

Form 1: Document Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record

Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

NO (If no, go to Form 2)
 YES If yes, and if the area has subunits within the broader area, list the unique identifiers for each of those subunits:

Inventory Source: _____
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-020-09B
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): BLM 100k Canon City
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Front Range District/ Royal Gorge Field Office

BLM Inventory findings on record: Document existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Document BLM Wilderness Characteristics Findings on Record (Historic Findings)					
Inventory Source Document:					
Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? (YES/NO & acres)	Naturalness (YES/NO)	Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude (YES/NO)	Outstanding opportunities for primitive & unconfined recreation (YES/NO)	Supplemental Values? (YES/NO)
CO-050-009	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
CO-020-009-A	Y	N	N	N	N
CO-020-009-B	Y	N	N	N	N

(add rows as needed)

Form 2: Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-019, Echo Canyon

Acreage: 31,918.0 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

Description:

The unit, COF-020-019, Echo Canyon, is over 5,000 acres and meets the size criteria for lands considered to have wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The southern boundary is defined by the Rio Grande Railroad right of way;
- The western border is defined by Fremont County Road 27, BLM trail T6061A, BLM Road 6040, BLM 6040A and BLM administrative route (CO-020-059-A);
- A wilderness inventory road cherry stemmed from the unit, along the west central edge of the unit, BLM 6060;
- The northern boundary is defined by BLM land status, BLM administrative road CO-020-019-A (along Tallahassee Creek), and BLM road 8595;
- The eastern edge is bounded by property lines other than BLM management and BLM administrative road, CO-020-019-S;

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

Unit, COF-020-019, Echo Canyon is located north of US Hwy 50. It is located east of Cañon City, Colorado, approximately 15 miles (measured to the nearest point). The unit consists of 31,918.0 acres of public land. Three private inholding exist within the unit, totaling 839.6 acres. The inholding lands will not be included in the inventory.

The topography of the unit consists of mountainous terrain, with rock outcroppings, cliffs, and multiple drainages. The drainages include, Echo Canyon, Sulpher Gulch, and Spike Buck Gulch. The unit's elevation varies from 6,000 feet to 9,000 feet. The unit consists of many types of vegetation, varying in elevation. The vegetation includes piñon-juniper forest, ponderosa pines, mixed conifers, gambel oak, and cottonwoods found along the riparian areas.

The man-made features found within the unit include multiple routes. The routes are managed as BLM administrative routes decided by the Arkansas River Travel

Management Plan (2006). It is assumed these routes were originally mechanically constructed for prospecting. The routes have received mechanical maintenance within the past 5 years. The routes are visible throughout most of the unit. The cut/fill nature of the routes are a visual impact of the landscape and can be identified from miles away. The mechanical construction of the routes affect the unit's natural character.

The administrative use in the area includes rangeland improvement projects such as spring developments, stock tanks, and fencing. The range use within the unit does not affect the natural character to the unit.

Other administrative projects include vegetation treatment projects. The treatments include mechanical (roller chopping) and hand thinning vegetation treatments. The projects areas are visible and obvious to a casual observer. The accumulative impacts of the vegetation treatment projects significantly impact the naturalness of the unit. However, possibly in a couple decades the areas will not have an impact to the natural character of the unit.

Mining activity has occurred within the unit. The impacts of mining are visible throughout the unit. Tailing piles and prospecting pits located on the hillside are highly visible. Although the mining within the unit is not the dominant feature, the existence of mining is visible and has a visual impact to the landscape.

Other man made disturbances within the area include fenced wildlife exclosures, historic homesteads (3 buildings), corals, stock tanks, earthen dams, and a large water encatchment. The man made features are visible throughout the unit and take away the unit's natural character.

In the north east corner of the unit is located the Summerville Table Instant Study Area, it is 683.5 acres. It is managed jointly with BLM and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. The lands have been identified as a research natural area and is managed similarly to a wilderness study area. It does not however a designated wilderness study area and is not large enough to be analyzed separately. The 683.5 acres will be included in the inventory.

A wilderness inventory was conducted in 1979. The inventory concluded that the unit did not possess wilderness characteristics due to excessive imprints of man such as numerous "ways", stock tanks, mining sites, and earthen dams. The current wilderness inventory found congruency with the 1979 findings.

3. 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 ___ NA X

Description:

4. 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 ____ NA X

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

Yes X No ____ NA ____

- The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) has identified 675.2 acres to be managed as a Research Natural Area. The lands are managed similarly as a WSA.
- The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) has identified the west portion of the unit to have high biodiversity significance (B3). The identified unit is labeled as East Gulch at Bull Gulch potential conservation area.
- The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) has identified the west portion of the unit to have very high biodiversity significance (B2). The identified unit is labeled McIntyre Hills Potential Conservation Area.
- There are historic cabins and homestead located within the unit, adding supplemental value.
- The unit contains mule deer, bighorn sheep and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- The unit is mapped as a bighorn sheep production area by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-019, Echo Canyon

Acreage: 31918.0 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. The unit contains numerous man-made features. Many mechanically constructed and maintained routes within the unit are dominant features along the landscape. Large scale projects such as a water encatchment, mechanical vegetation treatments, and wildlife exclosures are located within the unit. To a casual observer the visual disturbance are prominent and affect the unit's natural character.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The southern boundary is defined by the Rio Grande Railroad right of way;
 - The western border is defined by Fremont County Road 27, BLM trail T6061A, BLM Road 6040, BLM 6040A and BLM administrative route (CO-020-059-A);
 - Two wilderness inventory roads are cherry stemmed from the unit, along the west central edge of the unit, BLM 6060 and BLM T6025;
 - The northern boundary is defined by BLM land status, BLM administrative road CO-020-019-A (along Tallahassee Creek), and BLM road 8595;
 - The eastern edge is bounded by property lines other than BLM management and BLM administrative road, CO-020-019-S;
 - It is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 18 S. R. 71 W. Sections: 5, 6, and 7;
 - o T. 18 S. R. 72 W. Sections: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, and 30;
 - o T. 18 S. R. 73 W. Sections: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35;
 - o T. 19 S. R. 73 W. Sections: 4, 5, 6, and 7;
 - o T. 48 N. R. 12 E. Sections: 7, 12;
 - o T. 49 N. R. 12 E. Sections: 10, 11, 14, 16, 22, 23.
-
- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes No
 - Does the area appear natural? Yes No NA
 - Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
 - Does the area have supplemental value? Yes No NA

This does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision, and does not represent a decision in regard to how the area will be managed or address impacts of management decisions.

Check one:

- The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as land with wilderness characteristics.
- The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

This does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision, and does not represent a decision in regard to how the area will be managed or address impacts of management decisions.

Prepared by:

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: July 2, 2013

Evaluator: Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger

Date: July 2, 2013

Evaluator: Monica Mohr/ Range Technician

Date: July 2, 2013

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: July 27, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date:

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 10, 2013

Form 3: Route Analysis:

The Route Analysis includes factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. For the purposes of this analysis, use the following definition of a “road”. This definition is drawn from and the FLPMA legislative history and historic BLM inventory direction.

Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

- a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-019, Echo Canyon Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: Fremont County Road 27 (FC Rd 27), BLM 6040, BLM 6040 A, BLM T6025, Union Pacific Railroad (UP RR), BLM 5895, CO-020-019-B, CO-020-019-D, CO-020-019-C, CO-020-019-I.

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Map Title: Unit, COF-020-019, Wilderness Characteristics Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The provided map shows the unit that was inventoried for wilderness characteristics, as well as routes and photo points collected by GPS.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous

use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

A. Current Purpose of Route:

Describe:

- FC Rd 27: The current purpose is for recreation use by off highway vehicles (OHVs) and general transportation. It is also used to access to a private inholding.
- BLM 6040: The current use is for recreational use by OHVs.
- BLM 6040 A: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's.
- BLM T6025: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's.
- UP RR: The current use is for the Union Pacific Railroad.
- BLM 5895: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's, as well as access to transmission line for maintenance.
- CO-020-019-B: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's, as well as access by the BLM for administrative purposes.
- CO-020-019-C: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's, as well as access by the BLM for administrative purposes.
- CO-020-019-D: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's, as well as access by the BLM for administrative purposes.
- CO-020-019-I: The current use is for recreational use by OHV's, as well as access by the BLM for administrative purposes.
- CO-020-019-H: The current use is for access by the BLM for administrative purposes.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

B.1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes No Unknown

If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

- FC Rd 27: Has a ROW association with Fremont County, serial # COC 44142, it is currently in use for the ROW stated purpose.
- UP RR: has a ROW association with the Union Pacific Railroad, serial # C 093736, it is currently in use.
- BLM 5895: has a ROW with the WAPPA, serial # C 0128242, the ROW is currently in use.
- CO-020-019-B: Has a ROW association through the BLM for administrative purposes serial # C 13153, it is currently in use.
- CO-020-019-D: has a ROW association, serial #, COC 48628, the ROW is currently in use.
- CO-020-019-H: has a ROW association, serial # C 09095 for a transmission line, the ROW is currently in use.

B.1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes No Unknown

-
- CO-020-019-C: Does not have a ROW association.
- CO-020-019-I: Does not have a ROW association.
- BLM 6040: Does not have a ROW association.
- BLM T6025: Does not have a ROW association.
- BLM 6040 A: Does not have a ROW association.

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Is there evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means?

Yes, if either III.A.1 or III.A.2 is checked "yes" below X

No, if both III.A.1 and III.A.2 are checked "no" below

Routes, Fremont County Road 27 (FC Rd 27), BLM 6040, BLM 6040 A, BLM T6025, Union Pacific Railroad (UP RR), BLM 5895, CO-020-019-B, CO-020-019-D, CO-020-019-C, CO-020-019-I are either originally mechanically constructed or have ad recent mechanical improvements.

A.1. Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes X No

Describe:

- FC Rd 27: Originally mechanically constructed, bladed.
- BLM 6040: Originally mechanically constructed, bladed.
- BLM 6040 A: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer.
- BLM T6025: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer.
- BLM 5895: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer.
- CO-020-019-B: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer. Evidence of cut/ fill on hillsides.
- CO-020-019-C: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer. Evidence of cut/ fill on hillsides.
- CO-020-019-D: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer. Evidence of cut/ fill on hillsides.
- CO-020-019-I: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer. Evidence of cut/ fill on hillsides.
- CO-020-019-H: Originally mechanically constructed, possibly by bull dozer.

A.1. Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes No X

- UP RR: originally hand built.

A.2. Improvements: Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?

Yes If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools by Machine
No

Describe:

- FC Rd 27: Recently improved by use of a bull dozer, culverts are installed and drainage added.
- BLM 6040: Recently improved by a bull dozer.
- BLM 5895: mechanical improvements made within the past 5 years, drainage added to the route.
- CO-020-019-B: Improvements made within the past 5 years, drainage added to the route.
- CO-020-019-C: mechanical improvements made within the past 5 years, widening of route.
- CO-020-019-D: mechanical improvements made within the past 5 years, widening of route.
- CO-020-019-I: mechanical improvements made within the past 5 years, widening of route.
- CO-020-019-H: mechanical improvements made within the past 5 years, drainage added to the route.

A.2. Improvements: Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?

Yes
No

- BLM 6040 A: No recent improvements.
- BLM T6025: No recent improvements.
- UP RR: No recent improvements.

B. Maintenance: Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?

Yes, if either III.B.1 *or* III.B.2 is checked "yes" below
No, if both III.B.1 *and* III.B.2 are checked "no" below

B.1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes If "yes", maintenance by? Hand Tools by Machine
No

Explain:

- FC Rd 27: maintained by machinery.

- BLM 6040: maintained by machinery.
- BLM 5895: maintained by machinery.
- CO-020-019-C: maintained by machinery.
- CO-020-019-D: maintained by machinery.
- CO-020-019-I: maintained by machinery.
- CO-020-019-H: maintained by machinery.

B.1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

- Yes
- No

- BLM 6040 A: no recent maintenance
- BLM T6025: no recent maintenance.
- UP RR: no recent maintenance.

B.2. If the route or route segment is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable? "Good condition" would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Yes No

Explain:

- FC Rd 27: Would be maintained by ROW holder.
- BLM 6040: Would be maintained by BLM.
- BLM 6040 A: Would be maintained by BLM.
- BLM T6025: Would be maintained by BLM.
- UP RR: Would be maintained by ROW holder.
- BLM 5895: Would be maintained by ROW holder.
- CO-020-019-B: Would be maintained by ROW holder.
- CO-020-019-C: Would be maintained by BLM.
- CO-020-019-D: Would be maintained by ROW holder.
- CO-020-019-I: Would be maintained by BLM.
- CO-020-019-H: Would be maintained by ROW holder.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?

Yes No

Explain: Describe evidence (e.g., direct: vehicles or vehicle tracks observed; or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility

that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route). Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes (e.g., trips per day, week, month, season, year, or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases).

- FC Rd 27: Is maintained for regular and continuous use. 30-40 times a week.
- BLM 6040: Is maintained for full size vehicle use 10-20 times a week.
- BLM 6040 A: is maintained for full size vehicle use, 30 times a month.
- BLM T6025: is not maintained for regular use.
- UP RR: is not maintained for regular use.
- BLM 5895: is maintained for full size vehicle use, 2039 times a week.
- CO-020-019-B: is maintained for BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-019-C: is maintained for BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-019-D: is maintained for BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-019-I: is maintained for BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-019-H: is maintained for BLM administrative use.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)? If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why. Also, describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

Yes = Wilderness Inventory Road
 No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explain:

- FC Rd 27: meets the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6040: meets the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6040 A: meets the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- UP RR: meets the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 5895: meets the definition as a wilderness inventory road.

Yes = Wilderness Inventory Road
 No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- BLM T6025: does not meet the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-019-C: does not meet the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-019-D: does not meet the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-019-I: does not meet the definition as a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-019-H: does not meet the definition as a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: May 21, 3013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Monica Mohr/ Rangeland Technician, Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger, Bryce Hoffmann/ Recreation Technician

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-019, Echo Canyon**

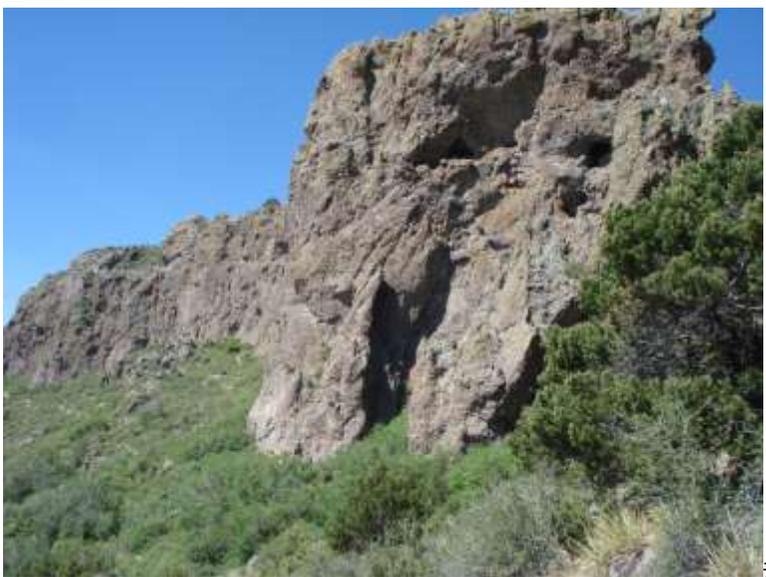
Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
6/26/2013	DSC03219	N	intersection	See map	18 S.	73 W.	1	1
6/26/2013	DSC03221	E	Entrance of Little Hole	See map	18 S.	73 W.	1	2
6/26/2013	DSC03709	N	Rock outcropping	See map	18 S.	73 W	1	3
6/26/2013	DSC03710	W	Earthen dam	See map	18 S.	73 W	12	4
6/26/2013	DSC03223	E	Route to spring	See map	18 S.	72 W.	6	5
6/26/2013	DSC03711	N	Other route to spring	See map	18 S.	72 W.	6	6
6/26/2013	DSC03223	W	Wildlife exclosure	See map	18 S.	73 W	22	7
6/26/2013	DSC03224	S	Roller chop area	See map	18 S.	73 W	22	8
6/26/2013	DSC03225	E	Historic structure	See map	18 S.	73 W	27	9
6/26/2013	DSC0322s	N	Admin Route	See map	18 S.	73 W	1	10
6/26/2013	DSC03228	N	Running spring	See map	18 S.	73 W.	1	11
6/26/2013	DSC03229	S	Red Gate to Summerville Table	See map	18 S.	72 W.	6	12
6/27/2013	IMG_0049	S	cabin	See map	17 S	72 W	34	13
6/27/2013	IMG_0045	NE	Route to old structures	See map	17 S	72 W	34	14
6/27/2013	IMG_0048	S	Admin road, full size vehicle use	See map	17 S	72 W	34	15
6/27/2013	IMG_0047	E	End of loop	See map	17 S	72 W	35	16
6/27/2013	IMG_0046	S	Private property, admin route	See map	18 S	72 W	3	17



#1 intersection of route



#2 Entrance of Little Hole



3 Rock outcropping



4 earthen dam



#5 route to developed spring



#6 Route to another spring



#7 Wildlife enclosure



#8 rollerchop



#9 historic structure



#10closed route



#11 stock tank



#12 Gate, route to Summerville table



#13 Cabin



#14 route to historic structures



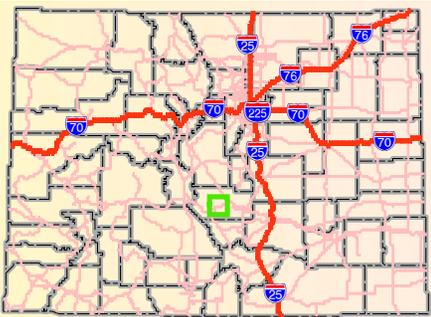
#15 Admin route



#16 private property



#17 end of loop route



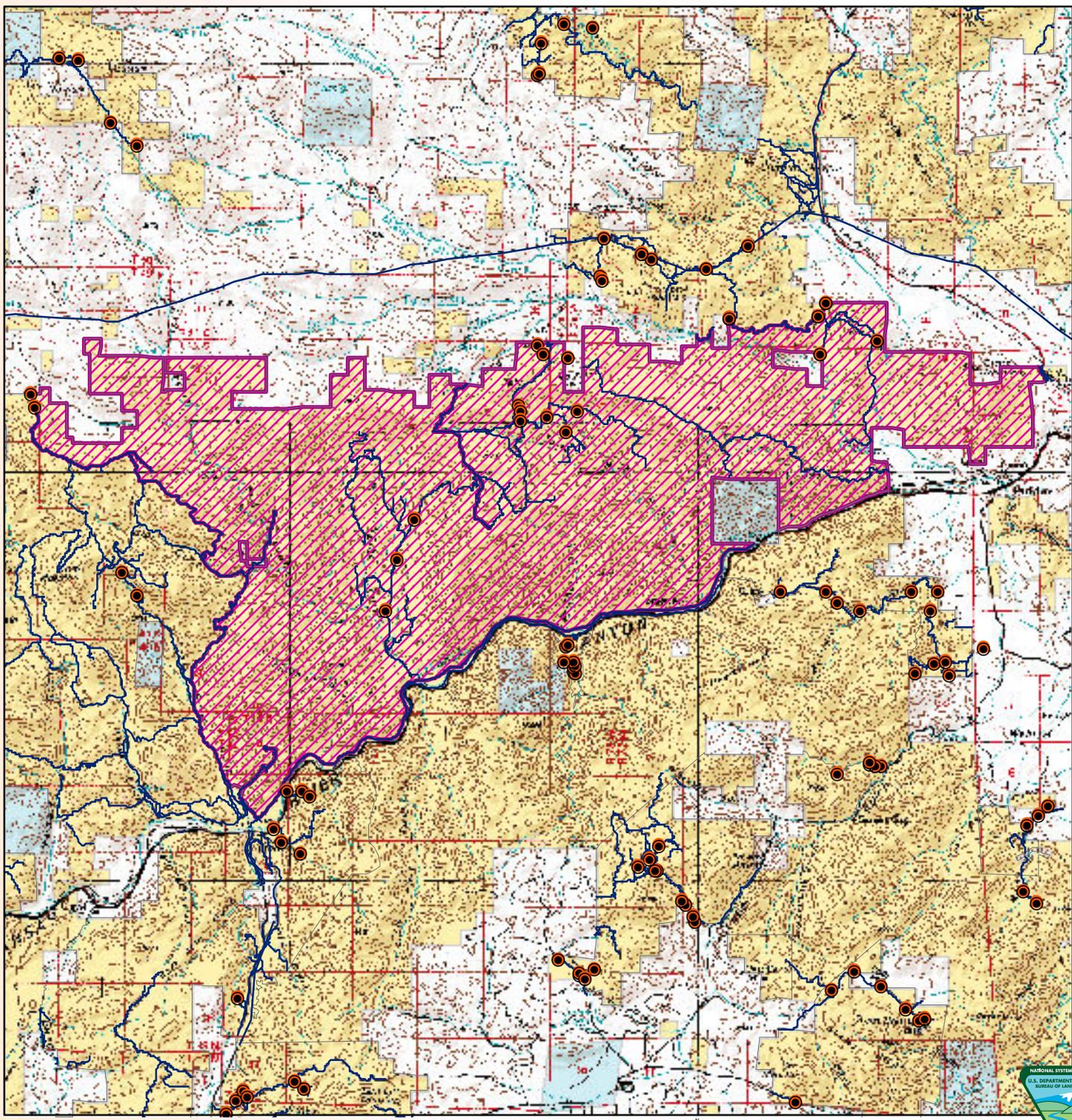
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

- Photo points
- Inventoried Routes
- ▨ Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Parcels
- Counties

Surface Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State



COF-020-019 Acreage: 31918

NOTE TO MAP USERS: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land.

BLM - Royal Gorge Field Office
03/14/2013

