

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): 331_001
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____
 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)

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-038, Pole Gulch

Acreage: 1,600.3 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The land is smaller than 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the United State Forest Service (USFS) roadless recommended wilderness area (managed by the Pike/ San Isabel USFS) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north, west, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The eastern edge is bounded by Fremont CR 40; this road meets the definition of a wilderness inventory road as defined by FLPMA (94-1163).

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, COF-020-038, Pole Gulch, is located less than 1 mile south of Coaldale, Colorado. It is located 33 miles west of Cañon City, Colorado and 23 miles east of Salida, Colorado (driving miles).

The unit is comprised of mountainous terrain, located at the foothills of the Sangre de Christo Mountain Range. Prominent features within the unit are Battle Mountain, Pole Gulch and Cottonwood drainage. Elevation varies within the unit from 6,900 feet in the northern part of the unit to 8,900 feet near Battle Mountain (see map). The vegetation consists of piñon-juniper in the lower elevations and ponderosa pine and mixed conifers can be found in the higher reaches.

Prominent man-made features within the unit affect the overall naturalness of the lands. The man made features include mechanically constructed routes. It is assumed these routes were originally built for timber harvest, range use, and prospecting. The routes are currently being used by motorized vehicles for range use, mining activity, and BLM administrative routes. The constructed nature of the routes has a noticeable imprint on the landscape.

Other man made features include two mine sites. These sites are significant in size, and have evidence of recent activity. The mines are visible throughout many locations throughout the unit, and affect the overall naturalness to the unit.

Recently, in 2010, the BLM implemented vegetation treatments in the area, using hand thinning and mechanized equipment. The vegetation treatments are noticeable in a few locations, with visible brush piles and tree stumps. After a few more years, the treatments will no longer have a visual impact on the naturalness of the land.

The impact of man-made features on the landscape is noticeable and affects the naturalness to the unit; therefore, the unit does not have wilderness characteristics.

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

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?

Yes X No ___ NA ___

- The unit is located within the Sanges Lynx Analysis unit.
- The unit is located within mule deer severe winter range and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-038, Pole Gulch

Acreage: 1,600.3

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 1,600.3 acre unit does not consist of naturalness due to significant imprints of man found throughout the unit. For this reason, the unit does not have wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north, west, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The eastern edge is bounded by Fremont CR 40; this road meets the definition of a wilderness inventory road.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 27 S. R. 71 W. Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, and 34
 - o T. 27 S. R. 72 W. Section 12 and 24

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

Check one:

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

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: May 30, 2013

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 6, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: July 30, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 11, 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-020-038, Pole Gulch
Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-038-A and Fremont CR 40

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-020-038, Pole Gulch Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics and routes and 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 (if any) of Route: (Examples: rangeland/livestock improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), mine site, concentrated use site (camp site), recreation, utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

- The current purpose of route, CO-020-038-A is administrative access for the BLM and USFS.
- The current purpose for Fremont CR 40 is public and private access.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes X No X Unknown _____

Fremont CR 40 has a ROW associated with the route

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

Non-exclusive easement, serial # COC 44142

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

Yes X No _____ Unknown or N/A _____

Explain:

- The Fremont CR 40 is currently maintained and used by Fremont County, as stated by the ROW.
- Route, CO-020-038-A does not have a ROW.

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 _____

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:

- It is assumed that the route, CO-020-038-A was originally constructed to access timber, range, and a homestead, most likely with a bull dozer.
- Fremont CR 40 has been mechanically constructed.

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:

- Route, CO-020-038-A has signs of recent mechanical improvements, recently hand tools were used to clear trees from the route.
- Fremont CR 40 has evidence of mechanical 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:

- Route CO-020-037-A was maintained by use of hand tools recently.
- Fremont CR 40 has 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:

- Fremont CR 40 would be improved.
- CO-020-038-A would be improved if became impassable.

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).

- Fremont CR 40 is improved for regular use
- CO-020-038-A is not improved for regular 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 X = Wilderness Inventory Road

Inventory revealed that route Fremont CR 40 is a wilderness inventory road.

No X = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Route, CO-020-037-A is not a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/Recreation Technician

Date: May 30, 2013

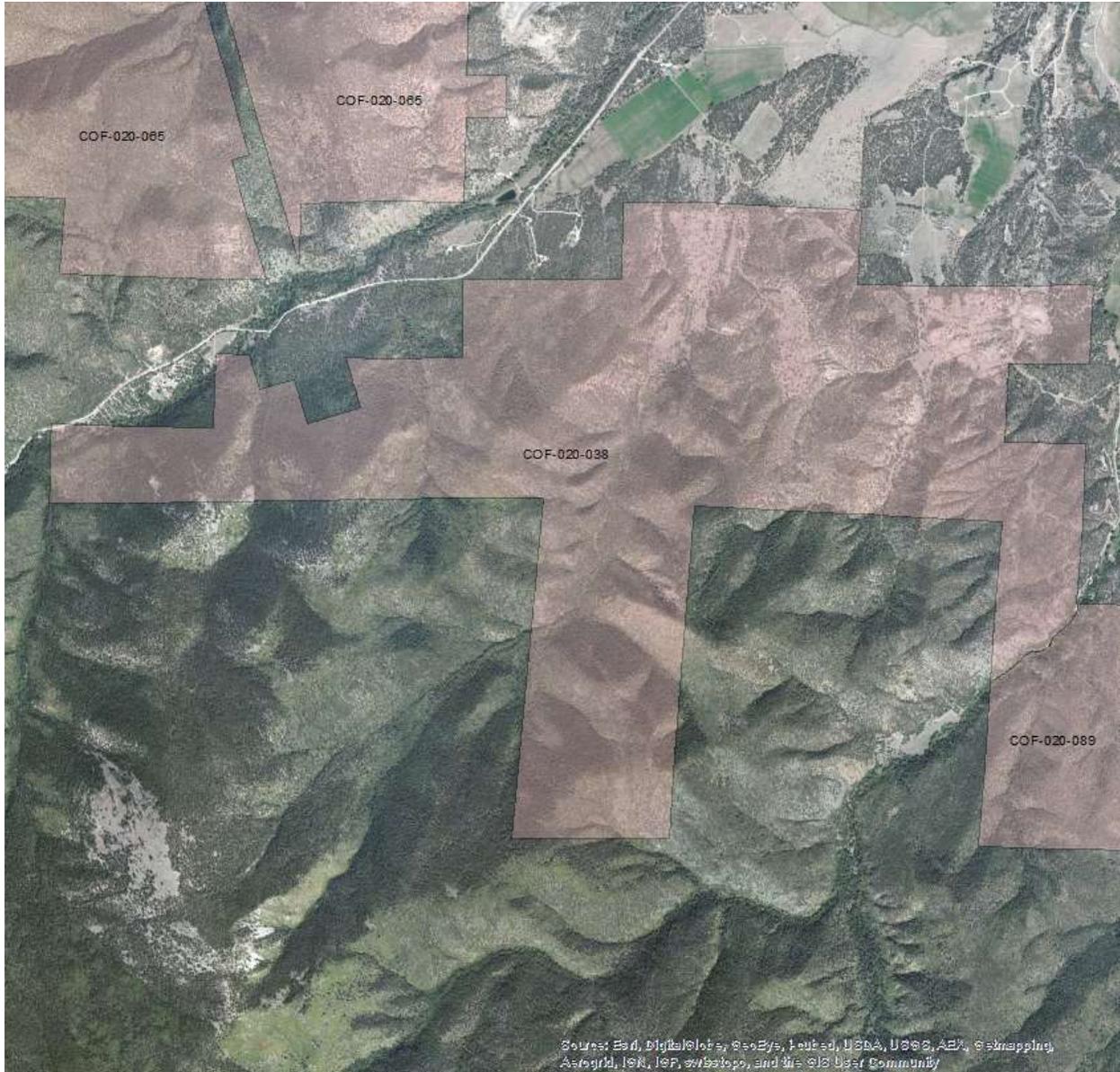
PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-038, Pole Gulch**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town -ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #

None provided



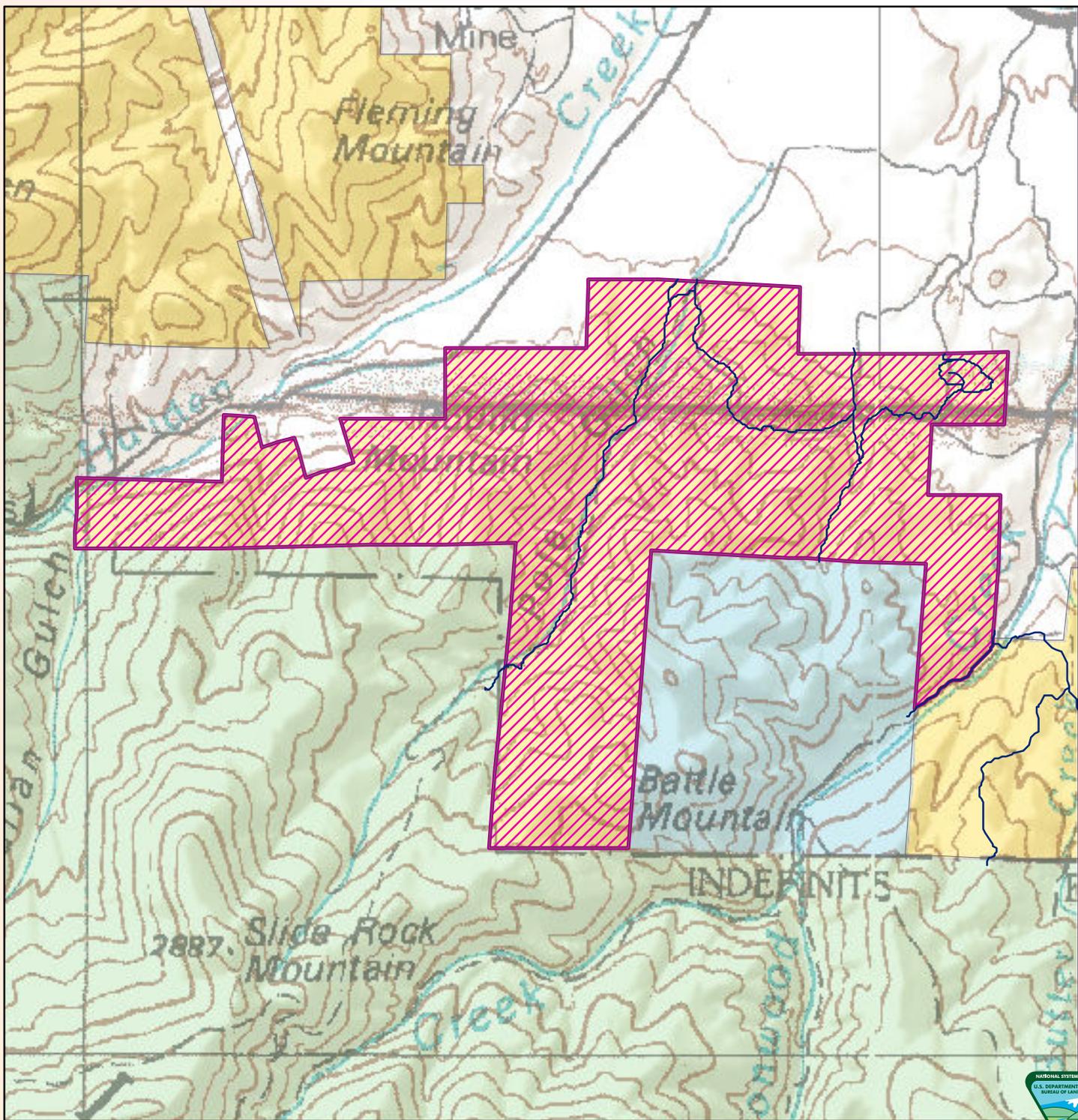
Imagery provided by Esri Arc Map, photo taken: Sept 9, 2010



Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

- Inventoried Routes
 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Parcels
 - Counties
- Surface Land Ownership*
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Private
 - State
 - US Forest Service



COF-020-038 Acreage: 1600.3

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

