

# 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): 003-005  
 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-020-069, Bills Creek

Acreage: 1,011.0 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes  No

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

The unit, COF-020-069, is bounded as follows:

- The western edge is defined by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The north, east, and south edges are bounded by property line other than BLM management;
- The north eastern corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, CO-020-069-A;
- The southeastern edge is defined by wilderness inventory road BLM 5859, Jack Hall Road.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The Bills Creek unit, COF-020-069, is located less than 35 miles northwest of Cañon City, Colorado (measured to the nearest point). The unit is located less than 20 miles north of Cotopaxi, Colorado and northeast of Salida, Colorado, less than 15 miles (measured to the nearest point). The unit is located northeast of Badger Creek and north of Jack Hall Mountain. The topography of the unit is mountainous, steep, with rocky hillsides and a few open parks. Unique rock formations are found in the northwest corner of the unit. The elevation ranges from 9,100 feet near the East Fork of Badger Creek to 10, 200 near the southwest corner of the unit. The vegetation found within the unit includes ponderosa pine, Engelmann Spruce, Douglas Fir, and aspen.

The man-made features that exist on the ground include a route, CO-020-069-B. It is assumed the route was built for a stewardship project that occurred on the lands in the 1980's. Evidence of mechanical cut/fill construction is present along the hillsides. The routes lead to the project area, where more mechanically constructed routes are visible, but closed after the project was completed. The stewardship project disturbances still exist, visible stumps, clearings, and routes can be found throughout the project area.

On the south east corner of the unit, a couple of off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes exist (CO-020-069-C and D). The routes were originally constructed for timber sales, and

access into private inholdings. The routes are only accessed and used by private landowners. CO-020-069-D has been in disuse for some time, and fallen trees have covered the route. A metal gate at the top of the route is the only evidence of a route in that area. CO-020-069-C is visible and does have regular OHV use.

The accumulative impacts of the man-made features within the unit affect the natural character of the overall unit. The unit does not possess 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 contains elk production area and elk and mule deer winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-069, Bills Creek

Acreage: 1,011.0 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 1,011.0 acre unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. The accumulative impact of the man-made feature found within the unit affect the natural character to the unit.

The unit, COF-020-069, is bounded as follows:

- The western edge is defined by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The north, east, and south edges are bounded by property line other than BLM management;
- The north eastern corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, CO-020-069-A
- The southeastern edge is defined by wilderness inventory road BLM 5859, Jack Hall Road.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
  - o T. 50. N. R. 11 E. Sections: 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29

- 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

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 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 30, 2013

Evaluator: Ken Reed/ Forrester

Date: August 28, 2013

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 9, 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-020-069, Bills Creek  
Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: BLM 5859, CO-020-069-A-D

#### **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 and photopoints 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 5859: Is currently used to access a ranch inholding.

CO-020-069-A: is currently used to access a ranch inholding.

CO-020-069-B: possibly used for BLM administrative access.

CO-020-069-C: recreation use, during hunting season, and access for range use.

CO-020-039-D: no current use, historically used to access ranch inholding.

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 5859 has a ROW that is currently being used, it is serial # C44106 15.
- CO-020-069-A has a ROW associated with it, and is in current use. The serial # is COC 55896.
- CO-020-069-B-D does not have ROW 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 5859: Has been mechanically constructed, by use of blade and dozer.

- CO-020-069-A: Has been mechanically constructed by use of blade.
- CO-020-069-B: Has evidence of mechanical construction by cut/fill.
- CO-020-069-C: Has no evidence of mechanical construction.
- CO-020-039-D: Has no evidence of mechanical construction.

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 5859: Has been mechanically improved, by use of blade and dozer.
- CO-020-069-A: Has been mechanically improved by use of blade.
- CO-020-069-B: Has evidence no evidence of mechanical improvements.
- CO-020-069-C: Has evidence no evidence of mechanical improvements.
- CO-020-039-D: Has evidence no 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:

- BLM 5859: is maintained for regular and continuous use.
- CO-020-069-A: is maintained for regular and continuous 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 5859: BLM would maintain if became impassable.
- CO-020-069-A: BLM would maintain 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).

- BLM 5859: has regular and continuous use, 20-30 times a month.
- CO-020-069-A: has regular and continuous use, 20-30 times a month

#### 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

Explain:

- BLM 5859: is a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-069-A: is a wilderness inventory road.

No  = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- CO-020-069-B: Does not meet the wilderness inventory road criteria.
- CO-020-069-C: Does not meet the wilderness inventory road criteria.
- CO-020-039-D: Does not meet the wilderness inventory road criteria.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Assistant

Date: August 27, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

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

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-069, Bills Creek**

<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>
8/28/2012	DSC03422	Beginning of route	S	See Map				1
8/28/2012	DSC03425	Road condition	N	See Map				2
8/28/2012	DSC03426	Route condition	SE	See Map				3



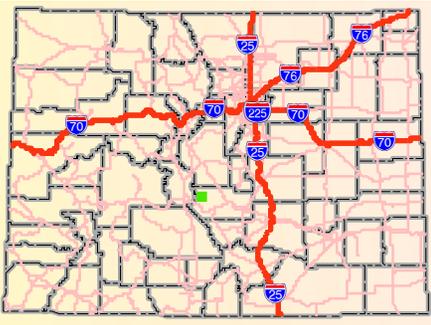
#1



#2



#3



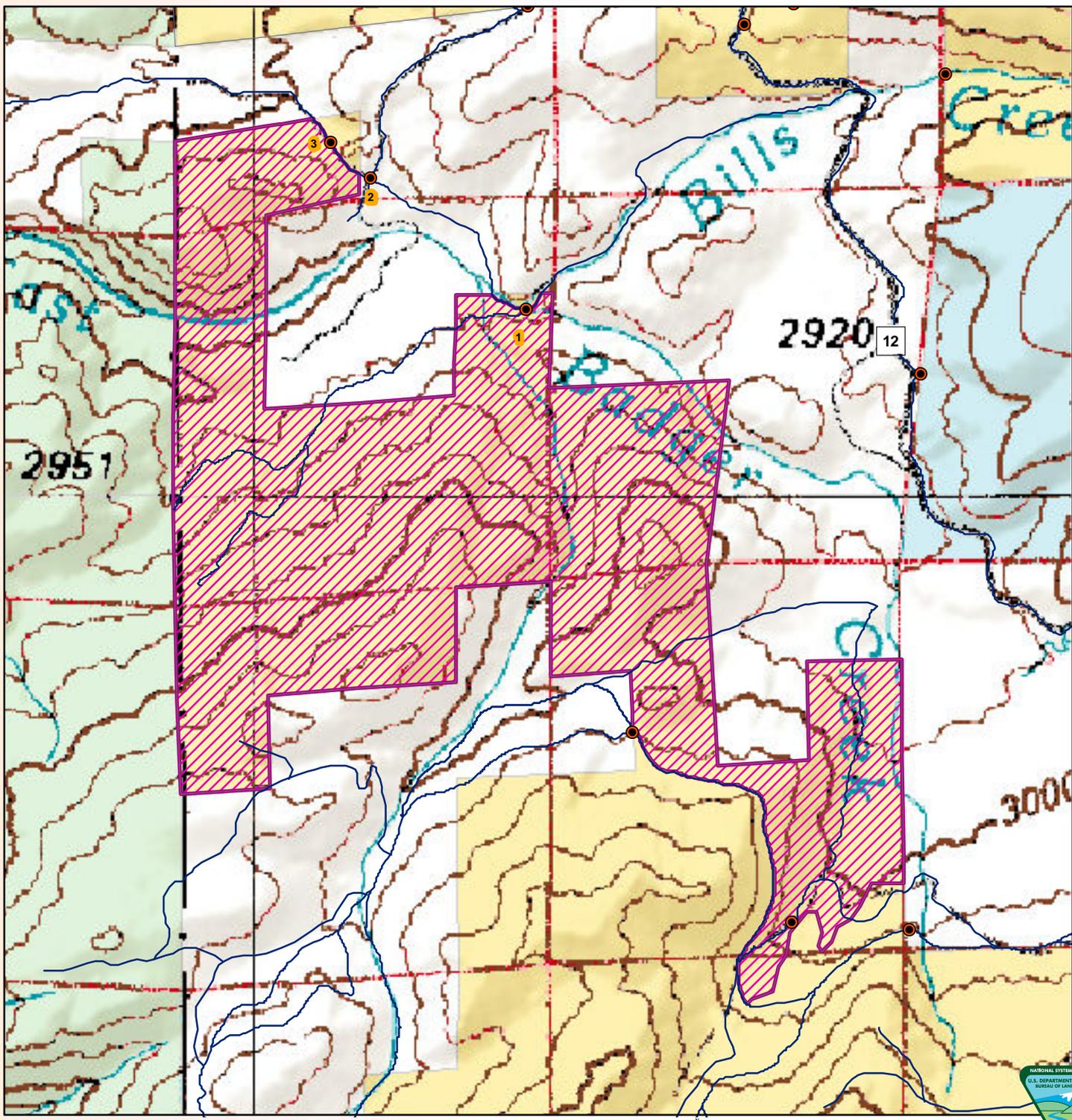
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

*Surface Land Ownership*

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service



**COF-020-069**      Acreage:    1011

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 lands records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land.

BLM - Royal Gorge Field Office  
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