



# Colorado's Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal

## Platte River Wilderness Addition

The North Platte River and canyon is a great place to hike, fish, climb and paddle. The small parcel to be added is on the west side of the river at 8300 feet surrounded by steep cliffs and the river on the east. On top of this peak there are incredible views of North Gate and the Snowy Range to the north east, and North Park and the Mt. Zirkle Wilderness area, full of snow in the spring and summer, to the southwest.

John Spezia

**Citizens Wilderness Proposal:** 33 acres  
**BLM Wilderness Study Area:** 30 acres  
**BLM Field Office:** Kremmling Field Office  
**Location:** The Platte River addition is located approximately 18 miles north of Walden in Jackson County.

### Wilderness Qualities

The proposed wilderness addition consists of a tiny portion of the canyon rim of the North Platte River at the southern end of the Forest Service's Platte River Wilderness. BLM identifies this addition as the Platte River Contiguous WSA. The North Platte River here carves a rushing whitewater canyon called North Gate Canyon, a favorite of rafting recreationists and fishermen. The small BLM addition to the wilderness will preserve part of the area's scenic backdrop as viewed from the river.

The Platte River addition consists of a steep, rocky hillside covered by Douglas fir, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush.

### Resource Information

Two mineral leases or mining claims exist within the Platte River Contiguous WSA and BLM rates the potential for discovery of mineral resources as low.

The area's steep topography and sparse vegetation preclude commercial woodlands or grazing activities. Because the addition completes the boundary of the existing wilderness by adding the missing fragment of the canyon wall, the area is in essence a headwaters addition to the existing wilderness. No water resources of any kind exist on the 30-acre addition.

### Boundary Issues

Citizens agree with BLM's recommended wilderness boundary of the entire WSA.

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**Platte River Proposed Wilderness Area**  
 Kremmling Field Office  
 July 1, 2006

