

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM  
MOUNT ZIRKEL WILDERNESS  
ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

I hereby certify that the description and map  
herewith, represent the location of the boundary of  
the Mount Zirkel Wilderness on the Routt National  
Forest as it existed as of the date of the Wilderness  
Act (Public Law 88-577).

Signed June 21, 1965

  
Regional Forester

## MOUNT ZIRKEL WILDERNESS

The Exterior Boundary of Mount Zirkel Wilderness,  
Routt National Forest, Rocky Mountain Region,  
May 24, 1965, as Reported to Congress Pursuant to  
Section 3 (a) (1) of the Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577).

### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado: Beginning at a point on the Continental Divide in unsurveyed T. 7 N., R. 83 W., approximately 1/ 1.00 mile northwesterly from Round Mountain Lake;  
thence northerly 4.00 miles along the Continental Divide to a high point at the head of the North Fork 2/ of Mad Creek, which point is 1.00 mile northeasterly from Lake Elbert and .70 mile southwesterly from Mt. Ethel;  
thence northwesterly along a sharp break in the topography, across the upper drainages of the North Fork 3/ of Mad Creek 1.85 miles to the divide between the North Fork of Mad Creek and Big Creek, which point is N. 3° 00' E., .28 mile from the north end of Lake of the Crags;  
thence westerly along this ridge 2.25 miles, south of Big Creek Lake and the smaller unnamed lakes nearby, to its intersection with the range line between R. 83 W. and R. 84 W. in T. 8 N.;  
thence along this divide 1.50 miles through the northeast quarter of section 13, T. 8 N., R. 84 W., to a point on the north section line which is .40 mile west of the northeast corner of section 13;  
thence northeasterly along a well defined ridge 1.00 mile to Big Creek at its junction with the stream that drains Big Creek Lake;  
thence northeasterly across Big Creek, and up a sharp, rocky ridge dividing headwaters of South Fork of Elk River and the headwaters of the north branch of Big Creek, a distance of 2.40 miles to the junction of said divide and the divide north of Big Creek drainage. The point of intersection of these divides is N. 77° 00' W., .90 miles from the outlet of Dome Lake;

1/ All distances cited in this description are approximate.

2/ In the original 1964 description, this was referred to as the Middle Fork of Mad Creek, but this fork does not extend to the divide where this point is located.

3/ The original 1964 description referred to the Middle Fork, but it does not extend to the divide.

thence northeasterly keeping on the ridge immediately northwest of the nearest drainage into the South Fork of Elk River, a distance of 1.00 mile, to a point on the South Fork of Elk River which is 1.00 mile downstream from Dome Lake;

thence across the South Fork of Elk River, up the nearest ridge on the east side of the river and over the divide between Wolverine Lake and the South Fork of Elk River, following a well defined break in the topography near timberline, .70 mile to a point on the stream draining Wolverine Lake, the point being .15 mile downstream from Wolverine Lake and S. 19° 30' W., .90 mile from North Lake;

thence northeasterly over the divide east of Wolverine Lake .20 mile to a point on a tributary of the South Fork of Elk River;

thence northerly along a well defined break in topography, across the head of drainages flowing generally westward into the South Fork of Elk River, 3.60 miles to a high point on a ridge which point is S. 57° 00' W., .25 mile from Beaver Lake;

thence northwesterly along the drainage basin rim around Three Island Lake, 1.40 miles to a point on the divide southwesterly from Three Island Lake, which point is S. 84° 00' W., .60 mile from the south end of Three Island Lake;

thence northeasterly, crossing the headwaters of a tributary of the South Fork of Elk River, 1.00 mile to the top of the divide between Three Island Lake and Gold Creek;

thence N. 14° 15' E., .55 mile to a point on Gold Creek to a talus rock slide about 1.00 mile upstream from its confluence with Gilpin Creek at Slavonia;

thence westerly and northerly around the shoulder of an Aspen covered ridge .90 mile to a point on Gilpin Creek about .90 mile upstream from its confluence with Gold Creek at Slavonia;

thence northerly up along a sharp, rocky ridge 1.50 miles to the top of the divide between Mica Lake and the headwaters of English Creek;

thence northerly along this divide 1.25 miles to its confluence with the divide between Agnes Creek and the headwaters of Lost Dog Creek;

thence northwesterly down this divide 2.40 miles to the junction of the North Fork of Elk River and Agnes Creek at the upper end of Diamond Park;

thence northeasterly up the North Fork of Elk River .60 mile to the rocky "Jaws" where the stream channel narrows and deepens;

thence northeasterly up a ridge 1.15 miles to a point on the south end of Buck Mountain .87 mile N. 62° 00' W. of Lake Diana;

thence northwesterly .75 mile along the crest of Buck Mountain and the Continental Divide to the junction with the ridge south of Sanchez Lakes;

thence westerly, leaving the Continental Divide along the sharp ridge immediately south of Sanchez Lakes, 1.00 mile to a point on the section line between sections 25 and 26, T. 11 N., R. 84 W., the point being .45 mile south of the section corner common to sections 23, 24, 25, and 26, T. 11 N., R. 84 W.;

thence N. 30° 00' W., .67 mile across Trail Creek to the top of the ridge west of Trail Creek;

thence northward along this ridge .50 mile to the Continental Divide;  
 thence northwesterly .40 mile along the Continental Divide to the  
 highest point which is .50 mile southwesterly from West Fork Lake;  
 thence northeasterly leaving the Continental Divide down a main ridge,  
 .50 mile to a point on the West Fork of the Encampment River which is  
 .30 mile downstream from West Fork Lake;  
 thence continuing northeasterly up a ridge 1.25 miles to a point on the  
 south end of Black Mountain on the divide between the West Fork of the  
 Encampment River and the main Encampment River drainage;  
 thence southeasterly along this divide 1.25 miles down a main ridge to  
 the Range line between R. 83 W. and R. 84 W. in T. 11 N.;  
 thence continuing southeasterly .25 mile, to a point on Encampment River;  
 thence northeasterly up a ridge .30 mile to the top of the ridge east of  
 the Encampment River;  
 thence southeasterly and northeasterly along this ridge 2.20 miles to  
 Davis Peak;  
 thence easterly along the divide south of Beaver Creek 2.25 miles to a  
 point on the east township line of T. 11 N., R. 83 W., .18 mile south  
 of the northwest corner of section 19, T. 11 S., R. 82 W.;  
 thence southeasterly down a well defined ridge 1.40 miles to the South  
 Fork of Big Creek at a point S. 59° 00' W., which point is 1.10 miles  
 from the westernmost shoreline of Upper Big Creek Lake;  
 thence S. 38° 30' W., .10 mile to the section corner common to sections 19,  
 20, 29, and 30, T. 11 N., R. 82 W.;  
 thence south on the section line between sections 29 and 30, T. 11 N.,  
 R. 82 W., .60 mile to the intersection with the knife-edge ridge between  
 the South Fork of Big Creek and the North Fork of the North Platte River;  
 thence west and southwest along this ridge .60 mile to timberline;  
 thence southeasterly along timberline and just north of a small unnamed  
 lake .60 mile to a point on the section line between sections 29 and 32,  
 T. 11 N., R. 82 W., which point is .15 mile east of the section corner  
 common to sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, T. 11 N., R. 82 W.;  
 thence S. 15° 15' E., 1.39 miles approximately at timberline to a point  
 on Forester Creek which is .40 mile west of the east section line of  
 section 5, T. 10 N., R. 82 W. at the lower end of a long rock slide;  
 thence southeasterly up a steep ridge .35 mile to the top of the divide  
 between Forester Creek and Goose Creek;  
 thence southwesterly along this ridge .42 mile to timberline;  
 thence southwesterly and easterly at timberline, around the basin of  
 Goose Creek 1.10 miles to a high, prominent point at the head of Goose  
 Creek;  
 thence south .35 mile to the top of the rocky, sharp ridge between Goose  
 Creek and Shafer Creek;  
 thence eastward along this ridge 1.00 mile to its east end;  
 thence S. 14° 00' W., .72 mile to the lower end of rock slides and cliffs  
 on the south side of Shafer Creek;  
 thence east .25 mile, near timberline;

thence S.  $4^{\circ} 13'$  E., 1.44 miles at timberline, to a point on Lake Creek which is .25 mile east of North Twin Lake;  
 thence  $4^{\circ} 30'$  E., 1.58 miles near timberline and passing along the east side of Ute Lake to the junction of a well defined draw and Ute Creek;  
 thence southward up this draw .75 mile to the north end of a sharp ridge which forms Bear Mountain;  
 thence southeasterly 2.00 miles along the crest of this ridge to its end and continuing down to the narrow, rocky "gates" on Bear Creek;  
 thence S.  $66^{\circ} 30'$  W., .50 mile to the top of the ridge between Bear Creek and Lone Pine Creek;  
 thence northwesterly .25 mile along the crest of this ridge;  
 thence S.  $8^{\circ} 30'$  W., 1.41 miles across Lone Pine Creek and a series of rock slides and ridges to the top of the divide between Roaring Fork and Lone Pine Creek;  
 thence southeasterly .30 mile along this divide then southerly .40 mile along a ridge to the edge of precipitous cliffs overlooking Roaring Fork;  
 thence along these cliffs 1.50 miles to their end at the confluence of Roaring Fork and Red Canyon;  
 thence south .47 mile to the highest point on the south side of Red Canyon;  
 thence southwesterly along a southeast precipitous rim of Red Canyon 3.70 miles to its junction with the ridge north of a branch of Norris Creek which point is 1.00 mile east of Roxy Ann Lake;  
 thence southerly down this ridge 1.00 mile to a point on the tributary feeding Ceanothuse Lake which is .50 mile upstream from Ceanothuse Lake;  
 thence continuing southwesterly along the edge of the broken, rocky bench immediately west of Rainbow Lake .90 mile to a point on Norris Creek which is .15 mile upstream from Rainbow Lake;  
 thence southwesterly along the lower edge of extremely rough, broken, rocky land 1.35 miles to Beaver Creek at the junction of a north branching arm which is .72 mile northwesterly from Aqua Fria Lake;  
 thence S.  $36^{\circ} 45'$  W., .50 mile;  
 thence S.  $50^{\circ} 45'$  E., .35 mile to the top of the divide between Whalen Creek and Beaver Creek;  
 thence southeasterly along this divide 1.00 mile to a point on the township line between T. 7 N. and T. 8 N., R. 82 W. which point is .11 mile west of the northeast corner of section 6, T. 7 N., R. 82 W. immediately above a well defined drop to Whalen Creek;  
 thence southwesterly .35 mile to Whalen Creek;  
 thence southerly around the base of a series of rock slides and continuing around the edge of a well defined bench 1.65 miles into the main canyon of Newcomb Creek;  
 thence westerly along the foot of a steep slope on the north side of Newcomb Creek 2.50 miles to the top of the Continental Divide to the point of beginning, containing 72,472 acres 1/ more or less, all owned by the United States.

The above described area has been plotted on a 1 inch-equals-1 mile scale map, dated May 24, 1965, which is attached and made a part of this description.

1/ Gross acreage within the described boundary (all ownerships).