

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): 331_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-020-089, Cottonwood Creek Acreage: 489.2 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The land is smaller than 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the United State Forest Service (USFS) roadless recommended wilderness area (managed by the Pike/ San Isabel USFS) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The western edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road Fremont County Road 40;
- The eastern edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road CO-020-089-A.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, COF-020-089, Cottonwood Creek, is located less than 1 mile south of Coaldale, Colorado. It is located 33 miles west of Cañon City, Colorado and 23 miles east of Salida, Colorado (driving miles).

The unit is comprised of mountainous terrain, with Big Cottonwood Creek on the west, Butter Creek in the center, and Little Cottonwood Creek on the east. Elevation varies within the unit ranges from 7,600 feet in the northern part of the unit to 8,900 feet near southern part of the unit (see map). The vegetation consists of piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine.

Man-made features found within the unit include mechanically constructed routes. It is assumed these routes were originally built for timber harvest and mining activity. The routes are currently closed decided in the Royal Gorge BLM Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006); however, motorized use occurs occasionally. The routes are still visible and the route's constructed nature, cut/fill, affects the landscape.

The area has evidence of timber harvesting along the routes. Old stump can be found, but are not a prominent impact to the landscape. Evidence of prospecting is found in a few locations, with tailings piles, these man made features affect the naturalness of the unit.

Evidence of mining activity within the unit is prevalent. Prospecting pits and tailing piles are located within the unit. Mining within the unit is not currently active, but the remaining disturbances do affect the unit's natural character. Therefore, 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

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes X No ___ NA ___

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

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-089

Acreage: 489.2 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 489.2 acre unit consists of a substantial amount of man-made features found within the unit. The human activity affects the natural character; therefore, the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
 - The south edge is bounded by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
 - The western edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road, Fremont CR 40;
 - The eastern edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road, CO-020-089-A;
 - The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 27 S. R. 71 W. Sections 14 and 15
-
- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes X No
 - Does the area appear natural? Yes No X NA
 - Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA X
 - Does the area have supplemental value? Yes X No NA

Check one:

- The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as land with wilderness characteristics.
- X 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: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 11, 2013

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: August 4, 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-020-089, Cottonwood Creek Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: Fremont CR 40, CO-020-089-A, B, and 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-020-089, Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

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

- Fremont CR 40: used for general transportation, it is maintained by Fremont County.
- CO-020-089-A: BLM administrative route by the Royal Gorge BLM Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).
- CO-020-089-B: closed route by the Royal Gorge BLM Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).
- CO-020-089-C: closed route by the Royal Gorge BLM Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes X No _____ Unknown _____

Fremont CR 40 has a ROW associated with the route, serial # COC 44142

If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

Non-exclusive easement, serial # COC 44142

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

Yes X No _____ Unknown or N/A _____

Explain:

- The Fremont CR 40 is currently maintained by Fremont County, as stated by the ROW.
- Route, CO-020-038-A , B and C do not have a 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 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 _____

Describe:

- Fremont CR 40: Is mechanically constructed, bladed, and graveled.
- CO-020-089-A: Is a mechanically constructed road, bladed.
- CO-020-089-B: Is a mechanically constructed route, bull dozer.
- CO-020-089-C: Is a mechanically constructed route, bull dozer

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

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

No _____

Describe:

- Fremont CR 40: Is mechanically improved, use of drainage and roadside berm is evident.
- CO-020-089-A: Is a mechanically constructed road, bladed.
- CO-020-089-B: Is a mechanically constructed route, bull dozer.
- CO-020-089-C: Is a mechanically constructed route, bull dozer

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 X

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 X If "yes", maintenance by? Hand Tools _____ by Machine X

No _____

Explain:

- Route CO-020-089-A was maintained by use of hand tools recently.
- Fremont CR 40 has recent and regular 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

Explain:

- Fremont CR 40 would be improved by Fremont County, holding a ROW to maintain the road.
- CO-020-089-A would be improved if became impassable.

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).

- Fremont CR 40 is improved for regular use
- CO-020-089-A is improved for regular 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

Inventory revealed that routes, Fremont CR 40 and CO-020-089-A meet the criteria to be wilderness inventory roads.

No X = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Routes, CO-020-089-B and C are not wilderness inventory roads.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/Recreation Technician

Date: May 30, 2013

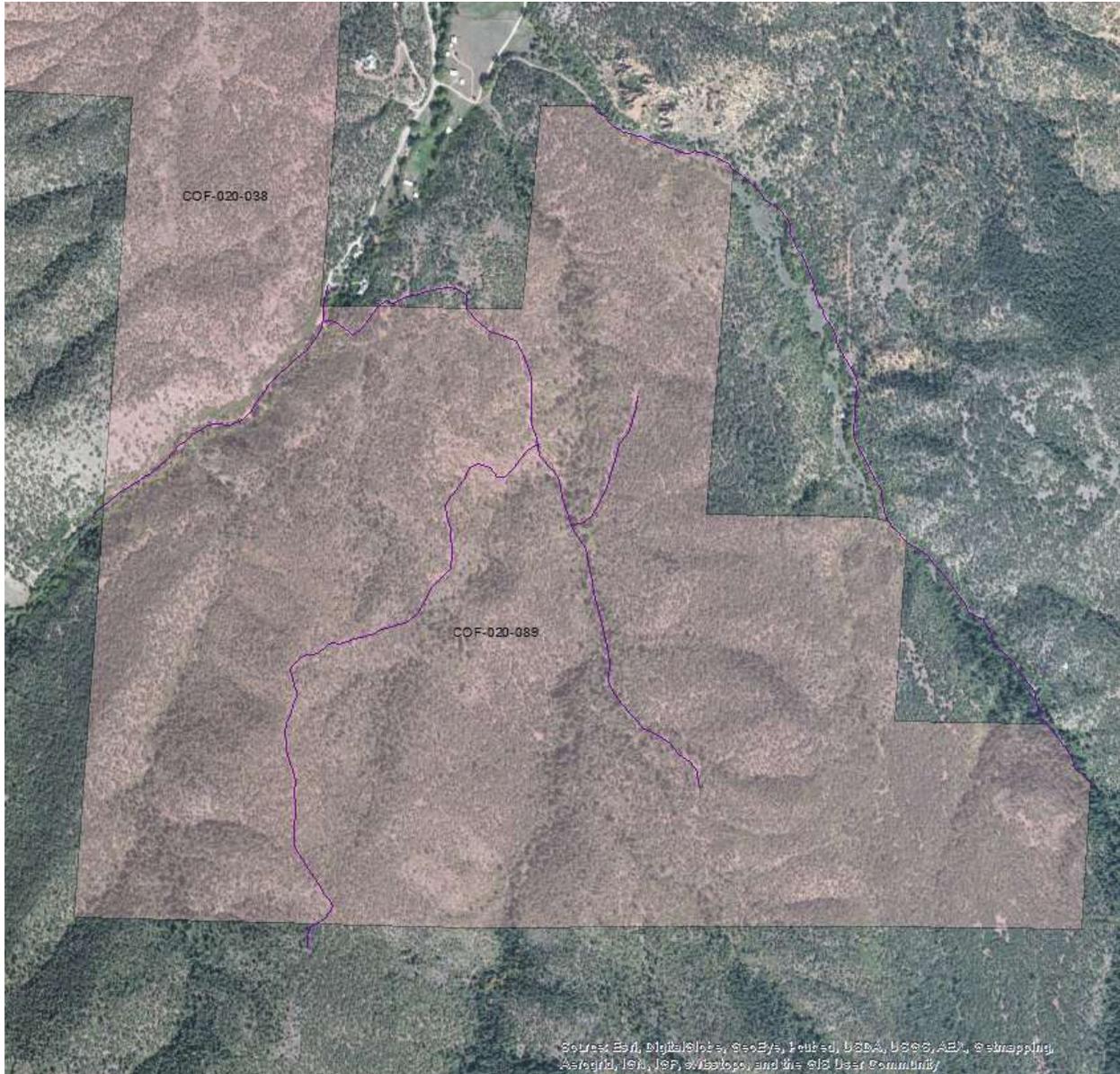
PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-089, Cottonwood Creek**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #

None provided



Imagery provided by Esri Arc Map, photo taken: Sept 11, 2010



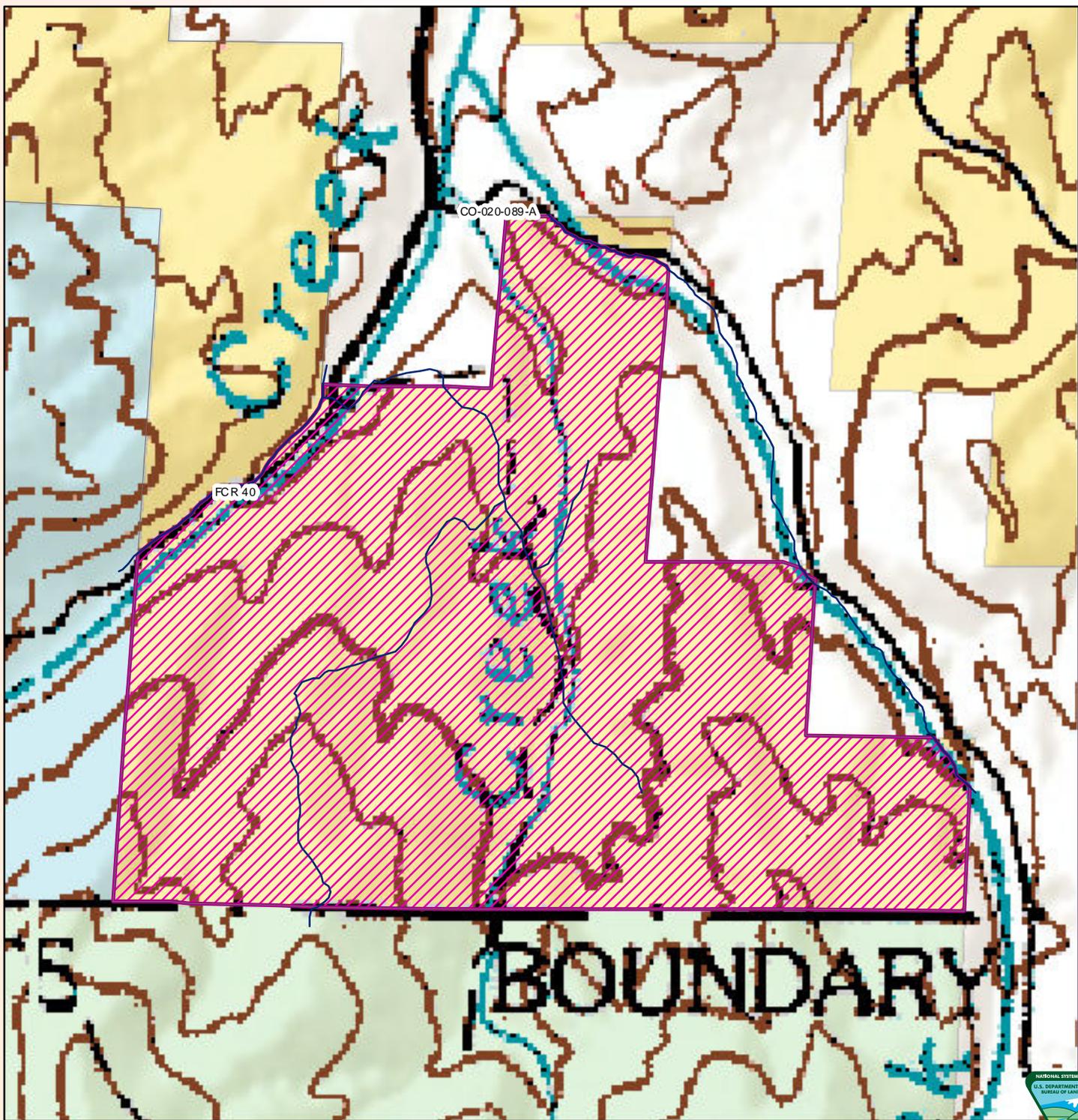
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

- Inventoried Routes
- Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Parcels
- Counties

Surface Land Ownership

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



COF-020-089 Acreage: 489.2

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 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

