

Attributes of Featured Roadless Areas Within the Proposed SCNM

Condrey Mountain Roadless Area

The 20,000-acre Condrey Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) is adjacent to the Red Buttes Wilderness and the Kangaroo Roadless Area and contains 12 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, three botanical areas, extensive subalpine meadows and diverse conifer forests for which the Klamath-Siskiyou region is known. This remote spot represents some of the most pristine old-growth forests the Siskiyou have to offer.

Condrey Mountain at 7,112 feet may be only the sixth tallest Siskiyou peak, but it is the center of geologic uplift in the Siskiyou Mountains. Geologists explain that Condrey likely would be the highest Siskiyou peak if it was not rising so quickly, spreading and crumbling its mass of schist out like a metallic rock sunburst. Adding to Condrey's character is a cirque basin, Alex Hole, carved by glaciers out of its northeast face.

Condrey's crumbly schist provides a lot of excellent rock garden habitat. Scrambling along the many outcrops in the area, one can find four lewisia species, four monkey flowers, strawberry leaved saxifrage, quaking aspen, and a plethora of both common and rare stonecrops, to name a few of the rare and noteworthy plants. One stonecrop with deep maroon flowers rather than the usual yellow or white, was only known in the Siskiyou from Condrey Mountain, until its recent discovery on nearby Lake Peak.

Dakubetede Roadless Area (uninventoried – BLM)

The Dakubetede Wildland includes approximately 6500 acres, mostly on the south slopes of Anderson Butte, ranging in elevation from 2000 – 5200 feet. Featured in the book "Oregon Wild", this area was proposed as the Dakubetede Wilderness in 1980, not only for its popular Sterling Ditch hiking trail system, but also because this area is one of the most ecologically diverse in the region.

This remarkable island of low/mid-elevation wildland encompasses a complex mosaic of habitat types ranging from grasslands, diverse shrublands, mixed conifer/hardwood forest, late-seral dry site Douglas fir forest, oak woodland and rich riparian zones along Birch Creek, Rush Creek, and the Little Applegate River.

As part of a 28,000 acre allotment that has been free from grazing for the past 27 years, this area presents an unprecedented opportunity for research, restoration and conservation. The Dakubetede area functions as an important corridor for wildlife, serving as a migration route connecting high country ridges to the river and valley below. It is recognized as a critical winter range for deer, and supports healthy populations of cougar and bear.

This area is being considered as potential Research Natural Area (RNA) for typical chaparral in the eastern Siskiyou; and is noted as the northern extension of the sclerophyllous shrub communities of California. The Dakubetede contains Oregon's only occurrence of the Siskiyou Black Birch along Birch Creek in Muddy Gulch. The largest grove of Western Juniper in the eastern Siskiyou is on the upper slopes of Anderson Butte.

The globally imperiled association of Oregon Oak/Wedge-leaf Ceanothus/Idaho Fescue has examples here, as does the federally endangered lily *Fritillaria gentneri* and *Sedum oblancoletum*. The size, low elevation and quality of habitat of this proposed Wilderness is unique, and the entire area is virtually free of yellow star thistle, a rare condition considering the extensive grassland and shrubland habitats.

Kangaroo Roadless Area

The 68,000-acre Kangaroo Roadless Area is named for Kangaroo Mountain, which lies along the southeastern corner of the Red Buttes Wilderness. This proposed addition lies mostly in California and includes the upper Thompson Creek drainage, the Devil's Peak area directly south of the Red Buttes and the Horse Creek, and Cook and Green drainages to the east of the wilderness. Home to nearly 30 conifer species and dozens of endemic plant and animal species, the Siskiyou Crest is one of the jewels of Oregon. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses a large portion of this area, offering outstanding vistas.

McDonald Peak (Ashland Creek) Roadless Area

The 9,500-acre McDonald Peak Roadless Area is the farthest east of the roadless areas along the Siskiyou Crest. It lies about 3 miles west of Ashland and includes the headwaters of Ashland Creek and the municipal drinking supply of the City of Ashland. Elevations range from 3,280 to 7,280 feet. The roadless area includes both Wagner Butte and McDonald Peak. It consists primarily of virgin old-growth forests, contains rare high-elevation meadows, and has never been grazed. Mount Ashland, the highest peak in the Siskiyou at 7,533 feet, overlooks the roadless area.

The Siskiyou Crest is noted for its biological diversity. McDonald Peak alone possesses three candidate botanical areas; one includes Mount Ashland lupine, found only on a 45-acre plot on the Siskiyou Crest and considered one of the rarest plants in Oregon. Henderson's horkelia is also found here in its greatest abundance. Engelmann spruce, rare this far south, is also found in this roadless area. All three are threatened by the proposed expansion of the Mount Ashland Ski Area.