

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-009

Acreage: 283.7

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes No

Description

The unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-009 meets the size requirement criteria with the adjacent Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The northern boundary is road 3303. The southern boundary follows road 3305 and the Red Cloud Peak WSA. The eastern and western boundaries are private land.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description

This area is located north of the Red Cloud Peak WSA and to the south of Henson Creek. Wade Gulch flows through the southern portion of the landscape. The northern portion of the parcel is lined by rocky cliffs that run along Henson Creek. The topography varies throughout the parcel and rising quickly in the northern portion. There is one closed road from the western private land boundary. This road leads to the Cleveland Mine. This mining claim is marked on the parcels map but signs of activity cannot be seen in the aerial photos. The vegetation is dense throughout the majority of the parcel and consists mainly of pine, aspen and various grasses. This area was previously evaluated by the Montrose BLM Office in 1979 and it was identified as not possessing wilderness characteristics and excluded from the Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area. There is trail on the south side of Henson Creek that roughly parallels the creek. There is an ice-climbing area in the northeast part of the area, below the Town's water tank along the cliffs above Henson Creek.

(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 parcel's varying topography and areas of dense wooded vegetation provide 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 area contains outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation including hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing and ice climbing with an estimated $\pm 1,500$ annual visitors.

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

Yes No N/A

Description

The rock cliffs along Henson Creek provide a scenic geographical feature within the parcel that can be viewed from the landscape above. Within this area is a high level of lynx habitat, a medium level of elk wintering habitat, and low levels of mule deer winter and severe habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-009

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):

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Corrie Barbour

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

Name: Brian S. [Signature] 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.