

# 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): 308 001  
 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)
CO-020-014	Y	N	N	N	N

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-029, N Bear Gulch

Acreage: 351.5 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes  No

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 east edge is bounded by BLM Lower Grape Creek WSA;
- The west, 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

The unit, COF-020-029 is located less than a 1 hour drive southwest from Cañon City, CO. The unit is located on the southeastern edge of Lower Grape Creek WSA. The unit contains 351.5 acres of public land.

The unit is located north of the Bear Gulch access road into Grape Creek. The elevation varies from 8,600 feet on the north east corner to 7,500 feet in the south west corner. The topography of the unit consists of steep rocky ridges. The ridges are thick with vegetation consisting of piñon–juniper and Ponderosa Pines.

The only locatable man-made feature is a BLM administrative route found along the south west boundary. The route, CO-020-029-A, was designated for BLM administrative use in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006) for fire suppression. The route appears to have been mechanically built at one time, perhaps with a bull dozer. The route has not had recent maintenance on it for many years, and did not meet the wilderness inventory “road” criteria. The route is the only noticeable man made feature but is well screened by overhead vegetation. It is not a significant distraction from the overall naturalness to the unit.

Other man made features include primitive camping sites that have spurred off the BLM administrative route. The sites include some noticeable wood gathering and fire rings. The accumulative impacts of the man-made features are not significant to the overall naturalness of the area.

The intensive inventory found that the unit has primarily been affected by the forces of nature and may 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

The only access for the public is by a high clearance vehicle or horse or foot from Bear Gulch. It seems that the majority of the use occurs during hunting season. Although motorized travel does occur within the unit, the ridges and valleys that exist within the unit offer excellent topographic screening. The thick vegetation visually and audibly screens the route. The camping spurs found in the unit are away from the main route, and screened by vegetation as well. Therefore, if traveling in the unit outstanding opportunities for solitude are present.

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 unit offers many recreation opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, hunting, and landscape photography. The unit does not have developed facilities or motorized routes, allowing for primitive recreation opportunities to exist. The unit is located on top of a ridge offering scenic views of the surrounding Lower Grape Creek WSA and views of the Wet Mountain range. Due to the optimal recreational values, the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes  No  NA

Description:

- The northwest corner and the southern edge of the unit is within the Colorado National Heritage Program (CNHP) Potential Conservation Area (PCA). The identified

site, Grape Creek, is classified as B2 (Very High Biodiversity Significance). The site has a good occurrence of a riparian natural woodland community.

- The unit is within the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as identified by the resource management plan (1995).
- The unit contains mule deer and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-029

Acreage: 351.5

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 351.5 acres has primarily been affected by forces of nature. The unit meets the outstanding criteria for opportunities for solitude and unconfined and primitive recreation due to the topographic and vegetative screening and developed facilities.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The east edge is bounded by BLM Lower Grape Creek WSA;
- The west, south, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The legal description is as follows:
  - o T. 20 S. R. 71 W. Section 9 W ½.

- 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: August 20, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Specialist

Date: July 30, 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-020-029

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-029-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-020-029, Wilderness Characteristics Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

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

Describe:

The current purpose of route, CO-020-029-A is currently being used for BLM administrative access.

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?

N/A

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

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

Explain: N/A

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 \_\_\_

Examples (partial list):

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

Describe:

CO-020-029-A has evidence of mechanical construction, possible bull dozer.

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 mechanical improvements to the routes were noticed.

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 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 X No \_\_\_\_

Explain:

Route would be maintained by the BLM if it became impassable.

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).

The routes are maintained for BLM administrative access. The route is not necessarily maintained for regular and continuous use.

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:

Route, CO-020-029-A was found to be a wilderness inventory road due to the route being on the BLM's maintenance schedule.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: June 19, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

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

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-029**

<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>
6/19/2013	DSC0367 2	NW	Route condition	N 4,241,080.85582 E 471.602.078996	20 S	71 W	9	1
6/19/2013	DSC0367 1	N	Scenic	N 4,241,080.85582 E 472,025.413176	20 S	71 W	10	2
6/19/2013	DSC0367 3	N	Route condition	N 4,241,067.62663 E 471,559.084118	20 S	71 W	9	3
6/19/2013	DSC0367 4	S	Route condition	N 4,241,067.62663 E 471,559.084118	20 S	71 W	9	4



#1 Route condition, camping spur route



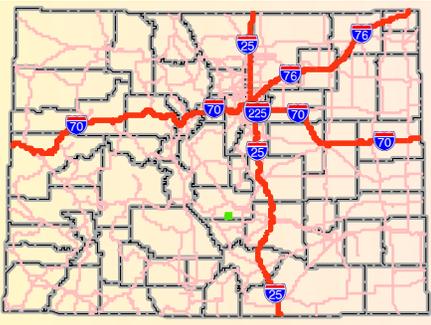
#2 Scenic view



#3 Route condition facing N



#4 Route condition facing S



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-020-029**      Acreage: 351.5

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

