Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-024

Acreage: 7092.5

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description

This unit of BLM land is identified as CO-060-024. The northern boundary is Highway 149 and private land. The western boundary is road 3033 and 3149. The southern boundary is the Powderhorn Wilderness and the Powderhorn Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The eastern boundary consists of road 3034, Powderhorn WSA and Powderhorn Wilderness.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This unit is adjacent to the Powderhorn Wilderness. Indian Creek flows through the southwestern portion and follows the western boundary towards the north. It consists of high topographical relief and dense vegetation that includes sage brush, aspen, spruce, pine, various grasses and wildflowers. Two portions of wetlands exist within this parcel that has the potential to be fens. The first is 0.37 acres with a low potential to be a fen, and the second is 0.83 acres with a medium potential to be a fen. Human uses for this unit include access to the Powderhorn Wilderness and WSA, livestock grazing, vegetation treatments, hiking, camping, and hunting. All of this human activity results in ±200 visitors per year. Along Indian Creek road (3033 and 3033k) tree thinning with removal is very visible but the area is so small compared to the large scale of the parcel that it does not detract from the overall naturalness. There are a series of closed roads within this parcel that range in visibility; high to no visibility. Some of these closed roads have been deliberately blocked by tree limbs or marked by closed signs.

(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This unit's proximity to the Powderhorn Wilderness and WSA along with its high topographical relief provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel contains outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

Two wetland areas within this parcel have the potential to be a fen. The 0.37 acre area has a low potential and the 0.83 acre area has a medium potential. This parcel contains a high level of lynx habitat along with medium levels of elk winter habitat and mule deer winter habitat, and low levels of severe elk winter habitat and severe mule deer habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-024

Result of Analysis:

1. **Does the area meet any of the size requirements?** ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. **Does the area appear to be natural?** ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. **Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation?** ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. **Does the area have supplemental values?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

Check one

__X__The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

____The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

John Millea

Corrie Barbour

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

Name: Brian St George Title: Field Manager

Date: 7/31/13

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land us allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.