

# 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: 1980 Wilderness Study Report  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-020-050-10  
 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-050-010	Y	N	Y	Y	N

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-071, Bear Mountain

Acreage: 7,193.2 acres

Subunits: Unique ID: CO-020-071-A

Acreage: 2,526.9 acres

Unique ID: CO-020-071-B

Acreage: 3,871.3 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes  No

Unit, CO-020-071, Bear Mountain, is 7,193.2 acres in size; it meets the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit, COF-020-071, Bear Mountain, is bounded as follows:

- The western edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM 6045;
- The southwestern and northwestern edges are modified due to excessive disturbance, The edge is bounded by closed routes, CO-020-071-C & E (see map)
- The south edge is defined by state land, and wilderness inventory road, BLM 6020;
- The eastern edge is bounded by excessive disturbance, the boundary follows BLM T6035A, T 6035B, T6040A, BLM 6040, and BLM 6040A.
- The north and northwest boundary is defined by property lines other than BLM management.

Unit CO-071-A and B are less than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size criteria and will be excluded for the remaining inventory. Unit CO-020-071 A and B do not have wilderness characteristics.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The Bear Mountain unit, COF-020-071, is located less than 5 miles northeast of Cotopaxi, Colorado. The unit is located less than 25 miles east of Salida, Colorado and less than 35 miles west of Canon City, Colorado (measured to the nearest point). The unit consists of 7,193.2 acres of public lands. There is a 159.3 acre State Land inholding located at T. 49 N. 12 E. Sec. 16 and 21; the inholding lands will not be included in the inventory.

The topography of the unit is steep and rocky. Elevation of the unit ranges from 6,700 feet to 8,500 feet with the primary vegetation being piñon/ juniper, ponderosa pine and mixed conifers. Cottonwoods can be found along the riparian areas. The understory vegetation is primarily rabbit brush, cacti, grasses, and sage brush. Bear Mountain is a

prominent peak in the area, being mostly comprised of slab granite face. Long Gulch is another prominent feature within the unit, travelling north to south.

The unit's boundaries were altered on the western edge to exclude significant disturbances. The boundary is defined by the ways, BLM 6045 and route, CO-020-071-C and D.

The remaining lands appear to have primarily been affected by forces of nature. Minimal imprints of man do exist within the unit, but the accumulative affects do not affect the naturalness.

The man-made features that exist on the ground include routes, CO-020-071-F and G (see map). The routes have been user created by off-highway vehicles (OHVs). The routes travel from Bear Mountain area to Texas Creek, via Long Gulch. The routes were closed in the Royal Gorge Field Office, Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006). The routes have not had use or maintenance for some time, and the riparian vegetation along Longs gulch is quickly growing in, allowing for the route to become unnoticeable.

Other man-made features within the unit include physical vegetation treatment projects, such as roller chopping and cut-stump removal. The roller chopping treatment is located at the end of BLM 6045. The area has recovered, and the disturbance does not impact the visual landscape of the unit. An average visitor would not be able to tell that roller chopping occurred in the area. The cut stump removal project is located along Long Gulch, to remove salt cedar from the riparian area. The vegetation around the project area has recovered and the disturbance has mostly become unnoticeable to the average visitor.

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

Outstanding opportunities exist for solitude within the unit primarily due to steep topography in combination with drainages throughout the unit. Due to the lack of motorized travel within the unit, visitor use is limited to foot or horse. The combination of very few visitor days, and excellent screening found within the landscape, outstanding opportunities exist.

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

Recreational opportunities within the unit include hiking, backpacking, climbing horseback riding, hunting, and snowshoeing. No developed facilities exist within the unit, and travel is limited to not motorized use. Many high vantage points exist within the unit, making for excellent opportunities for sightseeing and photography. Unique rock formations and outcroppings provide for challenging overland travel.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes  No  NA

- The unit contains bighorn sheep production area, elk winter range, and mule deer severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique identifier: COF-020-071, Bear Mountain

Acreage: 7,193.2 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 7,193.2 acre unit possesses wilderness characteristics. The unit appears to have primarily been affected by forces of nature. The topography and limited motorized travel allows for outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation to exist.

The subunits, CO-020-071-A and B were excluded due to excessive disturbance and did not have wilderness characteristics. The combined acreage totaled 6,398.2 acres.

The unit, COF-020-071, Bear Mountain, is bounded as follows:

- The western edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM 6045;
- The southwestern and northwestern edges are modified due to excessive disturbance, The edge is bounded by closed routes, CO-020-071-C and E (see map)
- The south edge is defined by state land, and wilderness inventory road, BLM 6020;
- The eastern edge is bounded by excessive disturbance, the boundary follows BLM T6035A, T 6035B, T6040A, BLM 6040, and BLM 6040A.
- The north and northwest boundary is defined by property lines other than BLM management.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
  - o T. 48 N. R. 12 E. Sections: 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15
  - o T. 49 N. R. 12 E. Sections: 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34,

- 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 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: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: July 27, 2013

Evaluator: Ken Reed/ Forrester

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: August 28, 2013

Date: Sept. 4, 2013

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-020-071, Bear Mountain Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: BLM 6045, BLM 6020, BLM 6040, BLM 6040A,

#### **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-020-069, Bills Creek Wilderness Inventory 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 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:

BLM 6045: Route is currently used for recreation; it is open to full size vehicle use in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

BLM 6020: Route is currently used for access into inholdings; it is open to full size vehicle use in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

BLM 6040: Route is currently used for recreation; it is open to full size vehicle use in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

BLM 6040A: Route is currently used for recreation; it is open to full size vehicle use in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

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?

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

Yes  No  Unknown or N/A

Explain:

BLM 6020: Has a ROW associated with this route, serial # COC 61253. It is currently still in use.

BLM 6040, BLM 6040A, BLM 6045: do not have ROWs associated with them.

### 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:

BLM 6045: Evidence of mechanical construction, possibly bladed.  
BLM 6020: Evidence of mechanical construction; possibly bladed and bull dozer use.  
BLM 6040: Evidence of mechanical construction, cut/fill road.  
BLM 6040A: evidence of mechanical construction, possibly bladed.

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:

- BLM 6045, no recent improvements observed.
- BLM 6020: improvements such as creating drainage with the route.
- BLM 6040: Improvements such as creating drainage for the route.
- BLM 6040A: no recent improvements observed.

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:

BLM 6045: route on BLM maintenance schedule to maintain for full size vehicle use.  
BLM 6020: ROW holder and BLM repair route for regular and continuous use.  
BLM 6040: route on BLM maintenance schedule to maintain for full size vehicle use.  
BLM 6040A: route on BLM maintenance schedule to maintain for full size vehicle use.

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:

BLM 6045: Yes, BLM would maintain route if became impassable.  
BLM 6020: Yes, BLM would maintain route if became impassable.  
BLM 6040: Yes, BLM would maintain route if became impassable.  
BLM 6040A: Yes, BLM would maintain route if became impassable.

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

BLM 6045: Designated open on Arkansas River Travel Management Plan, on BLM maintenance schedule.

BLM 6020: Designated open on Arkansas River Travel Management Plan, on BLM maintenance schedule, ROW access.

BLM 6040: Designated open on Arkansas River Travel Management Plan, on BLM maintenance schedule.

BLM 6040A: Designated open on Arkansas River Travel Management Plan, on BLM maintenance schedule.

#### 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  
No   = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explain:

- BLM 6045 is a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6020 is a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6040 is a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6040A is a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

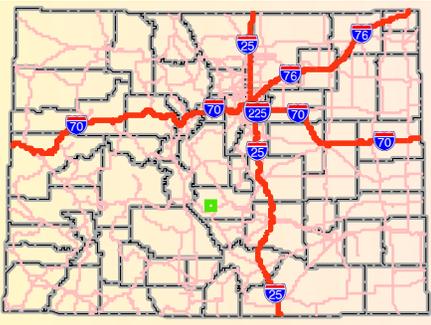
Date: August 27, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-071, Bear Mountain**

<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>



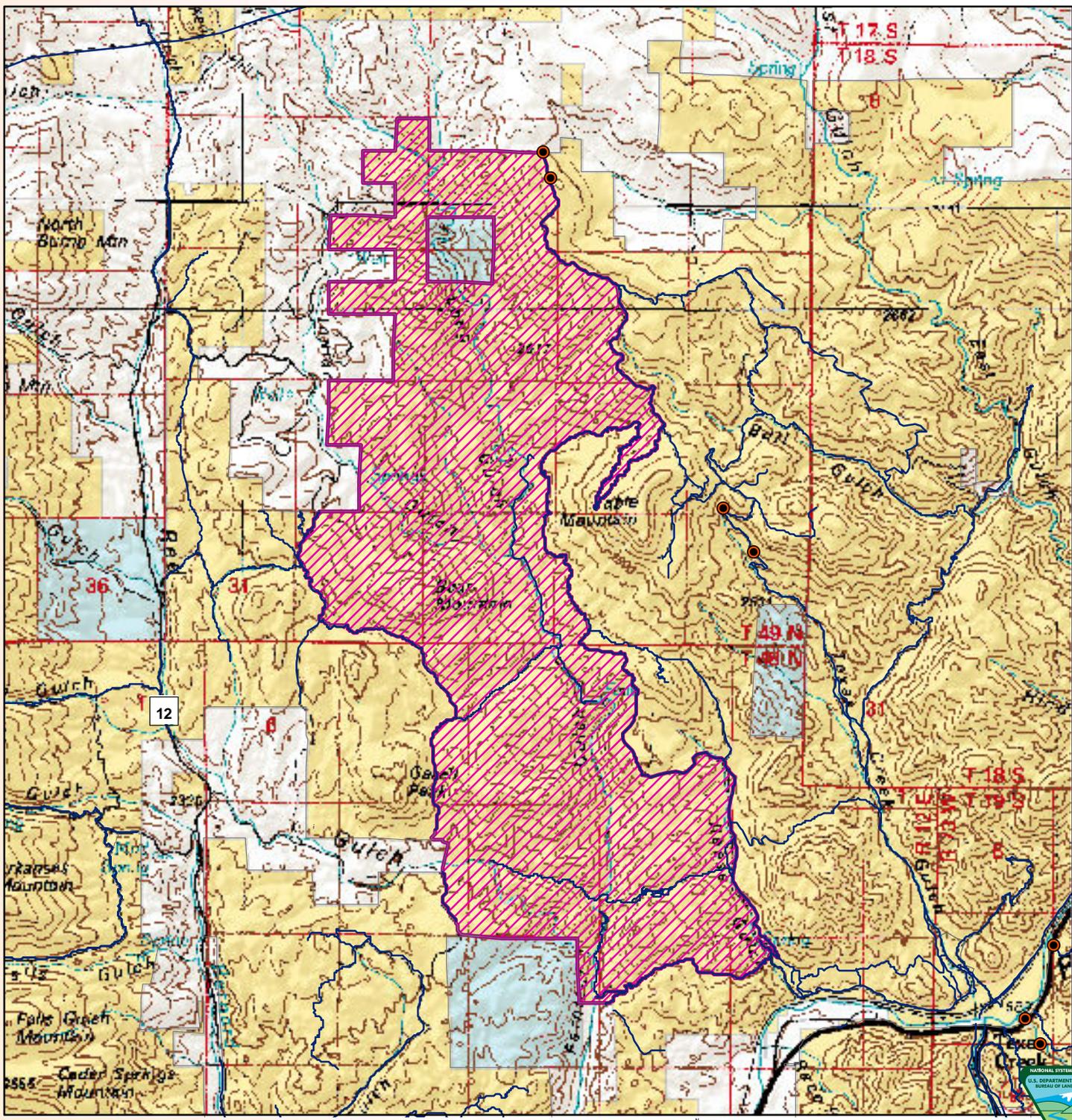
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

**Surface Land Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State



**COF-020-071**

Acreage: 7193.2

**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

