

# 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): 319 001  
 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-020-047

Acreage: 204.8 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes  No

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

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The west, south, and east edges of the unit is bounded by the BLM McIntyre Hills WSA;
- The northern boundary is U.S. Hwy 50
- The south west edge of the unit is bounded by McIntyre Hills State Land.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The unit, COF-020-047, Sheep Basin, is located within Fremont County, approximately 15 miles west of Canon City, CO. The unit contains 204.8 acres of public lands. The boundary was altered along the north end, the unit at Five Points Campground, to omit a road, campsites, and toilet facilities.

The unit follows the drainage known as Sheep Basin. Sheep Basin's topography consists of steep rocky hillsides along narrow meandering drainages. The vegetation consists of a piñon- juniper forest with cottonwoods found along the stream beds.

The acreage remaining does include human-made features. There is a water line in disuse that follows Sheep Basin and is visible throughout the canyon. An earth filled dam is located in the central part of the unit. A remnant of a route through the canyon is present, but has mostly grown in and is difficult to follow. A prospecting pit and tailing pile is visible, but vegetation is growing in, screening the disturbance. Old tree stumps from historic harvesting can be found in the unit, the stumps are decomposing, and new vegetation has grown in around them.

Although these imprints of man are present, the area has not been actively used in many years, perhaps decades. Natural processes have taken over and perhaps in another decade, or with manual labor, any impacts would not be visible. Due to the

human made features becoming unrecognizable, the unit contains 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

Solitude can be found away from US highway 50. The drainage meanders through steep rocky terrain and the highway noise and highway visibility diminishes further up the canyon. The likelihood to encounter other visitors is unlikely. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist through vegetative screening and topographic character. Cottonwoods, rock outcroppings, and multiple drainages allow for excellent visual and audible screening.

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

Of the acreage remaining, opportunities for recreation exist, a trail leading from five points campground follows a hill side, allowing for public access to the unit. Any recreational opportunities within the unit would be non- motorized, such as hiking, bird watching, and hunting. The adjacency of the McIntyre Hills WSA to the unit provides many acres of primitive land available to explore.

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

Yes  No  NA

Description:

- The majority of the unit is within the Colorado National Heritage Program (CNHP) Potential Conservation Area (PCA) McIntyre Hills Site, having a B2 (very high biodiversity significance) ranking.
- Natural springs found in the unit provide water for visitors, and excellent wildlife viewing.

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

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-047, Sheep Basin

Acreage: 204.8 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that 204.8 acres consist of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. The topography of the unit is the main factor for solitude and recreation outstanding opportunities to exist. The drainage screens visual and audible disturbances within the unit.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The Five Points campground managed by Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area was excluded due to excessive disturbance.
- The west, south, and east edges of the unit is bounded by the BLM McIntyre Hills WSA;
- The northern boundary is U.S. Hwy 50
- The south west edge of the unit is bounded by McIntyre Hills State Land.
- The legal description is as follows:
  - o T. 18 S R. 72 W Sec 31 NW ¼ and 30 SW ¼
  - o T. 18 S R. 73 W Sec 36 NE ½ of the NE ¼
- 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  
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: July 30, 2013  
Date: July 30, 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-020-0047

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: US Hwy 50

#### **I. LOCATION:**

Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Map Title: COF-020-047 Wilderness Characteristics Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

#### **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)).

One route was observed though out the canyon. It is not in use and vegetation has grown over the route in many places. No roads are designated in the unit as decided on in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan. (2006).

US Hwy 50 is located on the north edge of the unit.

- B. Right-of-Way (ROW): N/A

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

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   X   No         
 US Hwy 50 is constructed by mechanical means

Yes        No   X  

Route was originally constructed by mechanical means, and old road cuts are visible in a few places in the drainage. No recent maintenance or motorized use was observed, much of the route has disappeared.

- A.2. Improvements: Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?  
 Yes        If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools        by Machine         
 No

- 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:

None observed

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:

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).

#### 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

US Hwy 50 is a wilderness inventory road, it defines the northern boundary.

No \_\_\_ = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explain:

No wilderness inventory routes identified

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: July 30, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

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

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-047, Sheep Basin**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Frame #</b>	<b>Camera Direc.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>UTM Zone 13</b>	<b>Town-ship</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>
8/6/2013	DSC03721	S	Earthen dam, invasive species covering	N 4,2552,77.75874 E 456,982.724601	18 S	72 W	30	1
8/6/2013	DSC03723	E	Weathering stump	N 4,255,358,84273 E 456,953.860438	18 S	72 W	30	2
8/6/2013	DSC03724	E	Water pipeline and round sheet metal	N 4,255,434,70215 E 456,961.201672	18 S	72 W	30	3
8/6/2013	DSC03725	S	Evidence of old route	N 4,255,493.43202 E 456,988.119531	18 S	72 W	30	4
8/6/2013	DSC03726	N	Mine tailings	N 4,255,583.97391 E 456,920.824884	18 S	72 W	30	5
8/6/2013	DSC03727	E	Water pipeline	N 4,255,580.30329 E 456,689.576007	18 S	72 W	30	6
8/6/2013	DSC03728	NE	Stock tank	N 4,255,938,80023 E 456,744.635263	18 S	72 W	30	7
8/6/2013	DSC03729	NE	Waterline control box, disturbance behind box	N 4,255,979.17701 E 456, 800, 918095	18 S	72 W	30	8

(add rows as needed)



**#1: Earthen dam**



**#2 Sawn stump**



**#3: Water pipeline and sheet metal**



**#4: Evidence of old route**



**# 5: Prospecting pit and tailings**



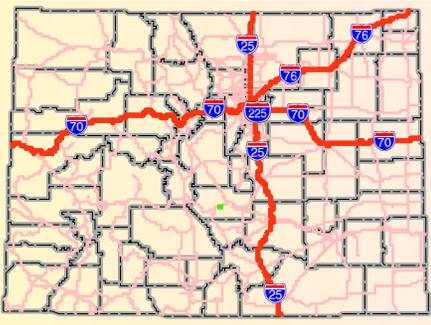
**#6: Water pipeline suspended**



#7: stock tank



#8 Water pipeline control box



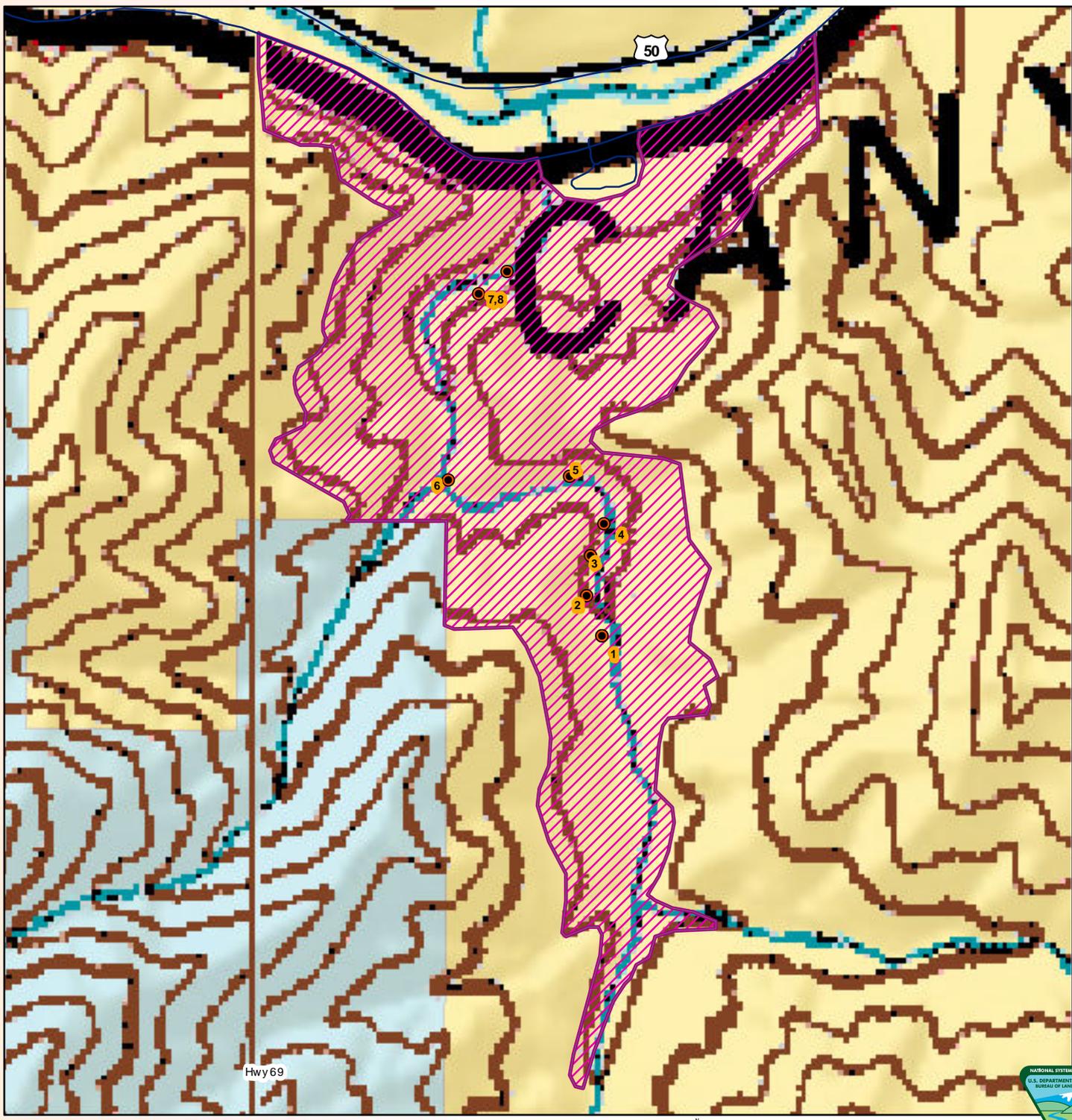
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

**Surface Land Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- State



**COF-020-047**      Acreage: 204.8

**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

