

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

WEST ELK WILDERNESS

GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST

I hereby certify that the description and map herewith, represent the location of the boundary of the West Elk Wilderness on the Gunnison National Forest as it existed as of the date of Public Law 88-577 and as amended by the Colorado Wilderness Act (Public Law 96-560).

Signed August 31, 1982


Regional Forester

WEST ELK WILDERNESS

Gunnison National Forest

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on a summit on Coal Mountain with an elevation of 11,695 feet, latitude 38°46'58", longitude 107°28'46", Gunnison National Forest, Colorado;

thence northeasterly on the hydrographic divide between Minnesota Creek and North Smith Fork, 3.7 miles to the intersection of a line 10 feet east of, and parallel to, the centerline of Curecanti Trail, #455;

thence northwesterly on said line 2.4 miles to the intersection with the thread of Hoodoo Creek;

thence easterly on the thread of said creek 0.6 mile to a confluence of an unnamed, intermittent, southwesterly-flowing, tributary joining said creek at 9,030 feet in elevation;

thence northeasterly on the thread of said tributary 0.5 mile to elevation 9,880 feet;

thence northeasterly in a series of straight lines 3.6 miles through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X (meters)</u>	<u>Y (meters)</u>
290,540	4,299,008
290,777	4,299,738
291,253	4,300,182
291,626	4,300,356
291,970	4,300,714
292,421	4,301,286
293,235	4,301,936
293,557	4,302,058
294,348	4,302,354
294,332	4,302,232
294,354	4,302,128

thence easterly in a straight line less than 0.1 mile to the thread of Little Gunnison Creek at elevation 9,200 feet;

thence northeasterly on the thread of said creek 2.9 miles to its confluence with Coal Creek;

thence southerly on the thread of Coal Creek 1.3 miles to a point on the west line of Tracts 37, 38, and 39, Township 14 South, Range 89 West, 6th Principal Meridian;

thence southerly on said line 0.2 mile to the southwest corner of Tract 39 in Section 15 of said township;

thence easterly on the south line of Tract 39, 0.1 mile to the intersection of a line 100 feet west of, and parallel to, the thread of Coal Creek;

thence southerly on said line 2.2 miles to the intersection of the west line of Section 26 of said township;

thence southerly on said line 0.1 mile to the north sixteenth corner of said section;

thence easterly on the subdivision-of-section line 1/4 mile to the northwest sixteenth corner of said section;

thence northerly on the subdivision-of-section line 0.2 mile to the intersection of a line 100 feet southwest of, and parallel to, the thread of Robinson Creek;

thence southeasterly on said line 1.3 miles to the intersection of the west line of the east half of the west half of Sections 25 and 36 of said township;

thence southerly on said subdivision-of-section line 0.8 mile to the center-west sixteenth corner of Section 36 of said township;

thence easterly on the east-west centerline of said section 3/4 mile to the east quarter corner of said section, on the range line between Ranges 88 and 89 West;

thence northerly on said range line 0.7 mile to the intersection of a line 1320 feet north of, and parallel to, Coal Creek Road #709.1;

thence northwesterly on said line 3.7 miles to the intersection of the south line of Tract 39 in Section 14 of said township;

thence easterly in a straight line 0.6 mile to the southeast corner of Tract 39;

thence northerly in a straight line 1/4 mile to the northeast corner of Tract 39, in Section 11 of said township;

thence westerly on the north line of Tract 39, 0.5 mile to the intersection with the thread of an unnamed, intermittent, southerly-flowing tributary joining Cliff Creek at 7,020 feet in elevation;

thence northerly on the thread of said tributary 0.3 mile to a fork at 7,400 feet in elevation;

thence northeasterly in a series of straight lines 1.7 miles through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X (meters)</u>	<u>Y (meters)</u>
299,800	4,302,388
300,035	4,302,516
300,460	4,302,638
300,941	4,302,858
301,237	4,302,990
301,487	4,302,990
302,040	4,303,054
302,291	4,303,188

thence northeasterly in a straight line 0.3 mile to the intersection of the range line between Ranges 88 and 89 West and the hydrographic divide between Coal Creek and Anthracite Creek;

thence easterly on said divide 7.4 miles to the west line of Section 18, Township 14 South, Range 87 West;

thence southerly on said section line 0.2 mile to the southwest corner of said Section 18;

thence easterly on the section line 1-1/4 miles to the northwest corner of the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 20 of said township;

thence southerly on the subdivision-of-section line 1/4 mile to the southwest corner of the northeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of said section;

thence easterly on the subdivision-of-section line 3/4 mile to the southeast corner of the northeast 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of said section;

thence northerly on the section line 1/4 mile to the northeast corner of said section;

thence easterly on the section line 1 mile to the southeast corner of Section 16 of said township;

thence northerly on the section line 1/2 mile to the southwest corner of the northwest 1/4 of Section 15 of said township;

thence easterly on the subdivision of section line 1/2 mile to the southeast corner of the northwest 1/4 of said section;

thence northerly on the north-south centerline of said section and section 7 of said township 0.5 mile to the intersection of a line 50 feet south of, and parallel to, Lily Lake Road #730.1E;

thence easterly on said line less than 0.1 mile to the thread of an unnamed, intermittent, northerly-flowing tributary of Ruby Anthracite Creek which heads at Ohio Pass;

thence southeasterly on the thread of said tributary 0.8 mile to its head at the lowest point on Ohio Pass at the head of Ohio Creek;

thence southeasterly on the thread of Ohio Creek 0.9 mile to the intersection of a line 50 feet west of, and parallel to, the centerline of Ohio Creek Road #730;

thence southerly on said line 0.8 mile to the intersection of a line 50 west of, and parallel to, the centerline of an abandoned railroad grade;

thence southwesterly on the railroad grade offset line 1.1 miles to its intersection with a line 10 feet north of, and parallel to, the centerline of Swampy Trail #439;

thence southwesterly on the trail offset line 0.8 mile to the intersection of a line 300 feet north of, and parallel to, the east-west centerline of Section 34 of said township;

thence westerly on the section centerline offset line 0.3 mile to the intersection of a line 10 feet north of, and parallel to, the centerline of Swampy Trail #439;

thence westerly on the trail offset line 2.2 miles to the intersection of a line bearing due south from a point 600 feet due west of triangulation station Anthracite (elevation of 12,385 feet) on a summit of the Anthracite Range;

thence due south 4.8 miles to the intersection of the 10,000 foot contour at latitude $38^{\circ}43'47''$, longitude $107^{\circ}08'47''$ on a northerly facing slope descending to South Castle Creek;

thence northeasterly on said contour 1.0 mile to a fork of an unnamed, intermittent, northerly-flowing tributary joining South Castle Creek at 9,550 feet in elevation;

thence southeasterly on the east branch of said tributary 0.3 mile to elevation 10,240 feet;

thence southeasterly on the 10,240 foot contour 0.3 mile to the thread of the east branch of two branches joining at elevation 10,110 feet to form an intermittent, northwesterly-flowing tributary joining South Castle Creek at 9,530 feet in elevation;

thence southerly on the thread of said branch 0.1 mile to elevation 10,400, feet;

thence easterly on the 10,400 foot contour 0.4 mile to the thread of the westernmost branch of Middle Creek;

thence easterly on the thread of said branch 0.2 mile to an elevation of 10,200 feet;

thence southeasterly on the 10,200 foot contour 0.4 mile to the hydrographic divide between two unnamed, intermittent tributaries of Middle Creek joining at 9,840 feet in elevation;

thence southeasterly in a straight line 0.2 mile to a summit with a contour elevation of 10,520 feet on the hydrographic divide between two unnamed, intermittent tributaries of Middle Creek joining at 9,350 feet in elevation;

thence southwesterly on said divide 0.5 mile to elevation 11,000 feet;

thence $S 7^{\circ} W$, 0.3 mile to the thread of the northernmost branch of Squirrel Creek at latitude $38^{\circ}43'03''$, longitude $107^{\circ}06'24''$;

thence westerly on the thread of said branch 0.2 mile to elevation 11,440 feet;

thence northwesterly in a straight line 0.2 mile to a summit with an elevation of 12,065 feet on the hydrographic divide between Mill Creek and Squirrel Creek;

thence southeasterly on said divide 1.0 mile to a summit with an elevation of 10,870 feet;

thence southeasterly in a straight line 0.5 mile to a summit with an elevation of 10,605 feet;

thence S 20° W, 1,550 feet to a point;

thence N 86° W, 0.3 mile to the thread of an unnamed, intermittent, southeasterly-flowing tributary joining Mill Creek at elevation 9,115 feet;

thence southeasterly on the thread of said tributary 0.6 mile to the intersection of the centerline of the Mill-Castle Trail #450;

thence southwesterly in a straight line 0.4 mile to the confluence at elevation 9,215 feet of Mill Creek and an unnamed, intermittent, northerly-flowing tributary;

thence southerly on the thread of said tributary 0.4 mile to elevation 9,600 feet;

thence southeasterly on the 9,600 foot contour 2.0 miles to the first intersection with the 320,330 meter X coordinate line;

thence S 70° E, 0.1 mile to the 9,400 foot contour;

thence southerly and southwesterly on said contour 0.3 mile to a line 10 feet north of, and parallel to, the centerline of Beaver Creek Trail #464;

thence southwesterly on said line 1.9 miles to the intersection of a line 200 feet west of, and parallel to, the centerline of the Steers Gulch Road #726;

thence southerly on the road offset line 3.7 miles to the intersection of a line 200 feet northeast of, and parallel to, the April Gulch Road #726.2A;

thence northwesterly, westerly, and southwesterly on the Road #726.2A offset line 1.2 miles to the thread of Beaver Creek;

thence southerly on the thread of said creek less than 0.1 mile to the confluence at 8,710 feet in elevation of an unnamed, intermittent, easterly-flowing drainage;

thence southwesterly on the thread of said drainage 0.5 mile to elevation 9,400 feet;

thence southwesterly in a straight line 0.3 mile to the 10,200 foot elevation on the hydrographic divide separating drainage from the west into Beaver Creek upstream and downstream of elevation 8,720 feet;

thence southwesterly on said divide 0.5 mile to elevation 10,480 feet;

thence westerly on the 10,480 foot contour 0.3 mile to the intersection of a line 200 feet east of and parallel to the centerline of Sun Creek Road #859;

thence northwesterly on said line 1.0 mile to a point due east of a summit with a contour elevation of 10,720 feet;

thence southeasterly in a straight line 0.2 mile to the 10,200 foot elevation of an unnamed, southwesterly-flowing drainage joining Steuben Creek at 9,370 feet in elevation;

thence southwesterly on the thread of said drainage 0.5 mile to a point on the north line of the south 1/2 of the north 1/2 of Section 7, Township 50 North, Range 2 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian;

thence westerly on the subdivision-of-section line 0.8 mile to the northwest corner of the south 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 of Section 12, Township 50 North, Range 3 West;

thence southerly on the subdivision-of-section line 1/4 mile to the center of said section;

thence southeasterly in a straight line 0.3 mile to a summit with an elevation of 10,507 feet;

thence S 71° W, 0.2 mile to the thread of the stream flowing in Main Gulch;

thence northwesterly in a straight line 0.4 mile to the 10,560 foot elevation on the hydrographic divide between Willow Creek and Main Gulch;

thence northwesterly on said divide and the hydrographic divide between Steuben Creek 1.3 miles to a summit with a contour elevation of 10,840 feet;

thence S 50° W, 0.3 mile to the thread of Willow Creek;

thence northwesterly on the thread of said creek 0.9 mile to elevation 10,800 feet;

thence northerly in a straight line through the low point in the saddle on the hydrographic divide between Willow Creek and West Steuben Creek that is less than 0.1 mile northeast of the shore of Rainbow Lake, 0.2 mile to the east bank of Elk Home Ditch;

thence northwesterly on the east bank of said ditch 0.7 mile to the thread of an unnamed, intermittent, easterly-flowing tributary joining West Steuben Creek at elevation 10,720 feet;

thence westerly on the thread of said tributary 0.2 mile to the intersection with Rainbow Lake Trail #449;

thence southwesterly in a straight line 0.4 mile to a summit with an elevation of 11,569 feet;

thence northwesterly on the hydrographic divide between West Stauben Creek and East Elk Creek 0.5 mile to the intersection of a line 20 feet north of, and parallel to, the centerline of Red Creek Road #723.3;

thence northerly, and westerly, and southerly on said line 2.6 miles to a point on the hydrographic divide between Deep Hollow and Sixmile Gulch;

thence northwesterly on said divide and the hydrographic divide between Red Creek and Sixmile Gulch 0.8 mile to the hydrographic divide between Red Creek and West Elk Creek;

thence northerly on the Red Creek-Elk Creek divide 7.3 miles to a point on the Gunnison National Forest boundary and on the north line of Section 6, Township 49 North, Range 3 West;

thence westerly on said boundary and section line 0.2 mile to the northwest corner of said section;

thence southerly on the west line of said section 0.2 mile to said hydrographic divide;

thence southwesterly, leaving said Forest boundary, on said hydrographic divide 0.8 mile through a summit with an elevation of 9,472 feet to the hydrographic divide separating drainage from the east into West Elk Creek upstream and downstream of elevation 7,810 feet;

thence southwesterly on said divide 0.9 mile to elevation 7,920 feet;

thence due west 0.1 mile to the thread of West Elk Creek;

thence southwesterly in a series of straight lines 2.0 miles through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>
302,816	4,266,870
302,626	4,266,668
302,500	4,266,356
302,236	4,266,296
302,034	4,266,108
301,735	4,266,112
301,377	4,265,618
301,329	4,265,820
300,876	4,266,116

thence N 20° W, 0.2 mile to the intersection of a line 100 feet east of, and parallel to, Coal Creek Trail #452 in Section 10, Township 49 North, Range 4 West;

thence northerly on said line 0.9 mile to the intersection of the east-west centerline of Section 3 of said township;

thence westerly on the east-west centerline of Sections 3 and 4, 0.9 mile to the intersection of the UTM 298,956 meter X coordinate line;

thence northerly in a straight line 0.5 mile to the northwest corner of Section 4;

thence northerly in a straight line 0.4 mile to a point with UTM coordinates X 298,660 meters, Y 4,268,984 meters;

thence northwesterly in a straight line 0.5 mile to a summit with a contour elevation of 8,600 feet;

thence northerly on the top of a ridge passing through said summit and the hydrographic divide between Cow Creek and Soap Creek 2.8 miles to a summit with an elevation of 9,602;

thence northerly in a straight line 0.7 mile to a summit with an elevation of 9,518 feet;

thence northerly in a straight line 1.2 miles to a summit with an elevation of 9,606 feet;

thence northeasterly in a straight line 0.5 mile to a summit with an elevation of 9,650 feet;

thence northerly in a straight line 1.2 miles to a summit with an elevation of 9,385 feet;

thence northeasterly in a straight line 0.9 mile to a summit with an elevation of 9,475 feet;

thence northeasterly in a straight line 0.3 mile to the 8,960 foot elevation on the thread of an unnamed, intermittent, northwesterly-flowing tributary joining Soap Creek at 8,470 feet in elevation;

thence northwesterly on the thread of said tributary 0.5 mile to the thread of Soap Creek;

thence southwesterly on the thread of said creek 0.1 mile to the confluence of an unnamed, intermittent, southeasterly-flowing tributary joining Soap Creek at an elevation of 8,460 feet;

thence northwesterly on the thread of said tributary 0.4 mile to elevation 9,000 feet;

thence southwesterly on the 9,000 feet contour 1.4 miles to a point on the centerline of Big Soap Branch Road #721.3D;

thence southwesterly in a straight line 0.5 mile to the northwest corner (angle point 1) of Homestead Entry Survey (HES) #324;

thence southwesterly in a straight line 0.5 mile to the southwest corner (angle point 4) of said HES;

thence southwesterly in a straight line less than 0.1 mile to a point on a line 20 feet north of, and parallel to, Soap Mesa Trail #453 opposite the junction of said trail and East Curecanti Trail No. 454;

thence southwesterly on said line 2.0 mile to the highest point on said line near a summit with an elevation of 10,025 feet;

thence N 84° W, 0.4 mile to Dry Fork Curecanti Creek;

thence northerly on the thread of the said creek 0.1 mile to the northernmost intersection with a line 200 feet east of, and parallel to, Curecanti Trail #455;

thence northwesterly on said line 5.2 miles to the intersection of the prolongation of a line 10 feet north of, and parallel to, the centerline of the Head-Ferrier Ditch;

thence westerly on the ditch offset line 0.5 mile to the hydrographic divide between Curecanti Creek and Lunch Creek;

thence southerly on said divide less than 0.1 mile to the lowest point in a saddle between summits with an elevation of 10,409 and 10,483 feet at the head of Lunch Creek;

thence northwesterly on the thread of Lunch Creek 1.3 miles to the confluence at 8,750 feet in elevation with an unnamed, northerly-flowing tributary;

thence southwesterly in a series of straight lines 0.3 mile through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X (meters)</u>	<u>Y (meters)</u>
290,644	4,285,986
290,522	4,286,008
290,310	4,285,850

thence southwesterly in a straight line 0.3 mile to a summit with an elevation of 9,773 feet;

thence westerly in a series of straight lines 0.4 mile through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X (meters)</u>	<u>Y (meters)</u>
289,740	4,285,368
289,423	4,285,384

thence westerly in a straight line 0.3 mile to a summit with an elevation of 9,237 feet;

thence northwesterly on the hydrographic divide between South Smith Fork and an unnamed, intermittent tributary joining Smith Fork at elevation 8,700 feet, 0.3 mile to northwesternmost summit with a contour elevation of 9,200 feet;

thence northerly in a series of straight lines 0.7 mile through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X (meters)</u>	<u>Y (meters)</u>
287,986	4,286,026
287,975	4,286,478
288,160	4,286,886

thence northerly in a straight line 0.1 mile to the confluence of South Smith Fork and Sink Creek;

thence northerly in a straight line 0.2 mile to a summit with an elevation of 8,336 feet;

thence northerly on the top of a ridge passing through said summit 0.2 mile to the low point of a saddle with a contour elevation of 8,240 feet;

thence northerly in a series of straight line 1.5 miles through points with the following UTM coordinates:

<u>X (meters)</u>	<u>Y (meters)</u>
288,450	4,287,670
288,390	4,288,020
288,470	4,288,280
288,116	4,288,864
288,220	4,289,476
288,170	4,289,624
288,150	4,290,070
287,723	4,290,345

thence northwesterly in a straight line 0.5 mile to a summit with an elevation of 8,888 feet;

thence southwesterly on the hydrographic divide between North Smith Fork and Trail Creek 0.3 mile to the 8,600 foot elevation;

thence S 82° W, 0.3 mile to the thread of North Smith Fork;

thence southerly on thread of North Smith Fork 0.6 mile to its confluence with Trail Creek;

thence northwesterly in a straight line 1.0 mile to the summit of Little Sand Mountain (elevation 9,636 feet);

thence northerly on the hydrographic divide between North Smith Fork and all drainage from the north into Smith Fork downstream from the confluence with North Smith Fork 3.1 miles to the point of beginning.

Containing the following acreage in Gunnison County:

176,412 acres

Average figures were computed from the latest approved survey plats and/or protraction diagram.

Elevations refer to 1927 North American Datum. The above described area has been plotted on, and elevations determined from the following U.S. Geological Survey maps (with indicated publication dates) which are attached hereto and made a part hereof:

Mt. Axtell	1961
Anthracite Range	1961
West Beckwith Peak	1964
Mirnesota Pass	1964
Mount Guero	1965
Big Soap Park	1965
West Elk Peak	1965
Squirrel Creek	1965
McIntosh Mountain	1954 (photorevised 1970)
West Elk Peak SW	1954
Little Soap Park	1954