

# 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): 324 001  
 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-020-030

Acreage: 147.3

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes  No

Description:

The land is smaller than 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the BLM Lower Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office BLM) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The west edge is bounded by BLM Lower Grape Creek WSA;
- The north, south, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- No wilderness inventory roads were identified within the unit.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

Description:

The unit, COF-020-030, is located west of Cañon City, Colorado, less than 15 miles (driving miles). It is approximately one mile from Cañon City's Temple Canyon Park and Royal Gorge Park. The unit is located north east of prominent Horseshoe Peak.

The topography of the unit is rocky foot hills, with rolling contours. Terrain features include an unknown drainage in the northwestern portion of the unit and a long ridge off of Horseshoe Mountain in the central part of the unit. The vegetation is mostly comprised of a piñon-juniper forest. On the northwest portion of the unit, the vegetation consists of piedmont grasslands.

The human uses in the area are mainly ranching. Due to the steep gradient of terrain, and thick vegetation, no major grazing disturbance was observed. A route, CO-020-031-A was found in the northeastern corner. The route did not meet the criteria for a wilderness inventory road, and does not take away from the overall naturalness to the area.

As a result of the inventory conducted, the unit, COF-020-030, generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature. The human impacts within the area are minimal and are substantially unnoticeable. The terrain appears to have apparent naturalness due to lack of landscape disturbances, thick vegetation cover, and steep gradient.

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

Description:

Unit COF-020-030 is mostly surrounded by private property. Public access is difficult and challenging, however, if a person does make the effort to visit this unit, they would find excellent opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found due to screening by terrain features and thick vegetation.

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

Description:

The unit, COF-020-030, does offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is contiguous with the Bureau of Land Management Lower Grape Creek WSA, which allows access to a great expanse of wild country. The area offers unconfined recreation in hiking, wildlife viewing, dispersed camping, and hunting. There are no facilities located in the unit. The average well-equipped visitor may be compelled to travel over challenging terrain and travel far distances to make this parcel outstanding for recreational opportunities.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes  No  NA

Description:

- This unit is within the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) Potential Conservation Area (PCA) site, Grape Creek. The Grape Creek site has been identified as a B2 (very high biodiversity significance) site.
- The unit is within the BLM's Grape Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) identified in the Royal Gorge Field Office Resource Management Plan (1995).
- The unit is located in elk winter range and mule deer severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-030

Acreage: 147.3

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the unit's 147.3 acres consists of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. As a result of no motorized routes in the area, it is primarily unaffected by humans. An average visitor to the area will find outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation due to the lack of established facilities, mountainous terrain, thick vegetation, and opportunities to explore primitive lands.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The west edge is bounded by BLM Lower Grape Creek WSA;
- The north, south, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- It is found in parts of the section listed in the following township;
  - o T. 19 S. R. 71 W. Sec. 9.

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

- 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

Date: May 31, 2013

Evaluator: John Lamman/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 11, 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-020-030

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: COF-020-030-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-020-030, Wilderness Characteristics Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics and routes 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:

Route CO-020-030-A is a route used for range purposes.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

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

The route does not have a ROW.

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

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

Explain:

Route, Co-020-030-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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Examples (partial list):

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

Describe:

User created route

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

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

No X

Examples (partial list):

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

Describe:

No improvements to route were noticed during inventory

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 X

Explain:

No recent maintenance was observed on the route.

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 X

Explain:

Route would not be maintained by BLM.

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

Yes \_\_\_ No X

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.

No regular and continuous use was observed on the route. The estimated use is 10-15 times monthly.

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:

Route CO-020-030-A did not meet the criteria to be a wilderness inventoried road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: 6/14/2013

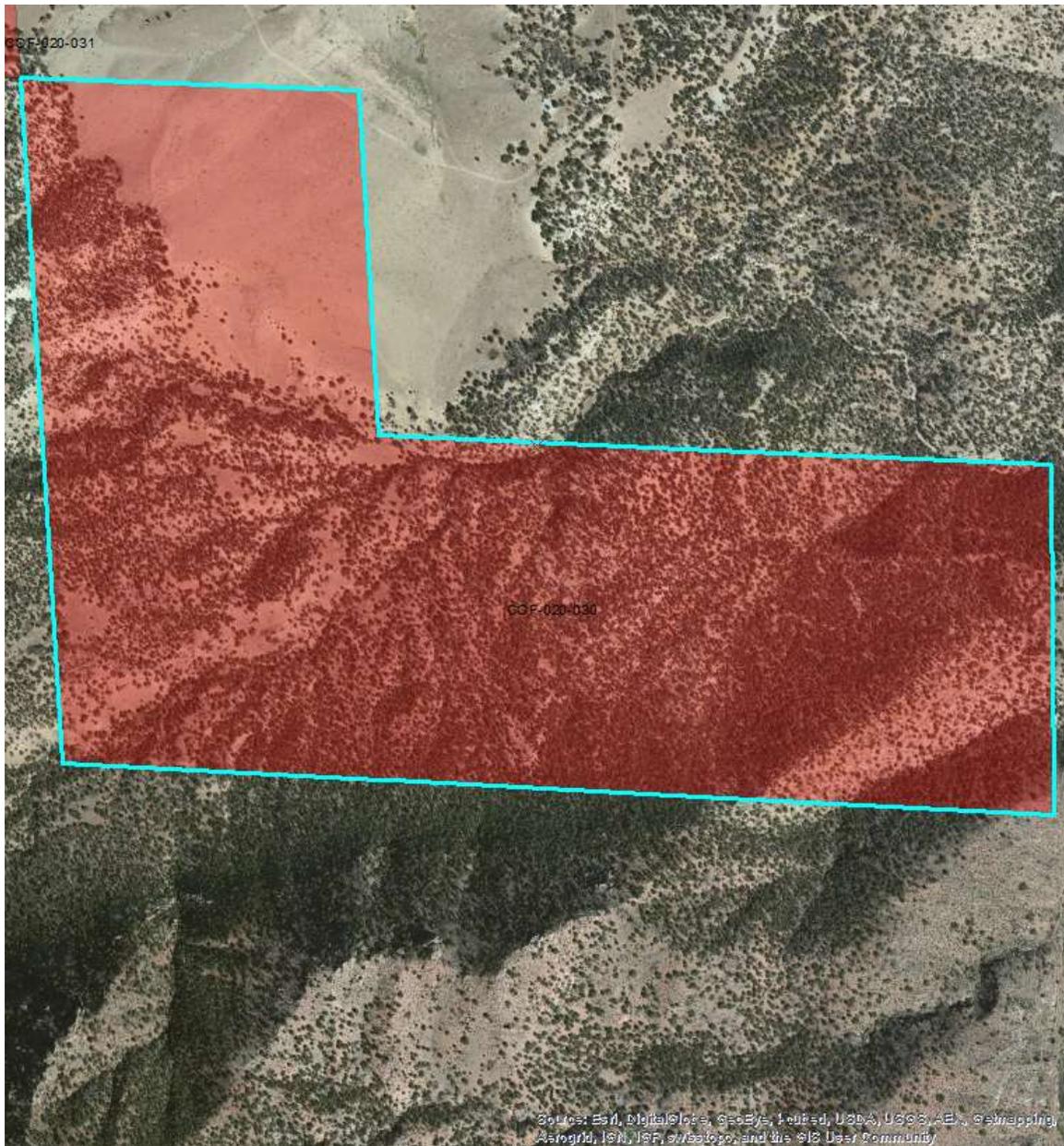
## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

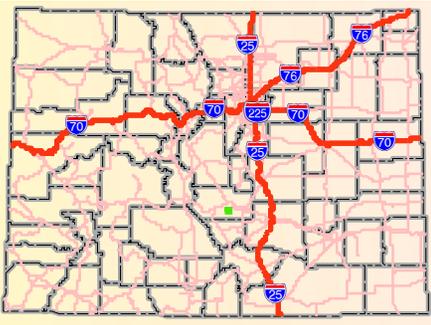
Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-030**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Frame #</b>	<b>Camera Direc.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>GPS/UTM Location</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>

**No photos documented**



**Imagery provided by Esri Arc Map, photo taken Sept. 11, 2010**



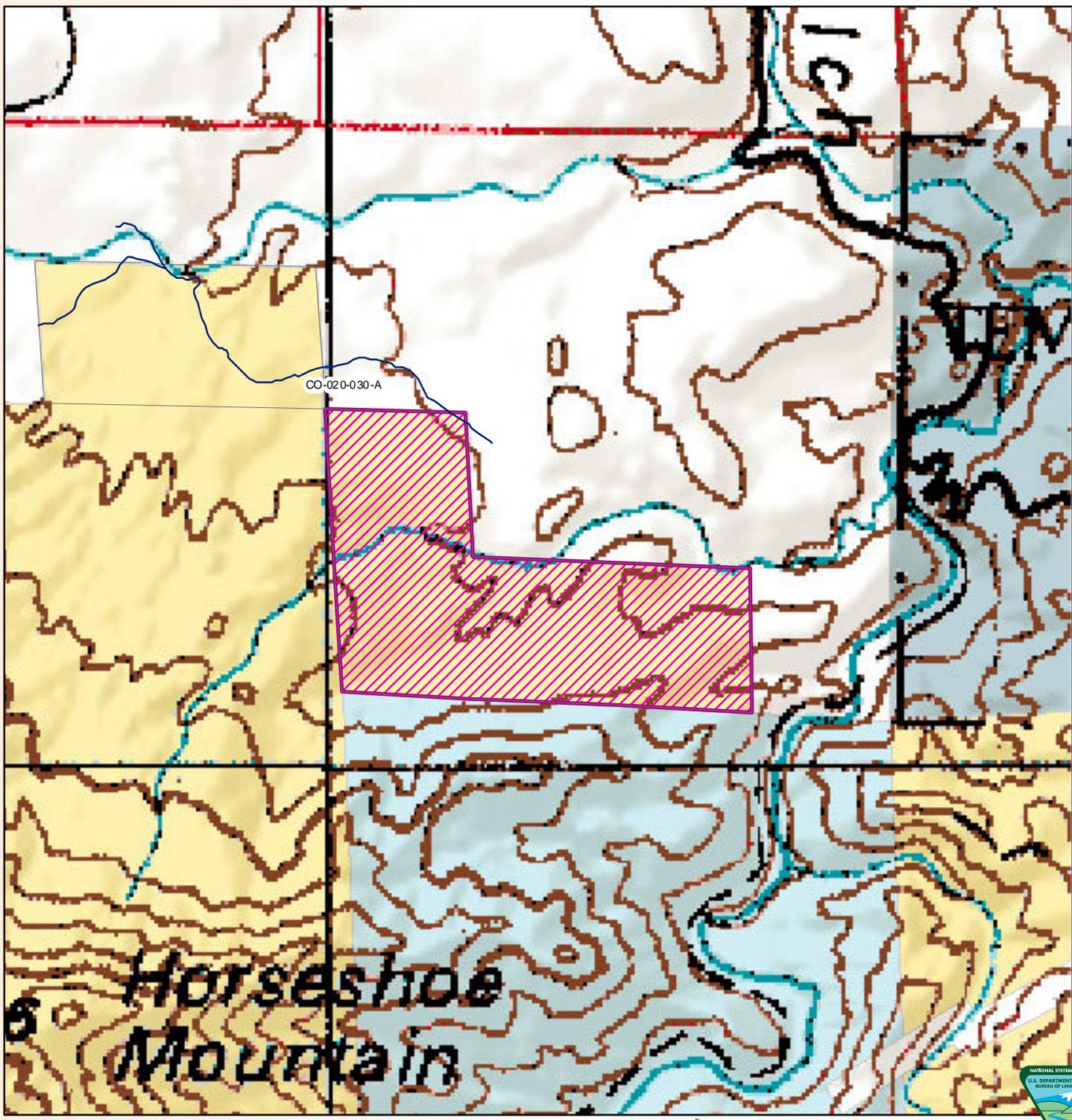
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

**Surface Land Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- State, County, City; Areas



**COF-020-030**      Acreage: 147.3

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

