

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): 012-001
 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)
CO-020-013	Y	N	N	N	N

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: CO-020-046

Acreage: 2,417.3 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The land is smaller than 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the BLM McIntyre Gulch Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office BLM) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit, CO-020-046, is bounded as follows:

- Bureau of Land Management McIntyre Hills WSA on the east edge;
- The north western edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road, Colorado State Hwy 69.
- The west edge of the unit by a utility transmission line, CO-020-046-A, wilderness inventory road, CO-020-046-B, and lands other than BLM management;
- The north edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road, US Highway (Hwy) 50.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, CO-020-046, is located at Texas Creek, east of the junction of US Hwy 50 and State Hwy 69. It is located west of Cañon City, Colorado approximately 17 miles (measured to the nearest point). It is located east of Salida, Colorado, less than 27 miles (measured to the nearest point). The unit consists of 2,417.3 acres of public land.

The topography of the unit is rugged, varying in elevation of 6,200 feet near the Arkansas River and 7,700 feet toward the eastern boundary. Rough, rocky terrain is found throughout the majority of the unit, steep hillsides form around drainages such as Thomas Gulch, and two unnamed drainages. The vegetation consists primarily of piñon-juniper woodland with ponderosa pines and mixed conifers found in the higher reaches.

The unit has remnants of a historic railroad, with evidence of constructed ways. The historical significance of the railroad adds supplemental value to the unit.

Man-made features found within the unit are significant and impact the overall naturalness to the area. The features include multiple routes found within the unit. The routes are assumed to have been built for prospecting purposes. Mechanical construction is evident on the routes, cut and fill is visible along the hillsides. The routes have been closed in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006). The mechanical

construction of cut and fill is evident throughout the unit; the disturbance impacts the visual landscape, and impacts the natural character of the unit.

The mining activity in the area significantly impacts the naturalness of the unit. Multiple mining sites located along the eastern boundary are visible throughout the unit. The amount of use, visibility and amount of disturbance on the landscape affects the naturalness to the overall unit.

The man-made features of the unit affect the overall naturalness to the area, therefore; the unit does not have 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 is within the Arkansas Canyon lands area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) as identifies in the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (1996).
- A historic railroad route exists within the unit.
- The unit is within a bighorn sheep production area, bighorn sheep severe winter range, and elk and mule deer winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-046

Acreage: 2,417.3 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that 2,417.3 acre 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; therefore, the unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

The unit, CO-020-046, is bounded as follows:

- Bureau of Land Management McIntyre Hills WSA on the east edge;
- The north western edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road, Colorado State Hwy 69.
- The west edge of the unit by a utility transmission line, CO-020-046-A, wilderness inventory road, CO-020-046-B, and lands other than BLM management;
- The north edge is bounded by wilderness inventory road, US Highway (Hwy) 50.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 19 S. R. 73 W. Sections 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 30.

- 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.
- 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
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner
Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: May 30, 2013
Date: June 28, 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 cherry system 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-020-046

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: US Hwy 50, CO-020-046-B, Colorado State Hwy 69

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-020-046 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:

Describe:

- US Hwy 50: transportation use.
- CO-020-046-A: Transmission line
- CO-020-046-B: BLM administrative route, transmission line maintenance route
- Colorado State Hwy 69: transportation use.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes ____ No X Unknown ____

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

CO-020-046-A for transmission line, serial # C36850 50'
Colorado State Hwy 69, to the state, serial #: 059935 60'
US Hwy 50, transportation ROW to the US, serial # D 046246

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

Yes ____ No ____ Unknown or N/A X

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 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:

- US Hwy 50 is paved.
- CO-020-046-A: is mechanically maintained by a dozer.
- CO-020-046-B: is maintained by a blade.
- Colorado State Hwy 69: is paved

- CO-020-045-B and C, have no evidence of mechanical construction.

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

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

Describe:

- US Hwy 50 has evidence of mechanical improvements.
- CO-020-046-A: has evidence of mechanical improvements
- CO-020-046-B: has evidence of mechanical improvements
- Colorado State Hwy 69: has evidence of mechanical improvements

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

- US Hwy 50 is maintained for regular and continuous use
- Colorado State Hwy 69: maintained for regular and continuous use
- CO-020-046-A and B are not maintained for continuous use, but are maintained for administrative access.

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:

- US Hwy 50 is maintained by machinery
- CO-020-046-A is maintained by machinery
- CO-020-046-B is maintained by machinery
- Colorado State Hwy 69 is maintained by machinery

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:

- US Hwy 50 would be maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation
- CO-020-046-A would be maintained by electric company
- CO-020-046-B would be maintained by BLM to ensure administrative access

- Colorado State Hwy 69 would be maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation

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).

- US Hwy 50 has regular and continuous use, use occurs daily.
- Colorado State Hwy 69 has regular and continuous use, use occurs daily.
- CO-020-046-A and B re not maintained for regular use, sue occurs 10-15 times a month.

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:

- US Hwy 50 is a wilderness inventory road and forms the north boundary of the unit.
- CO-020-046-A is a utility corridor with a active ROW associated with it. The line forms the southwest boundary.
- Colorado State Hwy 69 is a wilderness inventory road and forms the northwest boundary.

No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- CO-020-046-B is an administrative route and does not meet the wilderness inventory road criteria.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: August 27, 2013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): JTibbs/ Recreation Technician

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-046**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
5/15/2003	Ar_0200	S	Route condition	See map	19 S.	73 W.	7	1
5/15/2003	Ar_0201	E	Route condition	See map	19 S.	73 W.	18	2
5/15/2003	Ar_0202	E	Route condition	See map	19 S.	73 W.	17	3
5/15/2003	Ar_0203	S	Beginning of route	See map	19 S.	73 W.	7	4
5/15/2003	Ar_0204	E	Scenic	See map	19 S.	73 W.	8	5
5/15/2003	Ar_0205	E	Route condition	See map	19 S.	73 W.	8	6



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



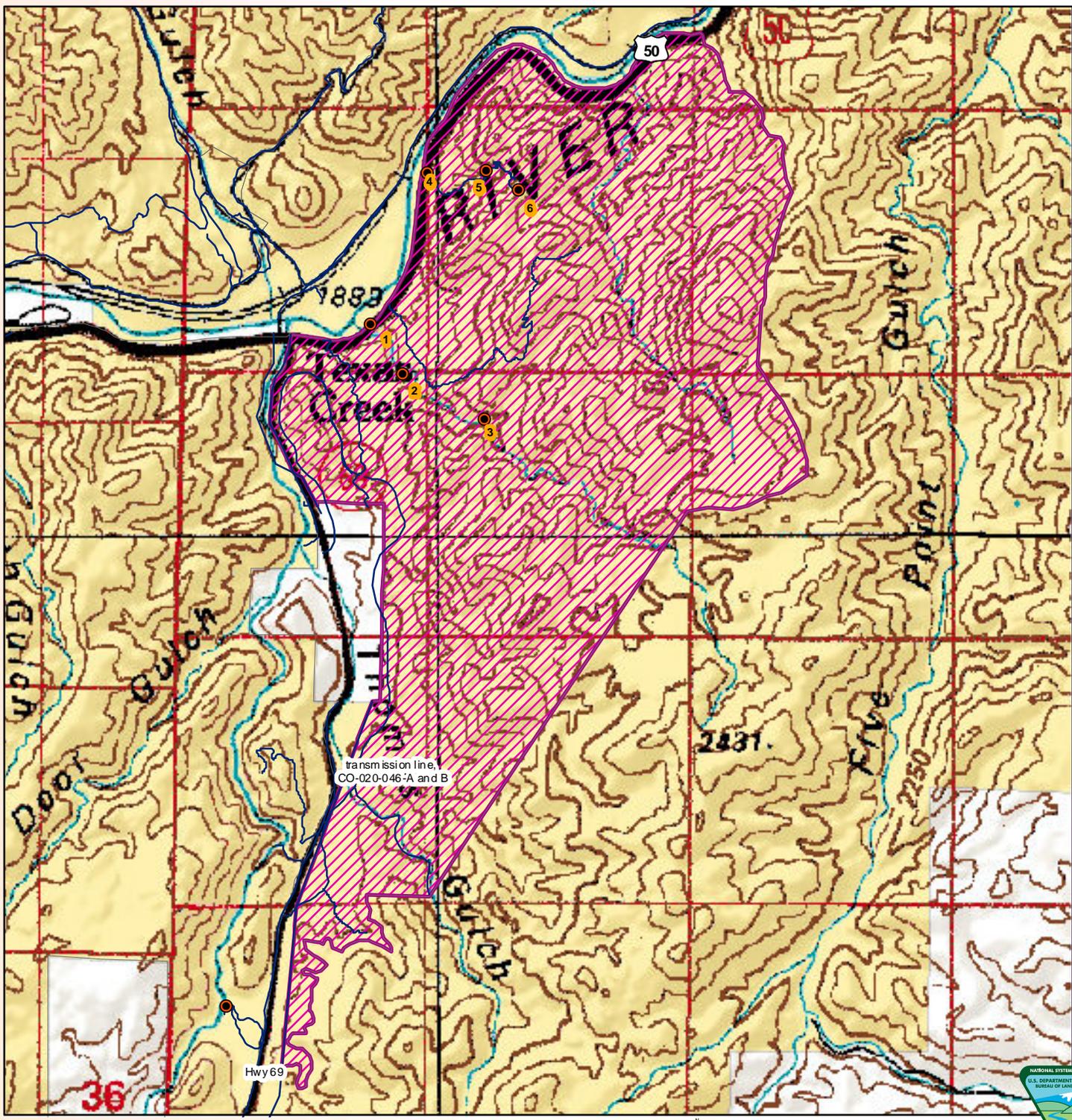
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

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

Surface Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



COF-020-046 Acreage: 2417.4

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

