

**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

**Area Unique Identifier:** CO-060-011

**Acreage:** 1249.9

**Is the area of sufficient size?**

Yes  No

**Description**

The unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-011 meets the size requirement criteria with the adjacent Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as the western boundary and sections of the southern boundary. BLM road 3305 is the northern boundary with private land along sections of the southern and eastern boundary.

**(1) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes  No  N/A

**Description**

High topographic relief combined with dense vegetation including aspen, spruce, pine, grasses, and wildflowers contribute to the naturalness of CO-060-011. Thinning with removal was implemented 10-30 years ago in the northern most wooded section along BLM road 3305; however it is not obvious and does not detract from the overall naturalness of the parcel as the vegetation has naturally regenerated in the impacted areas. Silver Coin Gulch runs from the center of the parcel to the east. A radio tower/weather station is located at the end of BLM road 3305 but has been cherry stemmed out of the parcel. Previous inventory of this unit conducted by the Montrose BLM office in 1979 found this area to lack overall naturalness and was excluded from the Red Cloud Peak WSA (CO-030-208).

**(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**

High topographic relief  $\pm$  2,000 ft. in many areas of CO-060-011 along with its dense vegetation 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 provides opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking and wildlife viewing with an estimated  $\pm 1,200$  annual visitors to the summit of Round Top Mountain.

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

Yes  No  N/A

**Description**

Scenic views of the San Juan's, La Garita Wilderness, Uncompagne Wilderness and Powderhorn Wilderness exist from the higher elevations in the western portion of the parcel. This unit contains a high level of lynx habitat and a low level of elk winter habitat.

## Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-011

### 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

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

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### (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 use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.