

# 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): 338 001  
 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-020-079, Middle Hardscrabble Creek

Acreage: 39.0 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 Pike/San Isabel National Forest) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

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

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The unit, COF-020-079 is located less than 16 miles east of Westcliffe and Silvercliffe, Colorado (measured to the nearest point). The unit is south of Canon City, Colorado, less than 20 miles (measured to the nearest point). Unit, CO-020-079 contains 39.0 acres of public land.

The unit is located on a north face on a 9,800 feet peak. The topography is steep and rocky. The vegetation within the unit is comprised of ponderosa pines, aspen, and mixed conifers such as Douglas fir and spruce trees.

The unit is primarily affected by forces of nature.

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 topography is a large factor to finding solitude within the unit. Due to the fact that the unit is located on a north facing slope, the nearby private lands and roads are not visible within the unit. The thick vegetation found within the unit also plays a large role in ensure solitude. The tightly spaced trees allow for adequate screening from other visitors within the unit. Opportunities for solitude become outstanding due to the lack of visitor use in the area.

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

Recreational activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, and sightseeing occur in the unit. Opportunities for primitive recreation become outstanding due to the lack of motorized routes within the unit and potential to explore vast amounts of primitive public land, due to the USFS land adjacency.

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

Yes  No  NA

The unit is located within the Wet Mountains Lynx Analysis Unit and contains primary and secondary lynx habitat.

The unit contains Mexican spotted owl critical habitat.

The unit is located within an elk production area and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-079, Middle Hardscrabble Creek

Acreage: 39.0 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 39.0 acre unit has wilderness characteristics due to the unit having naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Outstanding opportunities exist due to topographic features providing adequate screening and lack of motorized access within the unit.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north edge is bounded by the USFS roadless recommended wilderness area;
- The west, south, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The legal description is as follows:
  - o T. 22 S. R.70 W. Section 12.

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

Date: August 30, 2013  
Date: July 30, 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 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-020-079, Middle Hardscrabble Creek

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: N/A

#### **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-020-79, middle Hardscrabble Creek, Wilderness Characteristics Map  
Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

#### **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)).

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?  
N/A

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 \_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_

No recent improvements have been observed on route, CO-020-081-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 \_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_

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 roads were found within the unit.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

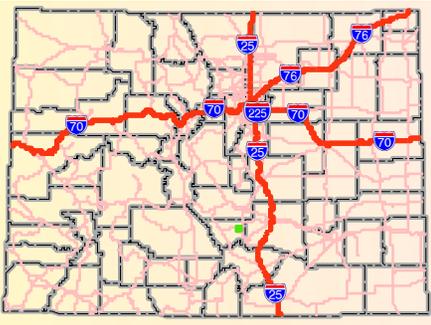
Date: July 30, 2013

## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-079, Middle Hardscrabble Creek**

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



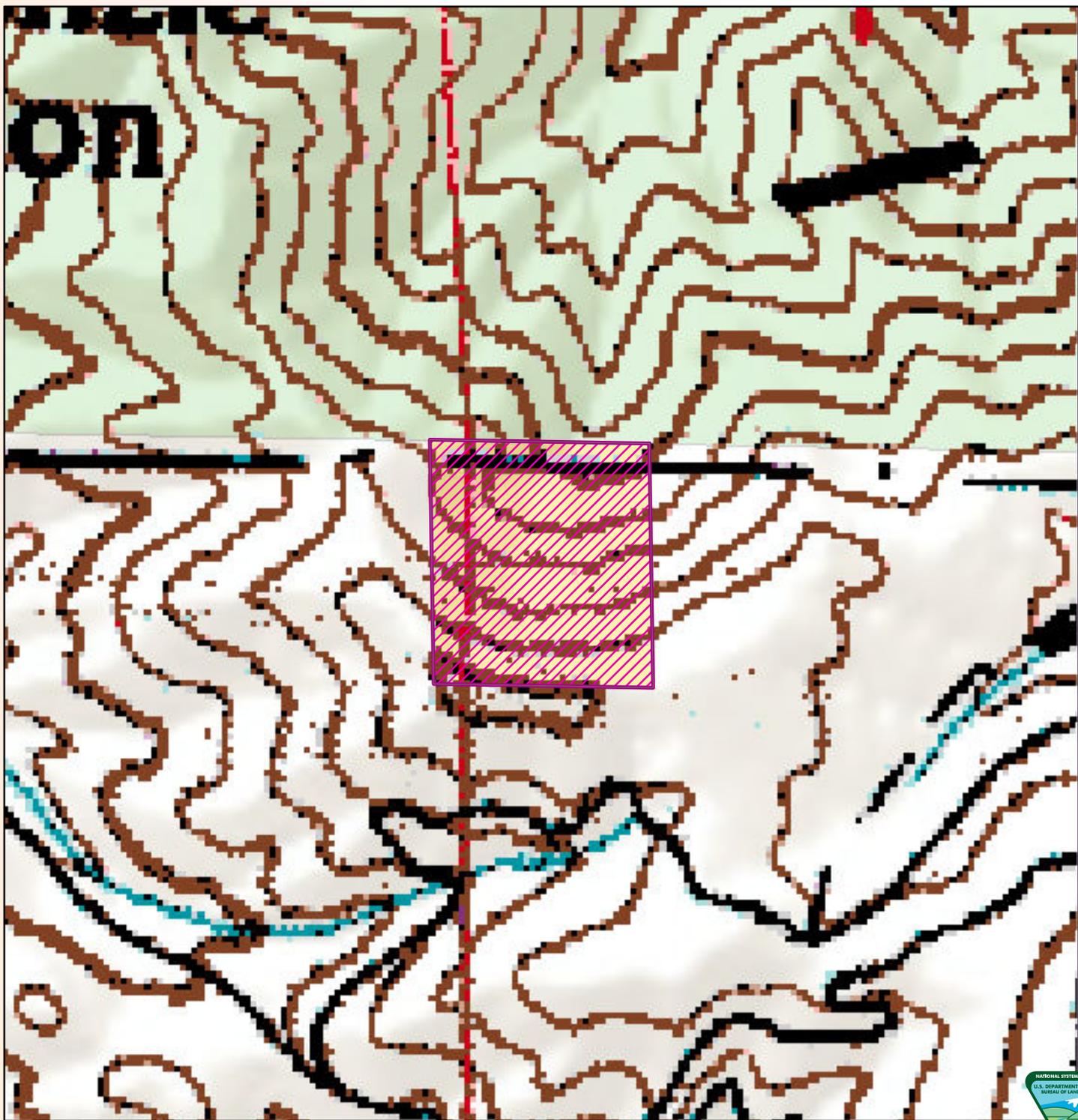
Map Extent Indicator

**Map Features**

- Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Parcels
- Counties

*Surface Land Ownership*

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- US Forest Service



**COF-020-079**      Acreage: 39.1

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

