

# 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): 027\_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-020-060, Crystal Falls

Acreage: 162.3 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 is bounded as follows:

- The north and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south and west boundary is adjacent to the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- No wilderness inventory roads were found within the unit.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The unit, COF-020-060, Crystal Falls, is located southwest of Westcliffe, Colorado less than 14 miles (measured to the nearest point). The unit is located east and at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. The unit contains 162.3 acres of public lands.

The topography of the unit is hilly with steep with rugged features. Crystal Falls Creek is found in the northern part of the unit, steep rocky hillsides are on each side of the drainage. The elevation ranges from 9,200 feet to 10,000 feet. The vegetation consists of primarily piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and gambel oak.

The imprints of man do not have a significant imprint on the naturalness of the unit.

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

Description:

The unit has the rainbow trail located within it. The trail is a popular recreation access to the unit. The unit receives many user hiking, biking, and on off-highway vehicles (OHV). The chances of encountering another person within the unit are high. Also the motorized uses within the area significantly impact the feeling of solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist within the unit.

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  X  NA \_\_\_

Description:

Recreation is limited Crystal Falls Creek and the Rainbow Trail. The trail access is available for hikers, horse, mountain bikes and off-highway vehicles. The OHV uses in the unit affect the opportunities for primitive recreation.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

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

Description:

- The unit lies within the Sangres Lynx Analysis Unit and contains primary lynx habitat.
- The unit contains habitat for elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-060, Crystal Falls Creek

Acreege: 162.3 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 172.3 acre unit has few imprints of man. It does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, due to being and heavily traveled area by off-highway vehicles. For this reason, the unit does not have wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south and west boundary is adjacent to the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
  - o T. 24 S. R. 72 W. Section 18

- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_
- 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.
- 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: August 14, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: July 30, 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 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-020-060

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: No wilderness inventory road identified.

#### **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-020-060 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics, and routes and photo points 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 (if any) 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:

- N/A

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?

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

- N/A

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:

- N/A.

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:

- N/A

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:

- N/A

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:

- N/A

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).

- N/A.

#### 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

No \_\_\_\_ = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- No wilderness inventory road was identified within the unit.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician      Date: August 21, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-060**

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



Imagery provided by Esri Arc Map, photo taken: July 19, 2010



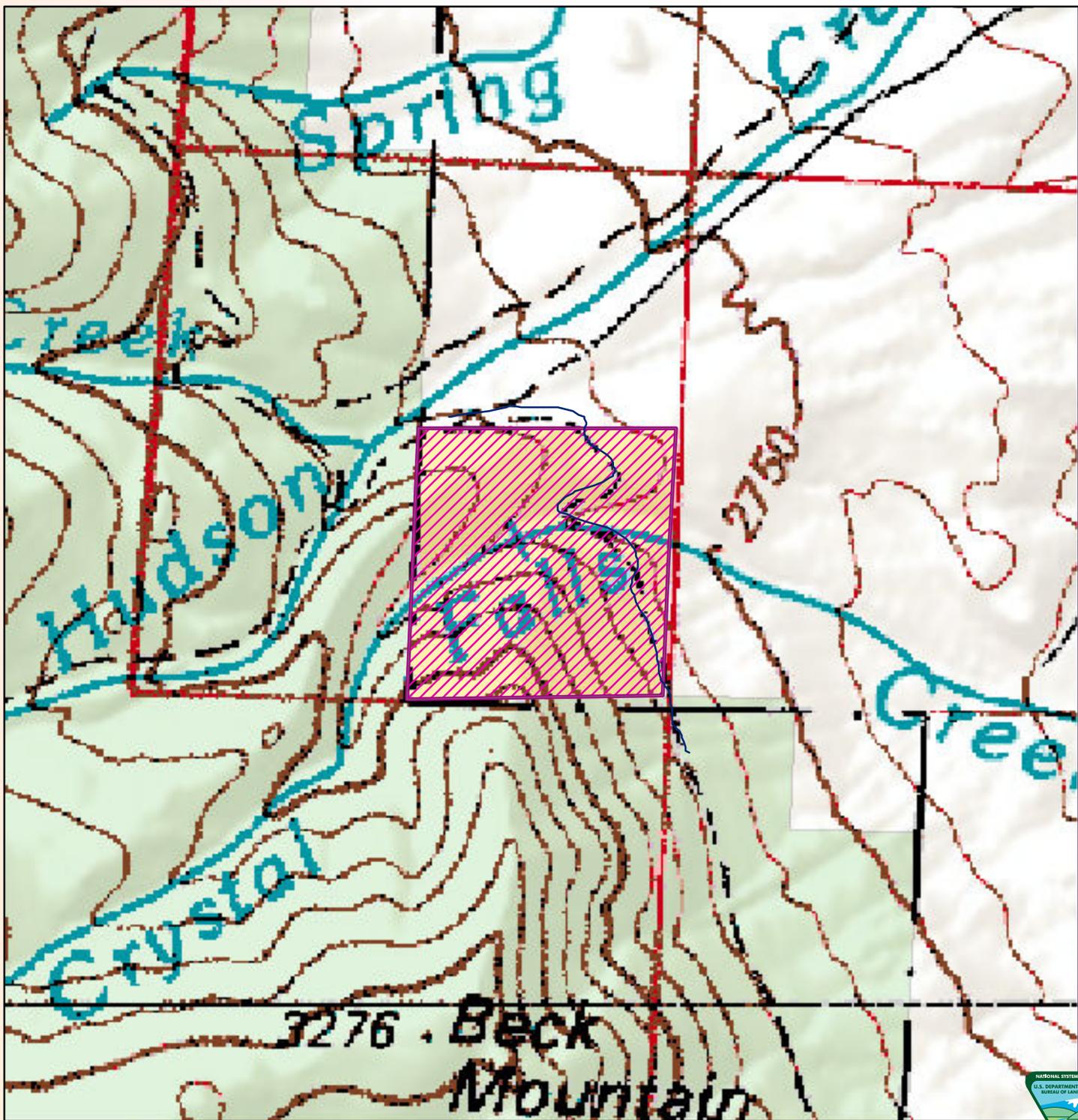
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

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

*Surface Land Ownership*

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- US Forest Service



**COF-020-060**      Acreage: 162.3

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

