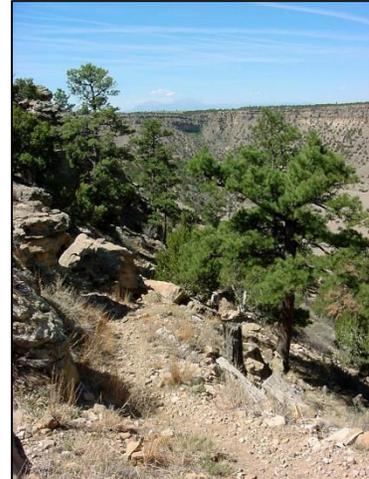


Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



Managing the wilderness resource is part of the BLM's multiple use mission. Consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and other applicable authorities, the BLM will consider the wilderness characteristics of public lands when undertaking land use planning. The BLM will use the land use planning process to determine how to manage lands with wilderness characteristics as part of the BLM's multiple-use mandate.

In 2013, the BLM completed a lands inventory to determine the presence or absence of lands with wilderness characteristics. Typically the inventory process documents existing conditions using available information (e.g., existing maps, photos, records related to range projects, monitoring data) with field checks of the information as necessary. The BLM may also evaluate new information regarding wilderness characteristics that is submitted by the public. In order for an area to qualify as a land with wilderness characteristics, it must possess sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.



The initial 2013 inventory identified 40 parcels comprising 77,756 acres that met the criteria for wilderness characteristics. Additional information has also been submitted to the BLM that has yet to be evaluated.

Potential Decisions:

Planning for lands with wilderness characteristics as part of the Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS may include:

- Identify lands where other uses are emphasized as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics
- Identify lands where other uses are emphasized while applying management restrictions to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics
- Identify lands where protection of wilderness characteristics is a priority over multiple uses and management restrictions are applied

Planning Issues:

- How should the BLM manage lands found to have wilderness characteristics?
- What management restrictions should be put in place to protect this resource if that is the desired management direction?

Tell Us What You Think!

If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.

1. How should lands with wilderness characteristics be managed in the future?
2. What management restrictions should/should not be applied to protect lands with wilderness characteristics?
3. Do you have additional information that would assist in the inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics?

Please submit your comments and other information via email to ECRMP.comments@blm.gov