

# 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): 023-001  
 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-020-045, Arnold Gulch

Acreage: 1,059.6 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 area (managed by the Pike/San Isabel National Forest) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit, CO-020-045, Arnold Gulch, is bounded as follows:

- USFS roadless recommended wilderness area on the east edge;
- The north, and west edges are property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road 300.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The Ruby Mountain unit, COF-020-045, is located less than 10 miles south east from Buena Vista, CO (driving miles). It is also located less than 20 miles north of Salida, Colorado (driving miles). The topography of the unit is rugged, varying in elevation 7,800 feet near the Arkansas River, to 8,300 feet on the east end of the unit. Prominent features within the unit include Sugarloaf Mountain in the southwest corner and Arnold Gulch in the north portion of the unit. The vegetation is comprised mostly of piñon-juniper woodland and a few ponderosa pines in the higher reaches.

The unit has multiple routes traveling through the unit, including route 300C, and route CO-020-045-A, through Arnold Gulch and route, CO-020-045-B, and CO-020-045-C. It is assumed the routes were originally used for stocks drives, and eventually maintained for four-wheel drive (4WD) access and access into private property. The routes allow for motorized travel to exist within the unit.

The route, 300C, is a recreational route and is open to motorized travel through the Royal Gorge Field Office Four mile Travel Management Plan (2004). 300C has multiple camping sites along the route have significant impacts of man. Fire rings, user created routes, and wood collection are minimal, but do affect the overall naturalness of the unit.

The man-made feature found within the unit affect the overall naturalness to the unit. It does not have 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\_\_\_

Description:

- The unit is within the Brown's Creek area critical of environmental concern (ACEC) that was identified by the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (1996).
- The southern section of the unit is completely within the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) potential area of concern (PCA), Ruby Mountain site, having very high biodiversity significance (B2).
- The unit contains mule deer and bighorn sheep severe winter range and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-045, Arnold Gulch

Acreeage: 1,059.6 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 1,059.6 acre unit does not consist of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. Accumulation of mechanically built and maintained routes affects the natural character of the unit. The unit does not have wilderness characteristics.

The unit, CO-020-045, Arnold Gulch, is bounded as follows:

- USFS roadless recommended wilderness area on the east edge;
- The north, and west edges are property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road 300.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
  - o T. 15 S. R. 78 W. Sections 1 and 12

- 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: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 6, 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 cherry system 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-020-045, Arnold Gulch Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: USFS 300, USFS 300 C, CO-020-045-A, CO-020-045-B, CO-020-045-C

#### **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-020-045, Arnold Gulch 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:

- USFS 300 is a main recreational access road that is open to full size vehicle access by the Fourmile Travel Management Plan (2004).
- USFS 300 C is a recreational access route that is open to full size vehicles through the Fourmile Travel Management Plan.
- CO-020-045-A, is used as access route to private inholdings
- CO-020-045-B, is used as a stock drive route, also access into private inholding and BLM administrative route
- CO-020-045-C: User created route for range 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?

No route have a ROW associated with them.

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

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:

- USFS 300 is has evidence of mechanical construction, cut/ and fill is evident along all aspects of the route.
- USFS 300 C has evidence of mechanical construction, possibly bladed.
- CO-020-045-A, has evidence of mechanical construction, possible bladed.
- CO-020-045-B and C, have 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:

- USFS 300 is has evidence of mechanical improvements, possibly with a dozer.
- USFS 300 C has evidence of mechanical improvements, possibly with a dozer.
- CO-020-045-A, has evidence of mechanical improvements, possible bladed.
- CO-020-045-B has evidence of improvements by dozer.
- CO-020-045- C, has 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:

- Route, 300 has evidence of regular maintenance, BLM maintenance, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area maintenance, and USFS maintenance.
- Route, 300 C is on the BLM maintenance schedule.

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:

- Route, 300 would be improved by BLM is 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).

Route, 300 has regular and continuous use, 30-40 times a day.

#### 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 300 is a wilderness inventory road.
- Route 300 C, CO-020-045-A-C does not meet the wilderness inventory road criteria.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: August 27, 2013

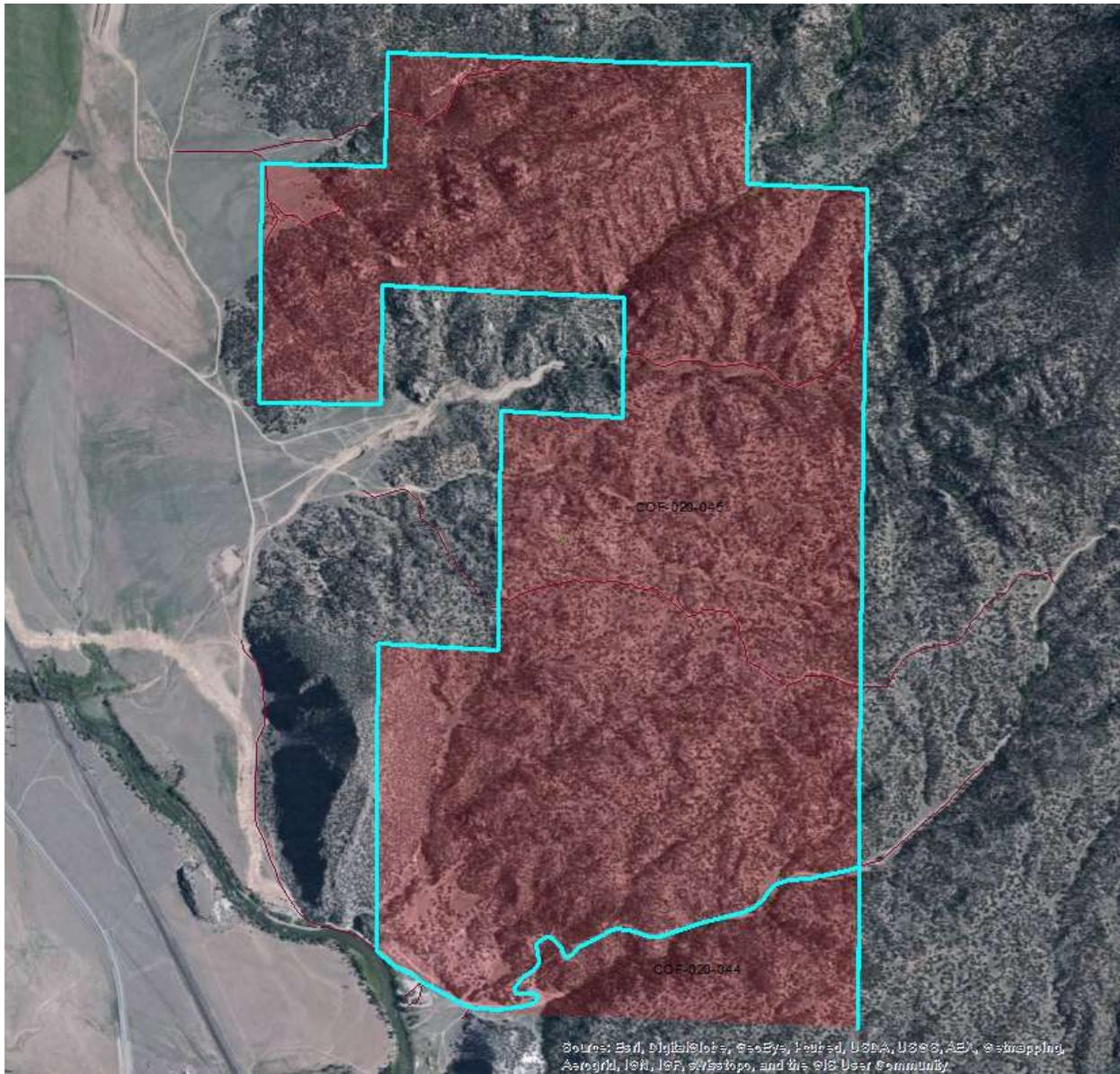
## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

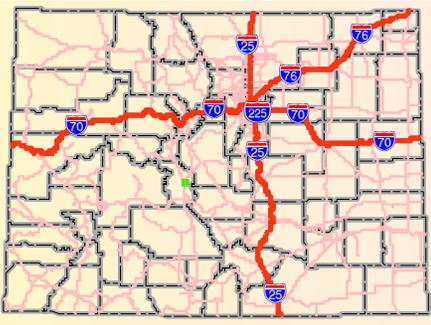
Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-045, Arnold Gulch**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Frame #</b>	<b>Camera Direction</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>GPS/UTM Location</b>	<b>Town -ship</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>

None provided



Imagery provided by Esri Arc map, photo taken: July, 21 2010.



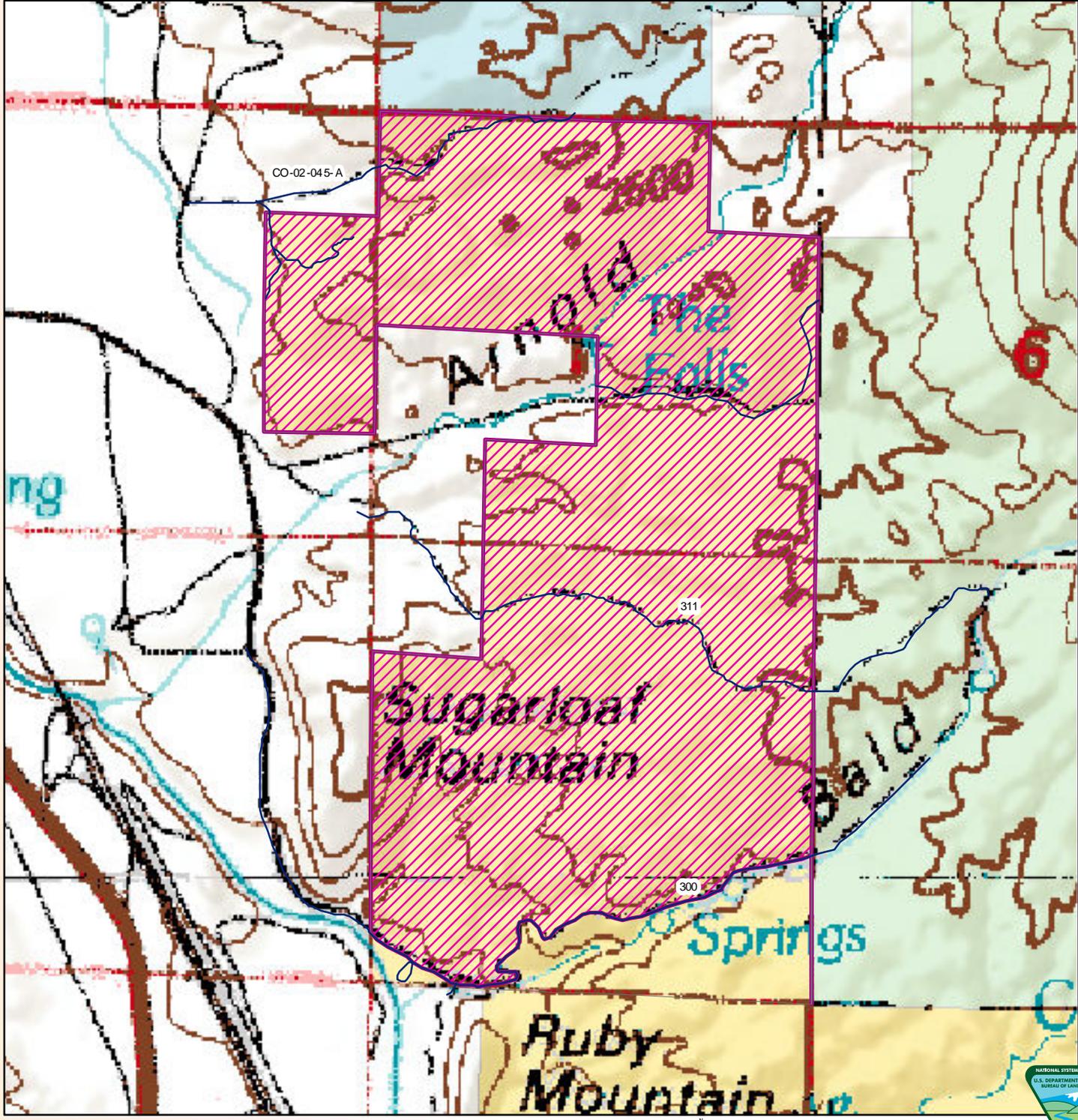
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

**Surface Land Ownership**

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



**COF-020-045**      Acreage: 1059.6

**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

