

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): 069 426

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: CO-020-061, Thirty-one Mile Mountain Acreage: 7,136.4 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The land is greater than 5,000 acres and meets the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit, CO-020-061, is bounded as follows:

- The north is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The east is bounded by wilderness inventory road, Colorado State Highway 9;
- The south is bounded by wilderness inventory road CO-020-061-A and property lines other than BLM management.
- The western edge is bounded by property line other than BLM management and wilderness inventory road, CO-020-61-B.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, CO-020-061, is located northwest of Cañon City, CO less than 20 miles (measured to the nearest point). The unit is located west of US Highway 9 and north of Fremont County Road 2. The unit is less than 4 miles southwest of Guffey, Colorado. The majority of access occurs along wilderness inventory roads, CO-020-061-A, B, and C. The unit consists of 7,136.4 acres of public land.

The topography of the unit is mountainous and rugged. Prominent features within the unit include Thirty-one Mile Mountain and Mill Gulch and. The vegetation consists primarily of piñon- juniper ponderosa pines and mixed conifers in the higher reaches. Riparian vegetation such as cottonwoods is found along Cottonwood Creek. There are also open parks that have gambel oak-montane shrubland and subalpine grasslands.

The man-made features include numerous routes that receive off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. It is assumed the routes were originally built for timber harvest and mining activity, possibly by use of a bull dozer. The routes are visible in the unit and the affects that natural character of the unit.

Timber sales and vegetation treatment projects have occurred within the unit. Recently, the Mill Gulch Road was improved and maintained for full size vehicle use and access for timber sale sites. The evidence of the timber sale in the area was evident at

the time of inventory. Large machinery was located in the unit harvesting trees. Large slash piles and routes on the hillside were a visual impact to the unit.

The mining activity within the area is apparent, but no longer active. Tailing piles and historic mining structures are located within the site. The historic structures add supplemental value, but the tailing piles and prospecting pits is a visual scar on the landscape. Vegetation has grown in around the disturbances, but it is still evident that mining activity occurred in the area.

The unit is actively managed for rangeland management. There are stock tanks, drift fences, gates, and routes to assist in rangeland management of the area. A couple of developed springs are identified within the unit. The developed springs have routes to them to assist with maintenance of the spring.

The accumulative impacts of the man-made features within the unit affect the overall naturalness of the area; 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__

Description:

N/A

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__

Description:

N/A

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes__X__ No___ NA___

Description:

The unit provides elk and mule deer severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-061, Thirty-one Mile Mountain

Acreage: 7,136.4 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the unit does not consist of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. The unit contains man-made features that significantly impact the naturalness of the unit. The man-made features include numerous OHV routes, mining activity, and vegetation treatment projects. The unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

The unit, CO-020-061, is bounded as follows:

- The north is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The east is bounded by wilderness inventory road, Colorado State Highway 9;
- The south is bounded by wilderness inventory road CO-020-061-A and property lines other than BLM management.
- The western edge is bounded by property line other than BLM management and wilderness inventory road, CO-020-61-B.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 15 S. R. 73 W. Sections: 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36,
 - o T. 16 S. R. 73 W. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12
 - o T. 16 S. R. 72 W. Sections: 6 and 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 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: June 28, 2013

Evaluator: Ken Reed/ Forrester

Date: August 4, 2013

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 9, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 13, 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-020-061, Thirty-one Mile Mountain

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: Colorado State Highway 9, CO-020-061-A, CO-020-061-B, CO-020-061-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-020-061 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

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

Describe:

- Colorado State Highway 9: Used for general transportation.
- CO-020-061-A: Used for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and BLM administrative route.
- CO-020-061-B: Used for a private access road to BLM, and BLM administrative road.
- CO-020-061-C: Used for rangeland improvement projects and recreation use by OHVs.

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?

- Colorado State Highway 9: Has a ROW association, serial #, COC 61025
- CO-020-061-A: has a ROW association for the portions that cross private property:
- CO-020-061-B: has a ROW association.

- CO-020-061-C: does not have a ROW association.

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

Yes No Unknown or N/A

Explain:

Yes, the above stated routes have the ROWs still in use.

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

- All of the inventoried routes have had mechanical construction or improvements.

A.1. Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes No

Describe:

- Colorado State Highway 9: have been mechanically constructed and paved.
- CO-020-061-A: has been mechanically constructed, perhaps by a bull dozer.
- CO-020-061-B: has been mechanically constructed, perhaps by a bull dozer.

- CO-020-061-C: has been mechanically constructed, evidence of cut/ fill on route.

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

Yes X If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools by Machine X
No

Describe:

- Colorado State Highway 9: has been recently mechanically improved, bridges, culverts, drainage features are found along the route.
- CO-020-061-A: has recently been mechanically improved, use of a bull dozer and drainage features incorporated in the route.
- CO-020-061-B: has been recently mechanically improved, culverts and drainage feature are installed in the route.
- CO-020-061-C: Does not have recent improvements on the route.

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

- Colorado State Highway 9: yes, regularly used and maintained.
- CO-020-061-A: Recently maintained for full size vehicle use and BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-061-B: Recently maintained for regular use by full size vehicles.
- CO-020-061-C: no recent maintenance.

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:

- Colorado State Highway 9: Evidence of mechanical maintenance is apparent.
- CO-020-061-A: Evidence of mechanical maintenance is apparent.
- CO-020-061-B: evidence of mechanical maintenance is apparent.
- CO-020-061-C has not received mechanical 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:

- Colorado State Highway 9: would be maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation.
- CO-020-061-A would be maintained by the BLM for administrative use.
- CO-020-061-B would be maintained by the private land owners or BLM if needed.
- CO-020-061-C would be maintained for rangeland access.

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).

- Colorado State Highway 9: receive continuous use. 100-200 times daily.
- CO-020-061-A Receives continuous use by private landowners and BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-061-B receives continuous use by private land owners and BLM administrative use.
- CO-020-061-C receives seasonal non-continuous use by BLM administrative and recreational 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 = Wilderness Inventory Road

Explain:

- Colorado State Highway 9: meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-061-A meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-061-B meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.

- No X = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes
- CO-020-061-C does not meet the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Assistant

Date: August 27, 2013



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



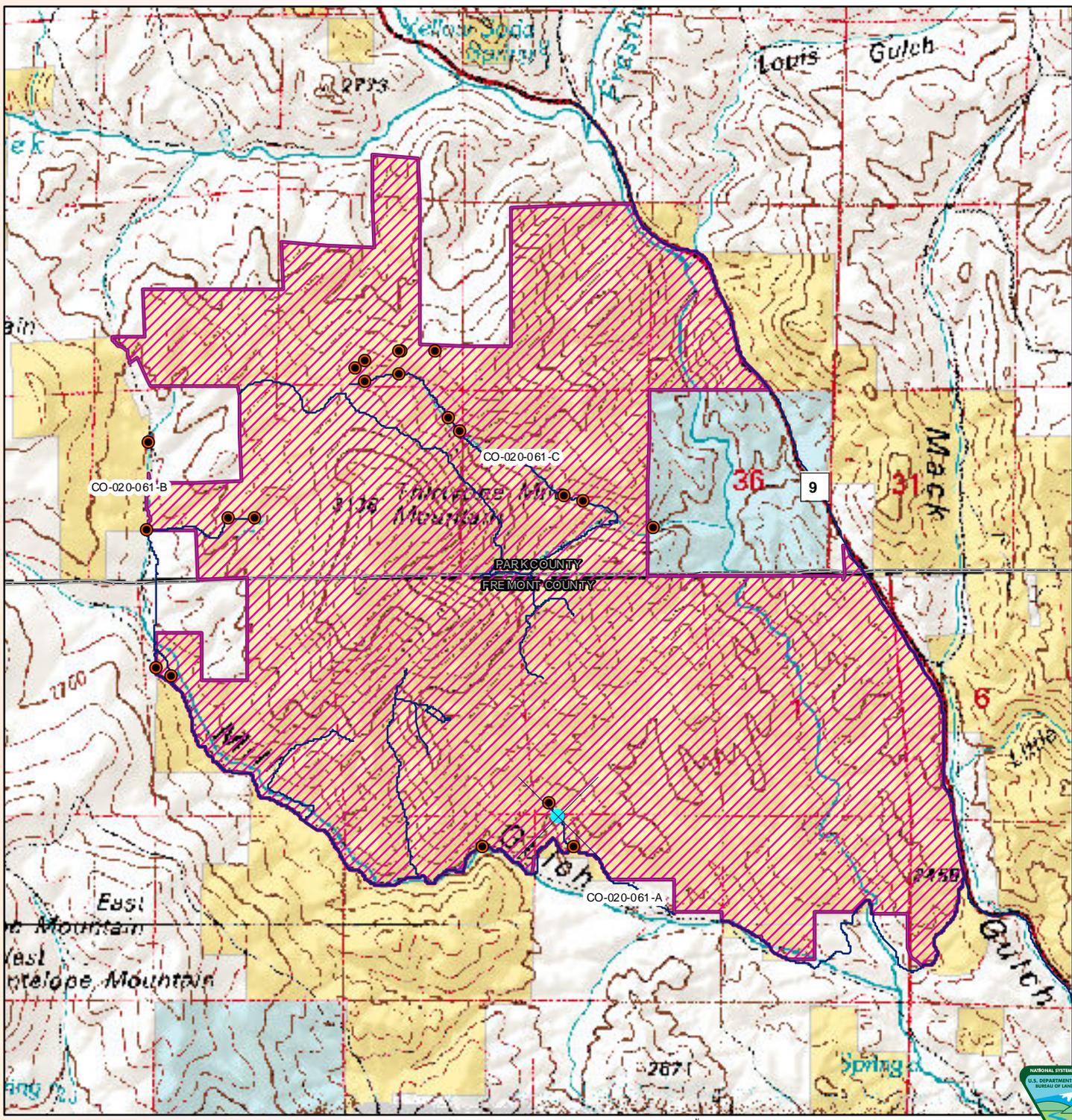
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

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

Surface Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State



COF-020-061

Acreage: 7136.4

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

