

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): 003 005
 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-020-022, South Badger Creek Acreage: 8,137.4

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

Unit COF-020-022, South Badger Creek, is over 5,000 acres and meets the size criteria.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The northern edge is bounded by Western Area Power Administration power line right of way (ROW) and BLM road 5965;
- The eastern edge is bounded by BLM 5980;
- The southern boundary is based Fremont County Road 45, and the Union Pacific Railroad;
- Two wilderness "roads" are "cherry stemmed" into the unit, CO-020-022-D;
- Inside the unit, the unit is bounded by property lines other than BLM management.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit consists of 8,137.4 acres of public land. The unit is located less than 1 mile north of Howard, Colorado and Wellsville, Colorado (measured to the nearest point) and less than 10 miles east of Salida, Colorado, (measured at the nearest point). A few inholdings are located within the unit and will not be included in the inventory.

The topography within the area is mountainous. Rugged, rocky, steep terrain can be found throughout the unit. The unit ranges in elevation from 8,700 feet to 6,800 feet near Badger Creek, near the Arkansas River. Badger Creek flows in the middle of the unit consisting of rock granitic canyons, cobbled stream beds, scattered with large boulders. Little Badger Creek flows into Badger Creek in the northeastern part of the unit, consisting of a wide sandy creek bottom with deep banks. Another unknown ephemeral drainage, found in T. 49 N. R. 10. E. Secs. 22, 23, 24, is a deep canyon with a scoured rock stream bed and large boulders. The vegetation within the unit is varied. The lower reaches in the unit are dominated by piñon-juniper woodland. The northern slopes and higher elevations contain ponderosa pine and a mixed conifer forest. The unit also contains gambel oak, cholla, rabbit brush, and prickly pear.

The majority of the lands within the unit have been impacted primarily by forces of nature. Substantial imprints of man do exist, but are currently being restored to a natural state, and may be completely unrecognizable if left undisturbed. Imprints of man

include an extreme off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail, CO-020-022-B, known as Bloody Gulch. The route is designated closed in the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office Arkansas Travel Management Plan (2006). Currently the route is used by BLM administrative use for rangeland management purposes. The use is minimal on the route and riparian vegetation has grown over the route in many locations quickly. On the eastern end of route, there has been recent recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, but the use does not occur regularly. The route is not a significant impact to the overall naturalness of the unit.

An older route located along Badger Creek was originally constructed for range use; it has also grown over in many locations and is not a significant imprint of man. The range use is prevalent in the area, with routes, stock tanks, and cattle trails found throughout the unit, but does not affect the naturalness of the area.

Many of the drainage within the unit have natural springs. The BLM has identified them as potential rangeland improvement projects and develop the springs. The spring developments would improve grazing within the area. The springs are not currently developed and the routes to them have not been maintained.

The intensive inventory revealed that the unit seems to be primarily affected by nature. The existing human impacts found within the unit have a relatively small impact on the overall naturalness of the inventoried area.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the unit. The topographic relief and thick vegetation allows for visual and audible screening from human made disturbances. The lack of motorized routes in the area allows for foot or equestrian access. A portion of the unit where the majority of use occurs is along Badger Creek. Badger Creek offers recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. Although many public land visitors frequent Badger Creek, the abundant riparian vegetation along the creek provides excellent visual and audible screening, allowing for solitude to exist.

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 unique topography, undeveloped facilities, and non-motorized recreation possibilities. The unit provides excellent recreation possibilities, such as hiking, fishing, sightseeing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and photography. Large amount of land and unique geological formations may inspire a visitor to explore the vast amount of public lands. Excellent sightseeing opportunities are available in the higher elevations with vistas of the Arkansas River Canyon, Sangre de Christo Mountains, and the Collegiate Peak Mountain.

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

Yes No NA

- Sand stone hogbacks are found in the northeastern portion of the unit.
- The east central part of the unit has been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program of being a potential conservation area (PCA). The Unnamed Tributary to Badger Creek at Howard site has a B2 (Very High Biodiversity Significance) ranking. The report highlights the significance of the riparian natural community and the good occurrence of the globally imperiled pale blue-eyed grass.
- Historic wagon trail that follows Badger Creek and Little Badger Creek;
- The unit has archeological sites.
- The unit contains mule deer and elk severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis

Unique identifier: COF-020-022, South Badger Creek

Acreage: 8,137.4 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 8,137.4 acres contain naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. The topography of the unit, including many drainages and peaks, is the main factor for outstanding opportunities to exist. The numerous canyons along with riparian vegetation allow for excellent screening. The drainages provide for excellent and compelling recreation opportunities.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The northern edge is bounded by Western Area Power Administration, power line right of way (ROW) and BLM road 5965;
 - The eastern edge is bounded by BLM 5980;
 - The southern boundary is based Fremont County Road 45, and the Union Pacific Railroad;
 - Two wilderness "roads" are "cherry stemmed" into the unit, CO-020-022-D;
 - Inside the unit, the unit is bounded by property lines other than BLM management.
 - The unit can be found in the following townships:
 - o T. 49 N. R. 10 E. Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35
- 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 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

Date: August 8, 2013

Evaluator: Jeff Williams/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 6, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: August 8, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 10, 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 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-020-022, South Badger Creek Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: BLM 5965, Fremont County Road 45, BLM 5980, WAPPA Power line, The Union Pacific Railroad Line, Route CO-020-022-B, Route CO-020-022-E, and cherry stems: CO-020-022-D

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Map Title: COF-020-018, North Badger Creek 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 (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)).

The current purpose for the routes within the unit is as follows:

- BLM 5965: Designated as an open road in the BLM Royal Gorge Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (Ark TMP, 2006);
- Fremont County Road 45, Fremont County road right-of-way (ROW);
- BLM 5980, Designated as an open road in the BLM Royal Gorge Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (Ark TMP, 2006);
- WAPPA Power line, power line ROW;
- Union Pacific Railroad Line, railroad ROW.
- Route CO-020-022-B, Designated as a closed route by the BLM Royal Gorge Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (Ark TMP, 2006);
- Route CO-020-022-E, Designated as a closed route by the BLM Royal Gorge Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (Ark TMP, 2006);
- CO-020-022-D, powerline ROW;

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?

Fremont County Road 45: serial # COC 44142

BLM 5965: serial # COC 58899 15'

Western Area Power Administration: serial # C 0128242 15'

Union Pacific Railroad: serial # COC 437501

CO-020-022-D: serial # COC 66417 15'

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

Yes No Unknown or N/A

Explain:

Yes, all routes mentioned in B.1 are currently 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 X

Routes that have evidence of construction using mechanical means are:

- BLM 5965
- BLM 5980
- Fremont County Rd 45
- CO-020-022-D
- Union Pacific Railroad

No, if both III.A.1 and III.A.2 are checked "no" below X

Routes that do not have evidence of mechanical construction are:

- CO-020-022-B
- CO-020-022-E

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

Yes X No

Routes that were originally constructed using mechanical means are:

- BLM 5965
- BLM 5980
- Fremont County Rd 45
- CO-020-022-D
- Union Pacific Railroad

A.1. (Part 2) Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes No X

Routes that were not originally constructed by mechanical means:

- CO-020-018-A
- CO-020-018-E

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

Yes X

No

Routes that have evidence of Mechanical improvements are:

- BLM 5965: Mechanical improvements;
- BLM 5980: Mechanical improvements;

- Fremont County Rd 45: Mechanical improvements;
- CO-020-022-D: Mechanical improvements;
- Union Pacific Railroad

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

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

The routes that have evidence or documentation for maintenance are:

- BLM 5965: Mechanically maintained;
- BLM 5980: Mechanically maintained;
- Fremont County Rd 45: Mechanically maintained;
- CO-020-022-D: Mechanically maintained;

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 X No

Explain:

All routes mentioned in B.1. 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 X No

Explain:

All routes mentioned in B.1. maintained for regular and continuous 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

Routes that meet the criteria for being Wilderness Inventory Roads are:

- BLM 5965
- BLM 5980
- Fremont County Rd 45
- CO-020-022-D

No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Routes that do not meet the criteria for being Wilderness Inventory Roads are:

- CO-020-022-B
- CO-020-022-E

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: August 1, 2013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): **JTibbs/ Recreation Technician**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-022, South Badger Creek**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	UTM Zone 13	Town -ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
5/12/2003	ar_0508	N	OHV use	See map	49 N.	10 E.	23	1
5/12/2003	ar_0509	W	Gate	See map	49 N.	10 E.	23	2
5/12/2003	ar_0510	W	Route condition	See map	49 N.	10 E.	23	3
5/12/2003	ar_0511	E	Route condition	See map	49 N.	10 E.	23	4
5/12/2003	ar_0512	W	Gate	See map	49 N.	10 E.	23	5
5/12/2003	ar_0513	NE	OHV use	See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	6
5/12/2003	ar_0514	W	Bloody gulch	See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	7
5/12/2003	ar_0515	E	Bloody gulch	See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	8
5/12/2003	ar_0516	E	Bloody gulch	See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	9
5/12/2003	ar_0517	E	Trail sign	See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	10
5/12/2003	ar_0518	SW		See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	11
5/12/2003	Ar_0519	W	Route condition	See map	49 N.	10 E.	27	12
5/12/2003	Ar_0520	W		See map	49 N.	10 E.	27	13
5/12/2003	Ar_0521	NW		See map	49 N.	10 E.	27	14
5/12/2003	Ar_0522	E	Gate	See map	49 N.	10 E.	27	15
5/12/2003	Ar_0188	N	intersection	See map	49 N.	10 E.	25	16
5/12/2003	Ar_0197	W	River view	See map	49 N.	10 E.	22	17



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



#11



#12



#13



#14



#15



#16



#17



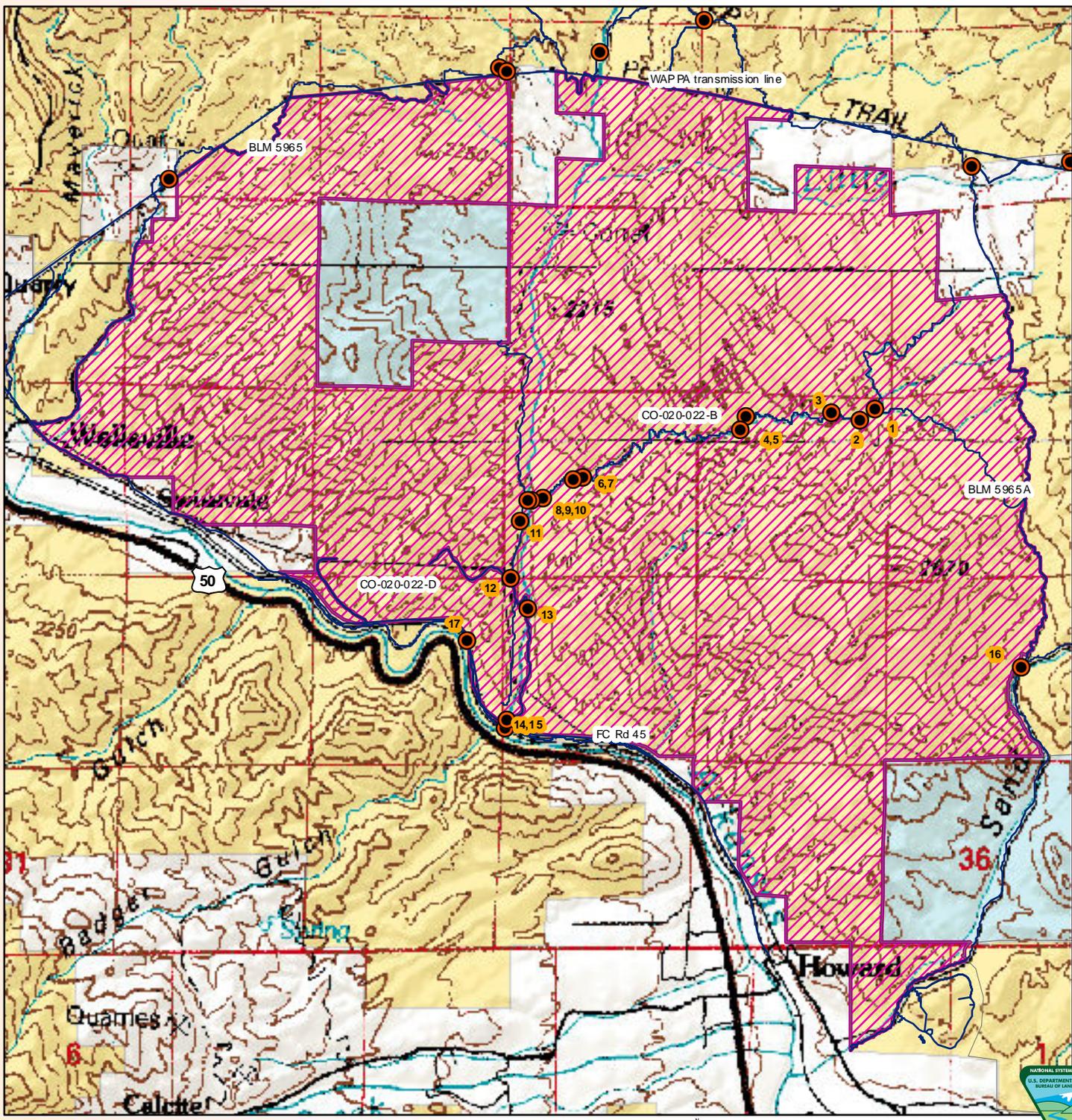
Map Extent Indicator

Map Features

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

Surface Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State



COF-020-022 Acreage: 8137.4

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

