Criterion 5- Management: the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering shape, configuration, legally established rights or uses, presence and amount of non-federal land, and management of adjacent lands.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Considerations** | **Narrative** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5a) Describe the size, shape, configuration, and boundaries of the area and its ability to be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics. Consider narrow land areas, cherry-stemmed roads, inholdings, topography, etc. Address whether or not boundary changes could enhance preservation of wilderness characteristics.  |   |
| 5b) Describe any legally established rights or uses within the area, including Tribal uses, reserved or outstanding mineral rights, easements, or rights of way? Describe the type, location and extent of these rights or uses. |  |
| 5c) Describe any State or Federal laws that may affect availability of the area for wilderness, or the ability to manage the area to preserve wilderness characteristics? |  |
| 5d) Describe the location, size, and extent of any inholdings of non-Federal lands within the area. |  |
| 5e) Describe the ownership, management, and/or use of adjacent lands. |   |
| 5f) Other (Include any additional information related to criterion 5) |  |