

# 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): 09B  
 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-020-050	Y	N	Y	Y	N

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-059, Texas Creek

Acreage: 6,219.0 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes  No

Unit, CO-020-059, Texas Creek, is 6,219.0 acres in size, meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit, COF-020-059, Texas Creek, is bounded as follows:

- The eastern edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, Fremont County Road 27;
- The southern edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM 6020;
- The western boundary is defined by BLM T6035, BLM T6035 B, BLM T6040 A, boundary modified due to excessive disturbance.
- The northwestern boundary is defined by wilderness inventory roads, BLM 6040, and BLM 6040A.
- The northern and eastern boundary is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM 6040;
- The northeastern boundary is defined by BLM T6061 A, modified due to excessive disturbance.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The Texas Creek unit, COF-020-059, is located less than 1 mile north of Texas Creek, Colorado. The unit is located less than 35 miles east of Salida, Colorado and less than 30 miles west of Canon City, Colorado (measured to the nearest point). The unit contains 6,219 acres of public land. An inholding was found within the unit totaling 246.5 acres; the inholding lands will not be included in the inventory.

The topography of the unit is steep and rocky with the primary vegetation being piñon/ juniper, ponderosa pine and mixed conifers. Some cottonwoods can be found in riparian areas. The understory vegetation is primarily rabbit brush, cacti, grasses, and sage brush. The elevation varies from 6,300 feet toward the Arkansas River, to 9,300 near the prominent Table Mountain.

The accumulative impacts of man-made features of the unit affect the overall naturalness. Inventory found many miles of cut/ and filled routes. Evidence of mining activity within the unit is apparent with open pit mines and prospecting pits. Developed facilities exist on the southern end of the unit., along with a mechanically built parking lot

and designated camping spots. Texas Creek is managed for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation area. Evidence of motorized travel exists throughout the unit.

Due to the significant impact of man-made features on naturalness to the 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

Recreational opportunities within the unit include hiking, backpacking, climbing horseback riding, hunting, and snowshoeing. No developed facilities exist within the unit, and travel is limited to not motorized use. Many high vantage points exist within the unit, making for excellent opportunities for sightseeing and photography. Unique rock formations and outcroppings provide for challenging overland travel.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ NA X

- The unit is located within a bighorn sheep production area and mule deer severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- The unit contains populations of Arkansas Canyon stick leaf (*Mentzelia densa*).

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique identifier: COF-020-059, Texas Creek

Acreage: 6,219.0 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 6,219.0 acre unit does not possess wilderness characteristics. The accumulative impact of man-made features found within the unit affect the overall naturalness of the unit.

The unit, COF-020-059, Texas Creek, is bounded as follows:

- The eastern edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, Fremont County Road 27;
  - The southern edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM 6020;
  - The western boundary is defined by BLM T6035, BLM T6035 B, BLM T6040 A, boundary modified due to excessive disturbance.
  - The northwestern boundary is defined by wilderness inventory roads, BLM 6040, and BLM 6040A.
  - The northern and eastern boundary is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM 6040;
  - The northeastern boundary is defined by BLM T6061 A, modified due to excessive disturbance.
  - The north and northwest boundary is defined by property lines other than BLM management.
  - The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
    - o T. 48 N. R. 12 E. Sections: 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14
    - o T. 49 N. R. 12 E. Sections: 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, and 35
    - o T. 18 S. R. 73 W. Sections 18, 19, 30, and 31
    - o T. 19 S. R. 73 W. Section 7
- 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 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: Ken Reed/ Forrester

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: May 30, 2013

Date: July 27, 2013

Date: August 28, 2013

Date: Sept. 4, 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-020-059, Texas Creek Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: Fremont County Rd 27, BLM 6060, BLM 6040, BLM 6040 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-020-059, Texas Creek 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:

- Fremont County Road 27: Used for public transportation and full size vehicle access.
- BLM 6060: Used for recreational access by full size vehicles.
- BLM 6040: Used for recreational access by full size vehicles.
- BLM 6040A: Used for recreational and administrative access by full size vehicles.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes  No  Unknown

Fremont County Rd 27 has a ROW association. Serial # COC 44142.

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:

Fremont County Rd 27's ROW is currently used for county access.

### 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:

- Fremont County Road 27: Has evidence of mechanical construction, cut/fill is evident along the hillsides.

- BLM 6060: Has evidence of mechanical construction, cut/fill is evident along the hillsides.
- BLM 6040: Has evidence of mechanical construction, cut/fill is evident along the hillsides.
- BLM 6040A: Has evidence of mechanical construction, cut/fill is evident along the hillsides.

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:

- Fremont County Road 27: Has evidence of mechanical improvements such as drainage features added.
- BLM 6060: Does not have evidence of mechanical improvements.
- BLM 6040: Has evidence of mechanical improvements such as drainage features added.
- BLM 6040A: Has evidence of mechanical improvements such as drainage features added.

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:

- Fremont County Road 27: Fremont County maintains route by mechanical means.
- BLM 6060: Bureau of Land Management maintains route by mechanical means.
- BLM 6040: Bureau of Land Management maintains route by mechanical means.
- BLM 6040A: Bureau of Land Management maintains route by mechanical means.

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:

- Fremont County Road 27: Fremont County would maintain route.
- BLM 6060: Bureau of Land Management would maintain route.
- BLM 6040: Bureau of Land Management would maintain route.
- BLM 6040A: Bureau of Land Management would maintain route.

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).

- Fremont County Road 27: Experiences traffic 20-50 times a month.
- BLM 6060: Is maintained to ensure full size vehicle travel.
- BLM 6040: Is maintained to ensure full size vehicle travel.
- BLM 6040A: Is maintained to ensure full size vehicle travel.

#### 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

- Fremont County Road 27: Meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6060: Meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6040: Meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.
- BLM 6040A: Meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Assistant

Date: August 27, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-059, Texas 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>



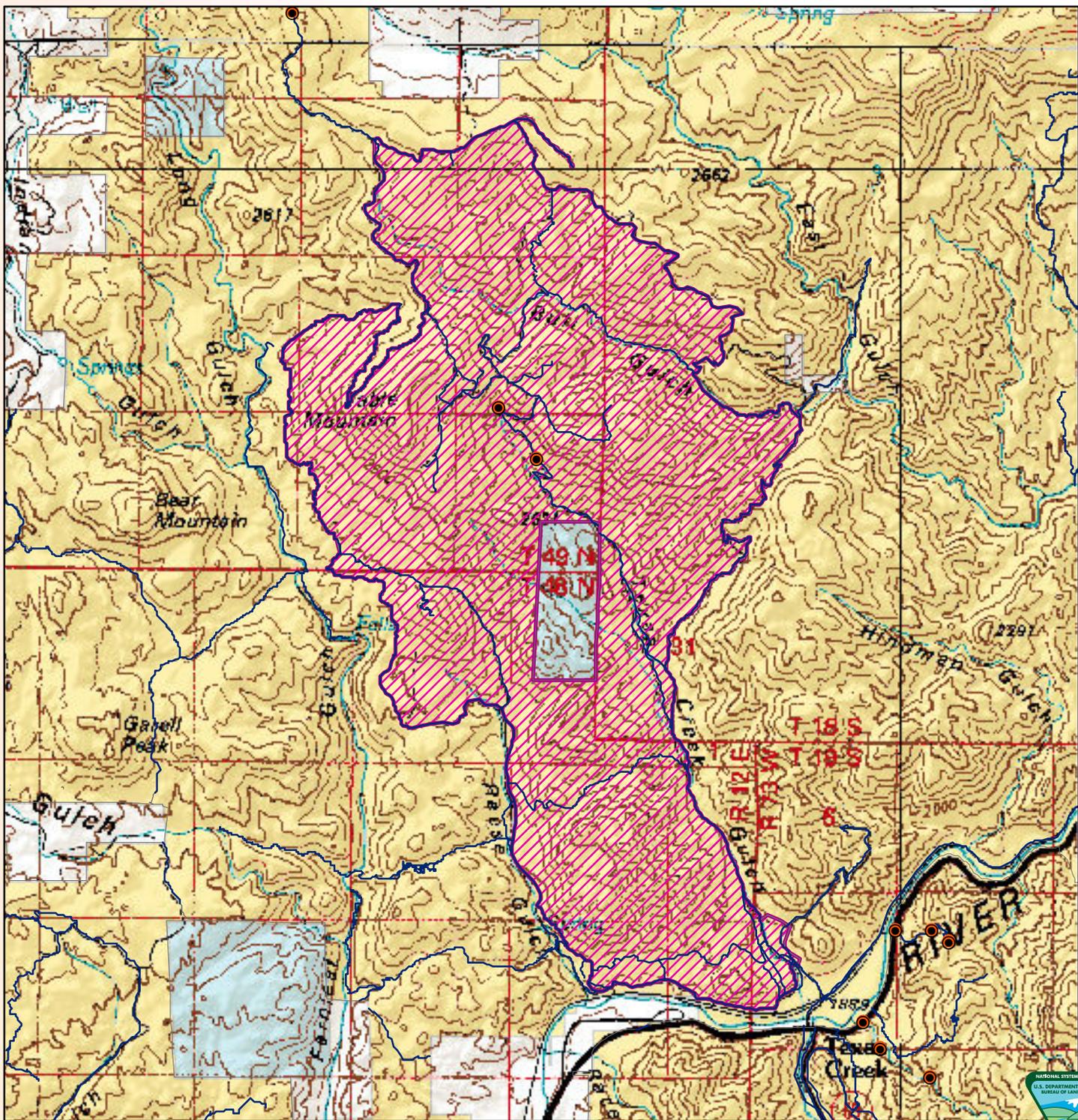
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

*Surface Land Ownership*

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State



**COF-020-059**      Acreage:      6219

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

