

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): _____
 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)
CO-050-014	Y	N	N	N	N

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-016, Marsh Gulch

Acreeage: 478.9 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The unit 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 size exception 2.a.i.

The unit bounded as follows:

- The west, south and east edges are bounded by the Lower Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA);
- The north is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- No wilderness inventoried roads documented within the unit.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The Marsh Gulch unit, COF-020-016 is located less than 15 miles west of Cañon City, Colorado. It is one mile from Temple Canyon Park and Royal Gorge Park. A private inholding is within the unit, the inholding lands will not be included in the inventory. The unit contains 478.9 acres of public lands.

The topography of the unit consists of steep, rocky terrain. Marsh Gulch, located within the unit, is narrow with rock outcroppings along the canyon walls. The primary vegetation is piñon/juniper forest and cottonwood trees in the Marsh Gulch drainage.

A few minor human impacts exist on the ground. The parcel consists of routes to access range improvements including, fences, gates, springs, stock tanks, and corals. This range activity is mostly concentrated along the route CO-020-016-A (see map) that follows the drainage of Marsh Gulch. The route is actively used for range access, for diving cattle, which is accomplished on horseback. The trail is clearly visible from certain vantage points, but does not dominate the scene, and does not detract from the overall naturalness of the unit.

Mining activity has occurred within the unit, and remnants include old routes and a prospecting pit. The mining activity is isolated on a ridge, above the gulch. The disturbance is only visible in the higher elevations of the unit. The disturbance is not

visible along the gulch, or in most of the unit; therefore, the mining activity within the area does not affect the natural character of the unit.

As a result of the inventory conducted, The Marsh Gulch unit 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 thick vegetation cover, steep gradient, and lack of noticeable landscape disturbances.

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

The Marsh Gulch unit encompasses rough rugged terrain with a deep canyon and thick vegetation. Due to the parcel's high topographic relief, and lack of roads, a visitor would be guaranteed solitude. The opportunity for solitude becomes outstanding due to the difficulty to access the area. In the canyon bottom, where most of the hiking and equestrian use occurs, the riparian vegetation provides incredible visual and aural screening for seclusion.

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

The Marsh Gulch unit does offer primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is contiguous with the Bureau of Land Management Lower Grape Creek WSA, which allows access to a large expanse of wild country. The parcel provides visitors with dispersed, undeveloped recreation which includes: hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, and sightseeing. The opportunities for primitive recreation becomes outstanding due to the lack of primitive routes in the area, the large amount of land it encompasses, in conjunction with the wilderness study area, and the interesting terrain that offers many types of recreational uses.

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

Yes No NA

- The unit contains mule deer and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis

Unique identifier: COF-020-016, Marsh Gulch

Acreage: 478.9 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the originally proposed unit consists of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. As a result of the lack of routes in the area, it is primarily unaffected by humans. An average visitor would find outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation due to the lack of established facilities, mountainous terrain, thick vegetation, and vast expanse of un-impacted land.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The Bureau of Land Management Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area to the west, south, and east;
 - The north is defined by property lines other than BLM management;
 - It is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 19 S. R. 71 W. Sec. 7.
-
- 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 21, 2013

Evaluator: Chris Cloninger/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: Sept. 11, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/ Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept. 10, 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-020-016

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-016-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-020-016, Wilderness Characteristics Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map contains the wilderness characteristics unit and routes.

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-020-016-A is currently used for range use, mostly by equestrian use.

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:

Route, CO-020-016-A has not 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

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

Yes No

Describe:

Route CO-020-016-A, appears to be originally constructed for prospecting, no mechanical construction observed.

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

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

No

Describe:

Route, CO-020-016-A has no evidence of 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 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:

Route, CO-020-16-A has no evidence of 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 X

Explain:

Route, CO-020-016-A would not be maintained by the 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 (e.g., trips per day, week, month, season, year, or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases).

Route, CO-020-016 is not maintained for regular and continuous use, no full size vehicle use was observed at the time of the inventory.

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-020-016 does not qualify as a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout / Recreation Technician

Date: May 14, 2013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): **JTibbs/ Recreation Technician**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-016, Marsh Gulch**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town -ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
9/24/2003	ar_0571	SW	Coral and cabin	see map	19 S	71 W	6	1
9/24/2003	ar_0572	S	Cattle drive route	see map	19 S	71 W	6	2
9/24/2003	ar_0573	S	Route condition	see map	19 S	71 W	18	3
9/24/2003	ar_0574	SE	Route condition	see map	19 S	71 W	18	4
9/3/2003	ar_0582	E	Route condition	see map	19 S	71 W	5	5

(add rows as needed)



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



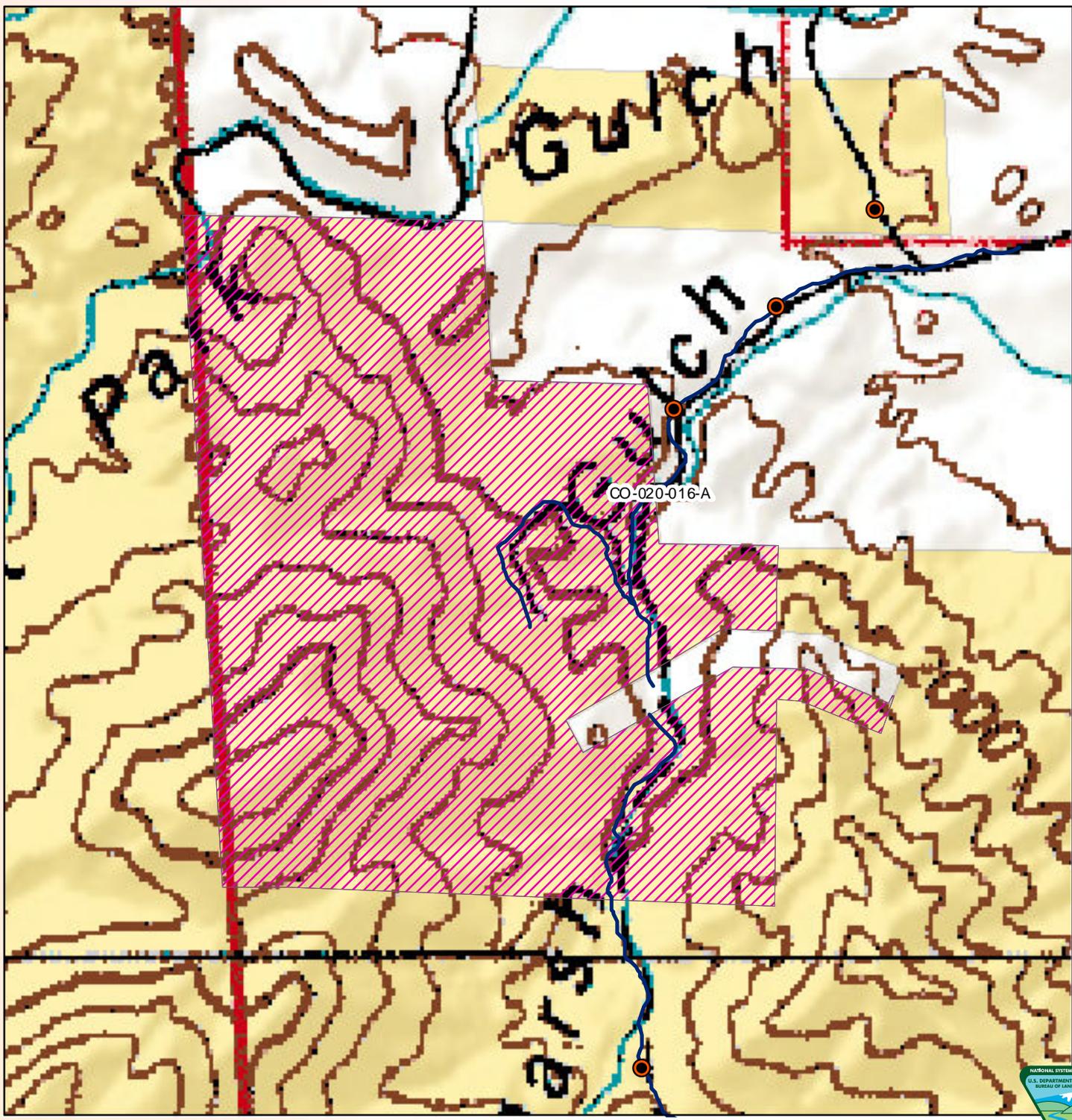
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

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

Surface Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



COF-020-016 Acreage: **478.9**

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

