

# 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-020-302 001  
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): BLM 100 K Walsenberg, Blanca Peak  
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): RGFO

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)

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-004, Dry Creek Canyon

Acreage: 38.8 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes  No

Description:

Unit, COF-020-004, also known as Dry Creek Canyon, is smaller than 5,000 acres in size but the lands are contiguous with the United States Forest Service (USFS) Greenhorn Wilderness Area (managed by the Pike/ San Isabel National Forest) meeting size exception 2.a.i.

The unit, COF-020-004 is bounded as follows:

- The USFS Greenhorn Wilderness Area on the north;
- The USFS roadless recommended wilderness to the east;
- The west and south sides of the parcel are boundaries of property lines with other than BLM management;
- No wilderness inventory roads were identified inside the unit.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The Dry Creek Canyon unit, COF-020-004, is located west of the Wet Mountain range. The unit is located at the foothills, directly west of the Greenhorn Mountains. The nearest towns located 10 miles southwest of the unit are, Faracita, Colorado, and Gardner, Colorado (measured to the nearest point). The topography of the unit is made up of steep hillsides, primarily facing southwest. The vegetation consists of a mixed conifer forest including Douglas fir and ponderosa pines.

As a result of the inventory conducted, The Dry Creek Canyon unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature. Minor human impacts exist within the unit such as historic logging. Old stumps can be found throughout the unit. The vegetation around the stumps has grown in and provides adequate screening, to allow for the logging activity to not have a noticeable visual impact to the area. A foot and horse trail can be sparsely followed up the drainage. The trail is not constructed or maintained. A fence line is found within the unit, but no grazing has occurred in the unit for many years. The man-made features found within the unit do not affect the natural characteristics of the unit.

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

Thick vegetation found within the unit allows for solitude to exist. The vegetation provides for adequate audible and visual screening from other visitors within the unit. Opportunities for solitude become outstanding due to the difficulty of accessing the unit, and few visitor use days.

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

Primitive recreation opportunities exist within the unit, no developed facilities and lack of trails and roads allow for a primitive experience. Opportunities become outstanding due to the challenging overland travel opportunities and the vast amount of primitive lands available including the adjacent USFS lands.

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

Yes  No  NA

- The unit is located within the Wet Mountain Lynx Analysis unit although very little lynx habitat is present.
- The unit contains mule deer winter range and elk severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-004, Dry Creek Canyon

Acreage: 38.8 acres

### Results of Analysis:

The Dry Creek unit, COF-020-004 consists of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. A visitor to the area will find outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation due to the thick vegetation and ability to explore the area without disturbance.

The 38.8 acre unit is bounded as follows:

- The USFS Greenhorn Wilderness Area on the north;
- The USFS roadless recommended wilderness to the east;
- The west and south sides of the parcel are boundaries of property lines with other than BLM management;
- It is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
  - o T. 25 S. R. 69 W. Sec 15 NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the area appear natural? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ NA \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ NA \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the area have supplemental value? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ NA \_\_\_\_\_

X 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  
Evaluator: Monica Mohr/ Rangeland Technician  
Evaluator: Matt Rustand/ Wildlife Biologist  
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: May 21, 2013  
Date: May 21, 2013  
Date: September 10, 2013  
Date: July 30, 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 cherry system 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: CO-020-004

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: N/A

#### **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-020-004 Wilderness Characteristics Map      Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics 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:

N/A

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?

N/A

B.2. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unknown or N/A \_\_\_

Explain:

N/A

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Examples (partial list):

Paved \_\_\_ Bladed \_\_\_ Graveled \_\_\_ Roadside Berms \_\_\_ Cut/Fill \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Describe:

N/A

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

Yes \_\_\_ If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools \_\_\_ by Machine \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

Examples (partial list):

Culverts \_\_\_ Built Stream Crossings \_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_ Drainage \_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_

Describe:

N/A

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 X

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:

N/A

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:

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).

N/A

#### 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:

No routes found within the unit.

Evaluator: Janine Prout / Recreation Technician

Date: May 21, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): **Janine Prout, Recreation Technician**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-004**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Frame #</b>	<b>Camera Direction</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>GPS/UTM Location</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>
6/18	DSC03662	E	Fence line	See map and shapefile	T. 25 S.	R. 69 W.	15	1
6/18	DSC03663	E	Typical view of route	See map and shapefile	T. 25 S.	R. 69 W.	15	2
6/18	DSC03664	NE	Fence line, not maintained	See map and shapefile	T. 25 S.	R. 69 W.	15	3
6/18	DSC03665	SE	Typical view within unit	See map and shapefile	T. 25 S.	R. 69 W.	15	4



#1



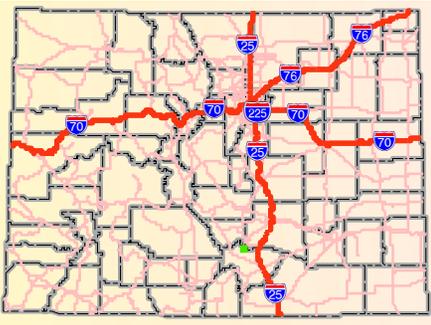
#2



#3



#4



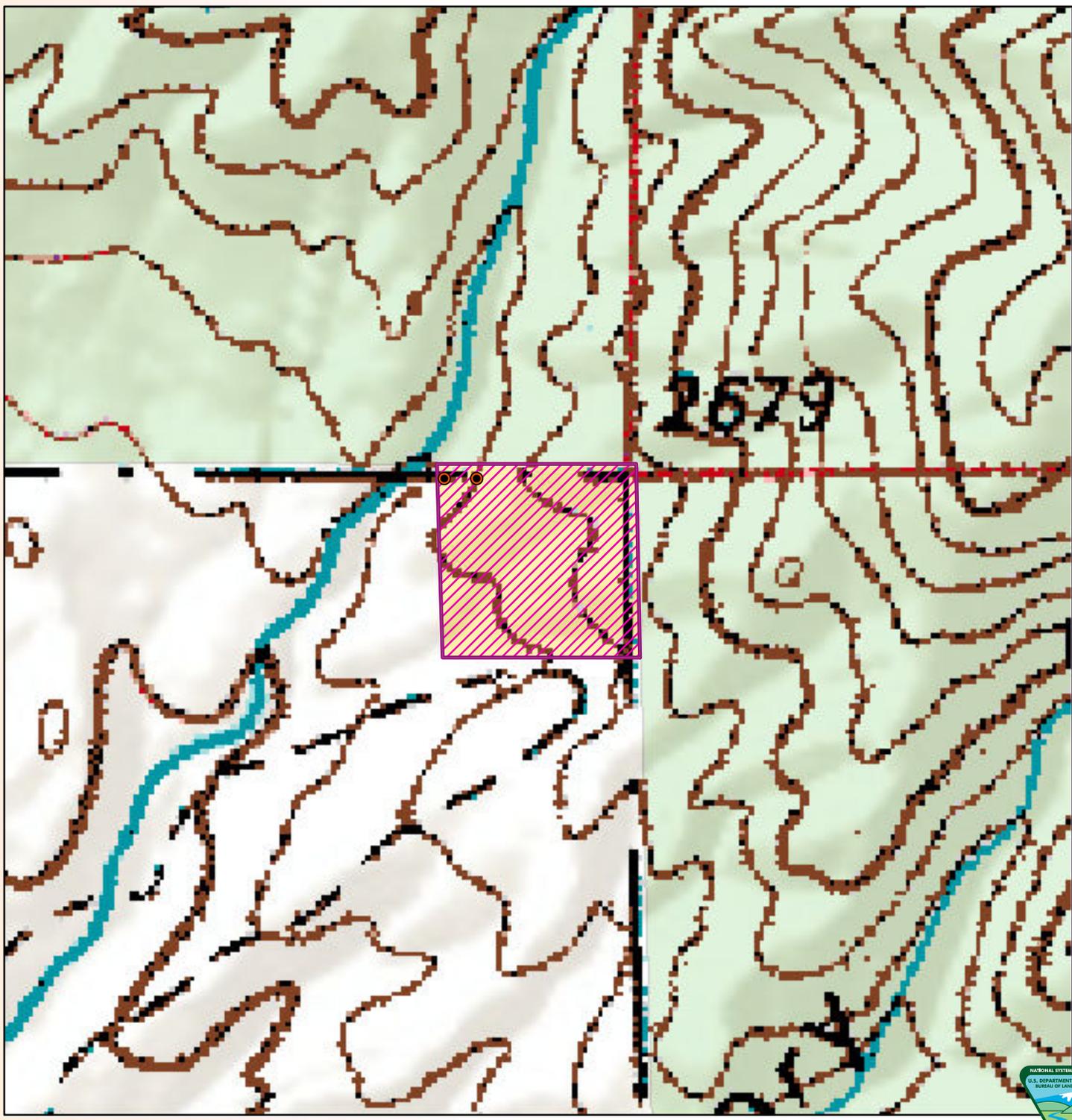
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

**Surface Land Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- US Forest Service



**COF-020-004**      Acreage: 38.8

**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

