

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): CO-050-007 (a-c)

Map Name(s)/Number(s): CO-050-007 (a-c)

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Front Range/Royal Gorge

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-050-007a	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CO-050-007b	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CO-050-007c	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-017, Cooper Mountain
Subunit: COF-020-017-A

Acreage 21,162.2 acres
Acreage: 2,414.3 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

Unit COF-020-017, Cooper Mountain, is over 5,000 acres and meets the size criteria.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The Phantom Canyon Road is the eastern boundary;
- The northern and southern boundary is based on property lines other than BLM management;
- The northwestern boundary is defined by a power line right-of-way (ROW);
- The southwestern corner was altered due to excessive disturbance;
- A wilderness inventory "road" was identified in the unit, CO-020-017-A, creating a "cheery stem" within the unit.

Subunit, COF-020-017-A, was cut due to excessive disturbance, the unit is less than 5,000 acres and does not possess wilderness characteristics.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, COF-020-017, is located less than 5 miles north from Cañon City, Colorado (measured to the nearest point) and 5 miles south of Victor, Colorado, (measured at the nearest point). In 1997 and 1998 two acquisitions occurred in the area totaling 4,233 acres. Multiple inholdings exist throughout the unit and will not be included in the inventory. The unit consists of 21,162.2 acres of public land.

The topography within the area is mountainous. Rugged, rocky, steep terrain can be found throughout the unit. In the higher elevations, the terrain is hilly with open parks. The vegetation within the unit varies through elevation. The lower reaches are dominated by piñon-juniper woodland and narrow leaf cottonwoods in the drainages. The higher elevations contain ponderosa pine and a mixed conifer forest. The unit also contains aspen, gambel oak, and subalpine grassland species.

The unit had a wilderness inventory conducted in 1979, which found the unit had no potential for wilderness. At that time, private inholdings did not allow for contiguous

lands over 5,000 acres. Since the 1979 inventory, acquired lands have allowed for the unit to meet the size criteria.

Currently, the intensive inventory found a 2,414.3 acre unit, COF-020-017-A, was excluded from the inventory due to excessive disturbance. The area is known as Oil Well Flats. The unit has many mechanically constructed routes, as well as many single track trails. Use in the area is popular for nearby residents and recreation activities include bicycle, equestrian and foot use. Due to the numerous routes found within the unit, the unit will be excluded in the inventory.

Inside the remaining lands, the human made features found within the unit include several old constructed routes. Road, CO-020-017-A was found as a wilderness inventory road and was “cherry stemmed” from the unit.

The other routes identified within the parcel were originally constructed and currently limited to grazing and BLM administrative access. Although the routes are visible, and the mechanical constructed nature is evident, the routes disturbance is a minimal impact to the natural character of the entire unit.

Other human-made features include an old homestead including historic structures as well as a several decades old bulldozer. The unit has earthen dams built in the higher meadows. The dams are not actively being used due to the recent drought years, and although the dams are visible on the landscape, they are not visible in most of the unit area. The presence of a recent vegetation treatment is also visible. Slash piles and stumps can be seen in the project area. The piles are decomposing and perhaps in a few decades will be unrecognizable. The accumulative impact of the vegetation treatment project, earthen dams, range activity, and bull dozer is not significant compared to the overall natural character of the unit.

It is apparent that the unit has had imprints of man within the unit, but compared to the overall size of the unit, and lack of public motorized use, and natural processes beginning to reclaim certain features, the cumulative effect of the area’s degree of apparent naturalness is minimal. Therefore, the unit is considered to have apparent naturalness.

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 unit contains a vast amount of land with high topographic relief. Opportunities for solitude are guaranteed in majority of the unit. Thick vegetation provides excellent screening, especially in the drainages where riparian vegetation offers audible and visual

screening. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist because of limited motorized use, and difficulty to access.

The high meadows that are in the unit have been requested to be landing zones for helicopter training, from the Fort Carson Army Base. The landing zones will impact the feeling of solitude if a visitor was there while the military was actively using the landing zone. Little screening is available due to the meadows being sparsely vegetated. If use continues, it could significantly impact the solitude within the unit.

Solitude is not outstanding along Phantom Canyon road, where the majority of people and vehicle noise would be encountered. However, the road is outside of the unit and is not included in the inventory.

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 provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation due to the vast amount of land, undeveloped facilities, and non-motorized recreation possibilities. Recreation possibilities include hiking, sightseeing, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing and photography. Challenging overland travel and multiple trails within the unit offers an optimal primitive recreation experience.

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

Yes No NA

- Historic homestead with cabins.
- Scenic views of the Front Range.
- The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) has identified 3 potential conservation areas (PCA). They are as follows:
 - o A B2 (Very high biodiversity significance) site: Felch Creek
 - o A B3 (High biodiversity significance) site: Blue Mountain to Phantom Canyon,
 - o A B2 site: Phantom Canyon of Eight mile Creek.
- The unit contains Mexican spotted owl critical habitat.
- The unit contains mule deer winter range and elk severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-017, Cooper Mountain

Acreeage: 21,162.2 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 21,162.2 acres contain naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation.

2,414.3 acres were excluded from the inventory due to excessive disturbances.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The Phantom Canyon road is the eastern boundary;
 - The northern and southern boundary is based on property lines other than BLM management;
 - The western boundary consists of a power line right-of-way (ROW) and excessive disturbance on the south west edge. The remaining boundary is property ownership other than BLM;
 - A wilderness inventory road was identified in the central west part of the unit, CO-020-017-A, creating a "cheery stem" within the unit.
 - The unit can be found in the following townships:
 - o T. 16 S. R. 69 W. Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32
 - o T. 17 S. R. 68 W. Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 35
 - o T. 17 S. R. 69 W. Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32
 - o T. 18 S. R. 69 W. Sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
-
- 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: Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner
Evaluator: Matt Rustand/ Wildlife Biologist
Evaluator: Chris Cloninger/Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: August 8, 2013
Date: August 8, 2013
Date: August 8, 2013
Date: Sept 10, 2013
Date: Sept 11, 2013

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

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 stem 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-020-017, Cooper Mountain Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-017 A-F

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-020-017, Wilderness Characteristics Map Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcels inventoried for wilderness characteristics along with GPS photo points, and GPS inventory of multiple routes.

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:

It is assumed that all the routes within the unit were initially constructed for timber harvest and range use. Routes A and Phantom Canyon Road were identified to be a "road" as defined by FLPMA (94-1163). The following information will review those findings. The remainder of the routes within the unit did not meet the "road" definition, and are considered routes. The remaining routes have not been recently used and in some areas completely grown over. The routes current purpose is range use and BLM administrative access.

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?

Road, CO-020-017-A serial # is COC 62303FD. It is a reciprocal, nonexclusive road easement, granting the ROW holder to use, maintain, improve, repair and terminate the existing road. The easement grants the administrative use to the United States of America and its contractors and licenses, but does not provide access for the general public.

Road CO-020-017-F serial # is COC 58787 52.5'. The ROW allows for the holder to operate, maintain, or terminate use of a power line in Fremont County on public lands.

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

Yes No Unknown or N/A

Explain:

Yes, both routes are still being used for this purpose.

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:

On both routes there is evidence of a road cut on the uphill side.

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:

Route CO-020-017-A had vegetation cleared from it, using a chain saw.

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 CO-020-017 A and Co-020-017-F receives regular maintenance when needed, most recently maintained by hand tools for vegetation clearing.

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 will be continuously maintained for use and access.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?

Yes No

Explain:

Full size vehicle tracks were observed on both routes. Routes are used by ROW holders.

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:

Routes, CO-020-017-A and Phantom Canyon Road were identified to be wilderness inventory roads.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician
Evaluator: Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: May 29, 2013
Date: May 29, 2013
Date: August 8, 2013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): **Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician and Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-017, Cooper Mountain**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	UTM Zone 13	Town-ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
5/29/2013	DSC03581	NW	Cattleguard	N 4,271,249.22221 E 483,260.720593	17 S	68 W	11	1
5/29/2013	DSC03580	SE	Beginning of Route	N 4,271,249.22221 E 483,260.720593	17 S	68 W	11	2
5/29/2013	DSC03582	SE	Condition of old logging road	N 4,270,349.63708 E 484,557.181519	17 S	68 W	12	3
5/29/2013	DSC03583	SE	Condition of old logging route	N 4,268,873.38612 E 484,742.390223	17 S	68 W	12	4
5/29/2013	DSC03584	W	Gate from private property	N 4,269,820.46935 E 486,303.435011	17 S	69 W	7	5
5/29/2013	DSC03593	NE	Culvert in route	N 4,270,111.51116 E 487,520.520779	17 S	69 W	8	6
5/29/2013	DSC03586	N	Route Condition	N 4,270,614.22094 E 487,758.646255	17 S	69 W	8	7
5/29/2013	DSC03585	SE	Route heading SE	N 4,270,614.22094 E 487,758.646255	17 S	69 W	8	8
5/29/2013	DSC03587	NE	Route condition of main route	N 4,270,614.22094 E 487,758.646255	17 S	69 W	8	9
5/29/2013	DSC03588	NW	Logging Slash Piles	N 4,271,116.93028 E 487,864.4798	17 S	69 W	8	10
5/29/2013	DSC03586	SE	Logging slash and stumps	N 4,271,116.93028 E 487,864.4798	17 S	69 W	8	11
5/29/2013	DSC03592	SW	Stock pond	N 4,270,328.59737 E 487,864.4798	17 S	69 W	8	12

5/29/2013	DSC03590	W	Scenic view	N 4,271,672.55639 E 487,017.81144	17 S	69 W	8	13
5/29/2013	DSC03591	NW	Scenic View	N 4,271,672.55639 E 487,017.81144	17 S	69 W	6	14
5/30/2013	DSC03594	N	Beginning of route	N 4,260,930.45157 E 488,261.355594	18 S	69 W	8	15
5/30/2013	DSC03595	N	Beginning of BLM	N 4,261,036.28512 E 488,129.063663	18 S	69 W	8	16
5/30/2013	DSC03596	W	Old mining activity	N 4,262,226.9125 E 488,102.605276	18 S	69 W	5	17
5/30/2013	DSC03597	NW	Route condition	N 4,262,306.28766 E 487,996.771731	18 S	69 W	5	18



#1 View at Cattle guard



#2 Entering BLM, gate



#3 Logging Route



#4 Logging Route



5 Gate leaving BLM Land



#6 two track



#7, Two track



#8 Route



#9 Slash piles



#10 Slash piles



#13and 14 Scenic view





#12 Stock Ponds



6 Culverts



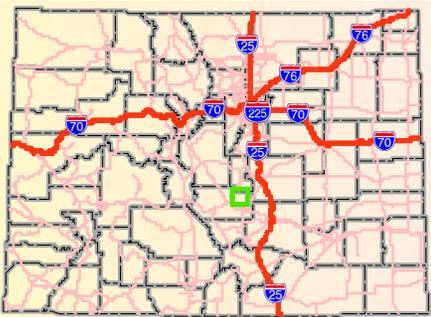
15 and 16 Route Condition



Mine



Route Condition



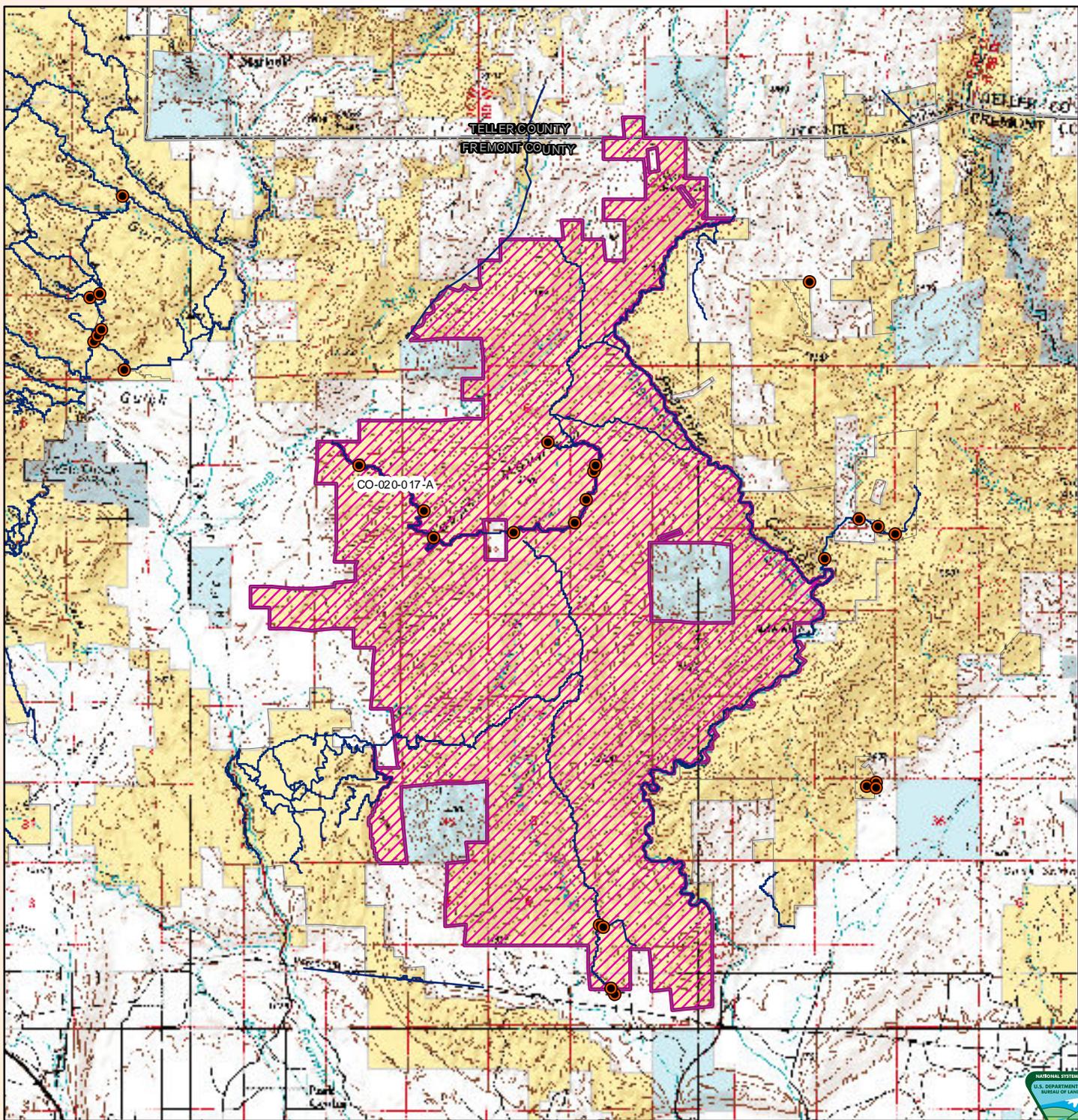
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

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

Surface Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- State, County, City; Areas



COF-020-017

Acreage: 21162.2

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 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

