

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
Badito Cone
COF-020-001**

Section 201 of FLPMA requires the BLM to maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values, which includes wilderness characteristics. It also provides that the preparation and maintenance of the inventory shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands. Regardless of past inventory, the BLM must maintain and update as necessary, its inventory of wilderness resources on public lands. In some circumstances, conditions relating to wilderness characteristics may have changed over time, and an area that was once determined to lack wilderness characteristics may now possess them. BLM Manual 6310 ‘Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands’ is the policy that provides guidance on conducting this inventory process.

Following BLM guidance the Royal Gorge Field Office conducted an inventory in 2013 and found 4,866.9 acres of the unit met the criteria for having wilderness characteristics due to the size criteria exception that the area is contiguous with United States Forest Service (USFS) roadless recommended wilderness area. Per policy, the public has the opportunity to provide new information regarding wilderness characteristics that the BLM must evaluate and consider. New information that meets the minimum standard for further review was submitted by Wild Connections on May 6, 2015 contending that 5826.4 acres meet the criteria (Badito Cone Contiguous Units LWC report). This BLM report reflects an updated inventory that combines BLM’s 2013 findings and an evaluation of the data submitted by Wild Connections.

Inventory Effort	Acreage Inventoried	Wilderness Characteristics Acreage
BLM 2013 Inventory	5,828.0	4,866.9
Wild Connections Inventory	5826.4	5826.4
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	5,826.41	0.0

**Form 1: Document Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record
(Refers to Original 1980's Inventory Effort)**

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:

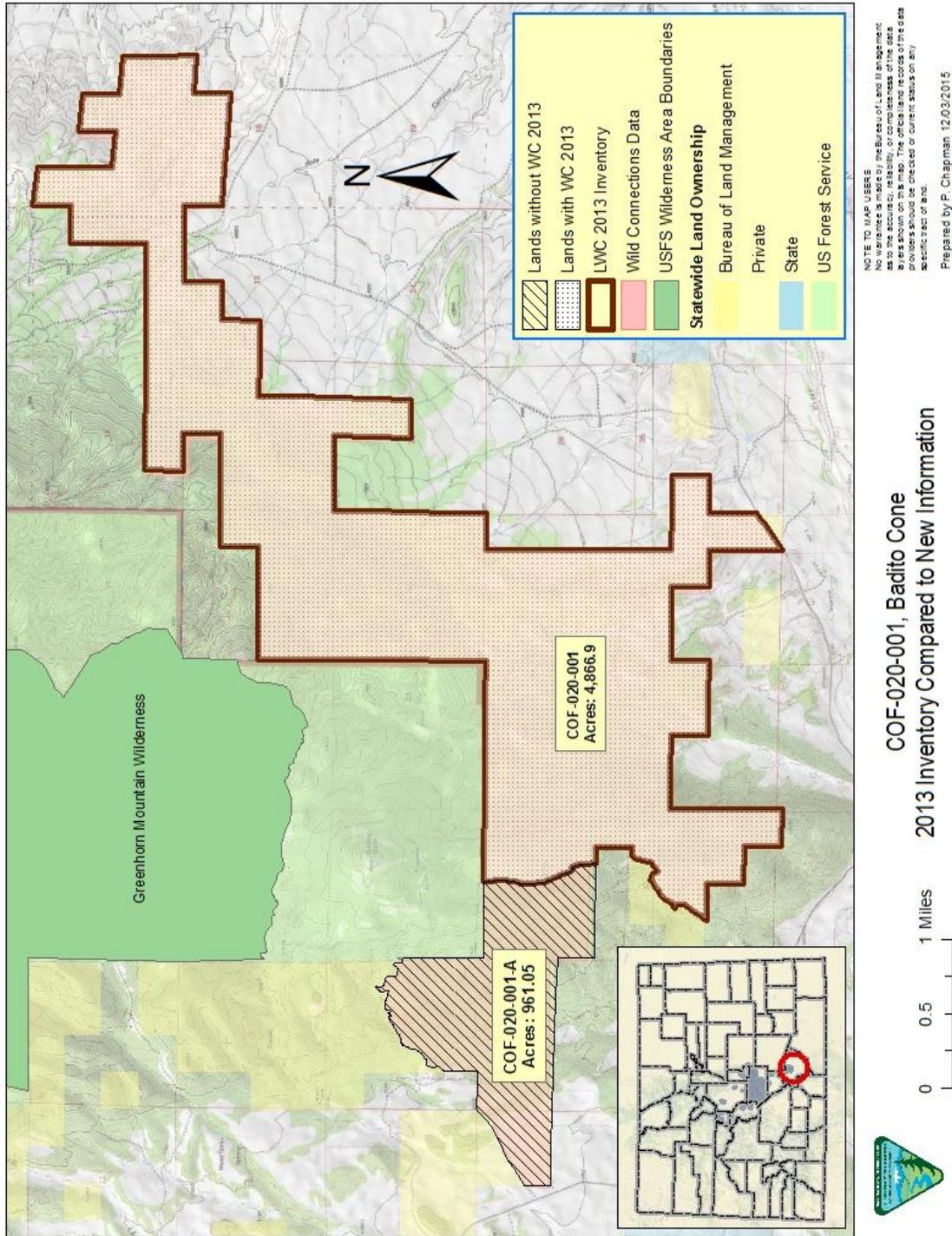
Inventory Source: _____
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-020-044
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): BLM 100 K Walsenberg, Blanca Peak
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): RGFO

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)

Map 1 Badito Cone 2013 inventory compared to new information



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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-001, Badito Cone

The new information submitted from Wild Connections proposed the unit COF-020-001 meets the criteria of LWC for a total of 5826.4 acres. However, County Road 651 was identified in the 2015 evaluation creating COF-020-001-B, Badito Cone East.

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Unit: COF-020-001

Acreage: 4866.9 acres

Yes ___ No X

The unit inventoried is slightly less than 5000 acres and does not meet the minimum size criteria. However, it can be considered as an exception if it is demonstrated that the area is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. However, 88.6 acres of substantially noticeable human-caused impacts were excluded; splitting the unit into two-sub-units (see #2 below). These are described below.

The unit, COF-020-001 is bounded as follows:

- The northern boundary is defined by the USFS boundary and property lines other than BLM management;
- The south is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The western edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, BLM Road #6274;
- The northeastern corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, Huerfano County Road 651.

Area Unique Identifier: Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-A, Badito Cone West

Acreage: 961.05 acres

Yes ___ No X

The subunit, COF-020-001-A, is less than 5,000 acres and is not contiguous with any lands managed for the protection of wilderness characteristics.

The sub unit, COF-020-001-A is bounded as follows:

- The northern boundary is defined by wilderness inventory road, USFS 438;
- The northeastern edge is bounded by the Pike/San Isabel USFS boundary.
- The south eastern edge is bounded by substantially noticeable man-made features near BLM Road #6274;
- The south and western edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management.

Area Unique Identifier: Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-B, Badito Cone East

Acreage: 718.23 acres

Yes ___ No X

Sub-unit B, Badito Cone East is 718.23 acres. Wild Connections included this section as a part of COF-020-001 however it is separated by a wilderness inventory road. 2015 inventory found that it does not meet the size criteria.

The unit, COF-020-001-B is bounded as follows:

- The north, south and east ends are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The western edge is defined by wilderness inventory road, Huerfano County Road 651;

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Unit: COF-020-001

Yes ___ No X NA _____

The Badito Cone unit, COF-020-001 is located south of Greenhorn Mountain. The closest large town, Walsenburg, Colorado is located 20 miles southeast of the unit. The unit is located south of the prominent Badito Cone.

The Badito Cone unit consists of steep rocky outcroppings, steep cliff bands, deep canyons and varied rocky terrain. The parcel primarily consists of piñon-juniper forest, with ponderosa pines found in the higher elevations. Cottonwoods can also be found in drainages. The unit surrounds the foothills of the mountains and incorporates grassland and plains ecosystems to the east.

The unit does have man-made features found throughout it. The features were built for grazing access, mining, and timber harvest. The grazing features within the unit include developed springs, corals, fence lines, and cattle guards. In the central portion of the unit there is evidence of mining including constructed routes, tailing piles, and an old track dozer. Dissecting the unit is BLM Road 6274 which no longer sees regular use due to loss of access across private land. It was however constructed and still substantially noticeable on the landscape (see map 2 showing aerial imagery of this area). Following BLM manual 6310 (page 9 Boundary Delineation) this area of concentrated substantially noticeable human-caused impacts cumulatively affects the naturalness of this area and was excluded from the unit. Since the disturbance is linear and dissects across the length of the unit north to south the substantially noticeable human-caused impacts is used as the unit boundary cutting the unit into two sub-units. At 718.23 acres Unit COF-020-001-A no longer meets the 5,000 acre size requirement and it is not contiguous with Greenhorn Wilderness area. The unit does not cover a distinct geographic feature, is fairly long and narrow with private land on three sides making preservation un-practicable. The 961.05 acre COF-020-001-A unit does not meet the minimum size

criteria and is not adjacent to an area managed for the protection of wilderness so was not considered further.

Wild Connections report contends that the mining disturbance documented by the BLM is substantially unnoticeable 'unless the viewer is right on top of it' due to the topography and heavy vegetation. While this may be true, due to the linear nature of multiple old roads associated with mining, a person traveling through this unit would have to cross multiple areas of human-caused impacts where they would be readily noticeable (see map 2). The contention that human-caused impacts are not visible from a distance and are not readily noticeable does not hold true when a person actually visits the unit. While BLM policy does caution using an overly strict approach to assessing naturalness it does call for evaluating the cumulative effect that several minor impacts may have on apparent naturalness. The photo points provided by Wild Connections are similar to those in BLM's report and document a multitude of disturbances in a fairly concentrated area.

The timber harvest within the area has mostly occurred for fire wood gathering, evidence of cut logs is evident along the routes.

The parcel consists of routes to access range improvements including, fences, gates, springs, stock tanks, and corals. Due to the recent drought, the impact of cattle grazing has diminished. Many ranchers have reduced the amount of cattle in their permitted allotments, or have abandoned the allotments entirely. This activity is mostly concentrated along BLM Route 6274 (see map), the southern end of the unit and near BLM route 6275 (see map) in the south central part of the unit.

The route, BLM 6275 is located in T. 26 S. R. 68 W. Sec 27, 28 and 34. It is assumed to have been mechanically constructed for uranium prospecting. The current use is only within the first mile, for range access on horseback. There is no record of this route being maintained within the last ten years. The route is impassable to a full size vehicle due to a wash out at the south end. Inventory revealed no motorized use on the route. The route follows a fence line and provides access for a stock tank located on the south end. The route ends at a uranium mine. Historic mining remnants remain such as; tires, car door, cables, claim markers, and mining disturbances (see photos). Due to the lack of use, and historic remnants, this route and disturbances around the route do not affect the naturalness of the unit.

Other routes within the unit are located in the northeastern corner. The routes are used for range access to stock tank and spring developments. The routes have had historic motorized use, but the current use is primarily by horse or foot. The routes do not affect the natural character of the unit.

As a result of the original BLM inventory and a review of the information provided by Wild Connections, the BLM still contends that the area near BLM Road #6274 has a high

concentration of minor disturbances that cumulatively affect apparent naturalness. As a result of these findings and per BLM policy this area was excluded resulting in two units. The remaining Badito Cone East unit (COF-020-001-B) generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature outside of the central part of the unit identified above. At 718.23 acres and not being contiguous with lands managed for wilderness characteristics it does not however meet the minimum size criteria. Due to its configuration and surrounding private lands its preservation would not be practicable and is not considered further.

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?

Unit: COF-020-001

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-A

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-B

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

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?

Unit: COF-020-001

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-A

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-B

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

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

Unit: COF-020-001

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-A

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-B

Yes ___ No ___ NA X ___

Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-001, Badito Cone
Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-A, Badito Cone East
Sub-Unit: COF-020-001-B, Badito Cone West

Total Acreage: 4,147.13 acres
Acreage: 718.23 acres
Acreage: 961.05 acres

Results of Analysis:

The Badito Cone Unit (COF-020-001) originally met the size criteria for consideration. However, inventories revealed an 88.60 acre area of substantially noticeable man-made features. These linear features, when excluded following BLM policy, split the unit into two sub-units; Badito Cone (COF-020-001) and Badito Cone West (COF-020-001-A).

Subunit, COF-020-001-B does not meet the size criteria. It is 718.23 acres and is not contiguous with lands managed for the protection of wilderness values. The area is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition since it does not cover a distinct geographic feature, and has private land on three sides.

Subunit, COF-020-001-A does not meet the size criteria. It is 961.05 acres and is not contiguous with lands managed for the protection of wilderness values.

- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes ___ No X
- Does the area appear natural? Yes ___ No ___ NA X
- 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 ___ No ___ NA X

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.

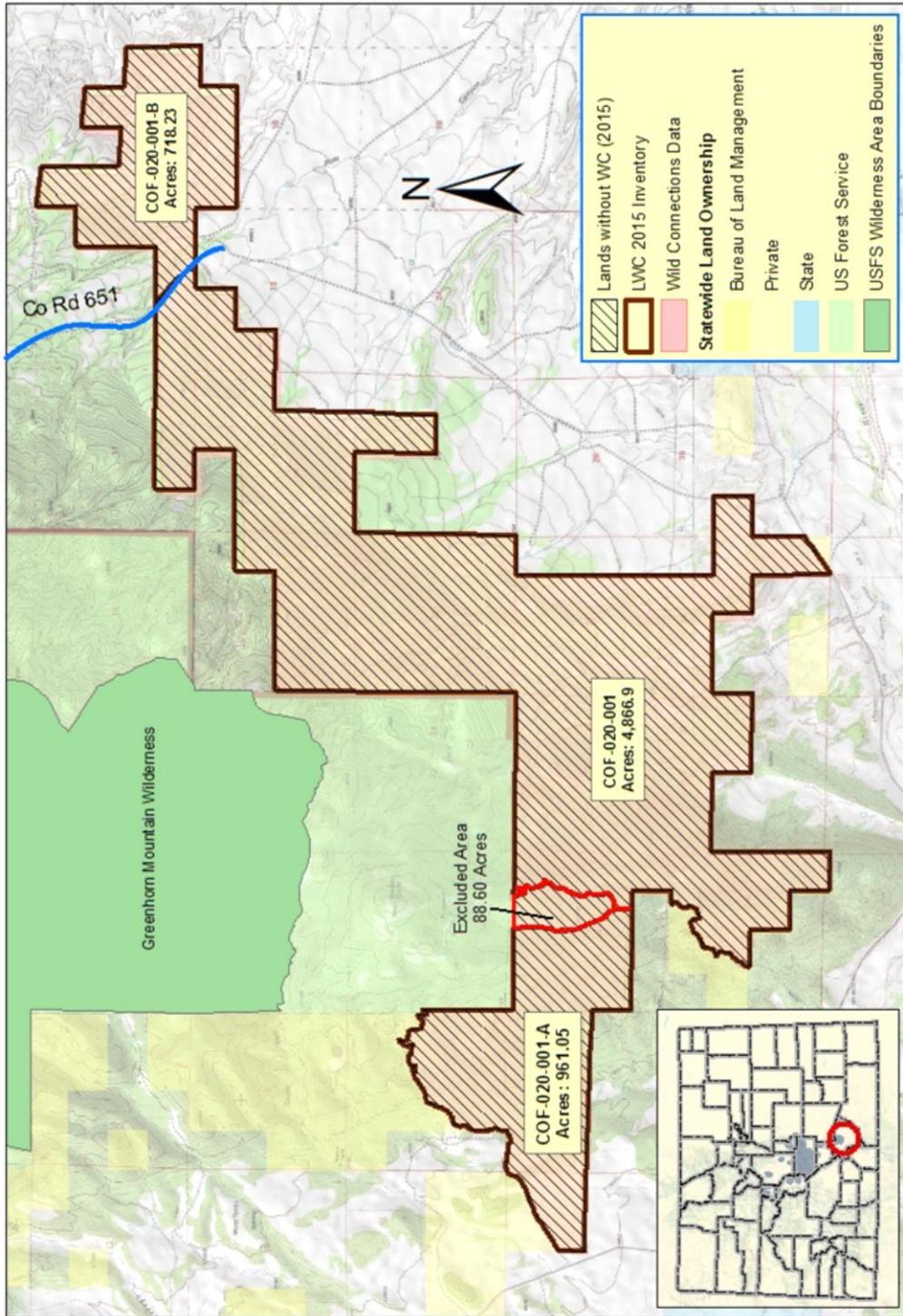
This does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision, and does not represent a decision in regard to how the area will be managed or address impacts of management decisions.

Prepared by:

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner
Evaluator: Ken Reed/ Forester
Evaluator: John Lamman/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: May 21, 2013
Date: December 1, 2015
Date: August 4, 2013
Date: September 10, 2013

Map 2 Badito Cone 2015 inventory shows the unit split into 3 sections



Badito Cone COF-020-001,
COF-020-001-A, COF-020-001-B,
2015 Inventory



Prepared by P. Chapman 12/03/2015

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-020-001

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: USFS 438, BLM 6274, BLM 6275, Huerfano County Road 651.

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-020-001, Badito Cone, 2013 Inventory Compared to New Information

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the wilderness inventory unit as well as 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 of Route:

- USFS 438: is currently used to access mining sites on Badito Cone and an administrative site for a communication site, both on USFS land.
- BLM 6274: Is currently used for rangeland improvement projects as well as recreation use by off-highway vehicles (OHVs)
- BLM 6275: Is currently used for rangeland improvement project to access fences and stock tanks.
- Huerfano County Road 651: Currently used for regular transportation.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes No Unknown

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

Yes No Unknown or N/A

Explain:

- USFS 438 has a ROW association, the serial # is: C31549 30', it is currently used for the ROW stated 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

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

- Routes, USFS 438, BLM 6274, BLM 6275, and Huerfano County Road 651 have evidence of construction or improvements using mechanical means.

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

Yes No

- USFS 438: Has evidence of the original construction by mechanical means, evidence of cut/ fill is along the hill sides, most likely with bull dozer.
- BLM 6274: Has evidence of original mechanical construction, evidence of cut/ fill is along the route, most likely with track dozer.
- BLM 6275: Has evidence of original mechanical construction along the route, most likely by track dozer.
- Huerfano County Road 651: Has evidence of original mechanical construction.

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

Yes X

- USFS 438: Has evidence of mechanical improvements, recent maintenance and drainage structures like culverts and water bars have been installed in the route.
- BLM 6274: Has evidence of mechanical improvements, but evidence of use of hand tools.

No X

- BLM 6275: No 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 X

No, if both III.B.1 *and* III.B.2 are checked "no" below

- Routes, USFS 438, Huerfano County Road 651, and BLM 6274 would ensure regular use.

B.1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X

- USFS 438: Maintenance has occurred within the last 1-3 years by mechanical means.
- BLM 6274: Maintenance has not occurred recently, but if needed the route would be maintained for spring development.

No X

- BLM 6275: Maintenance has not occurred on the route in the past 10 years.

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

- USFS 438: Would be maintained by ROW holder if became impassable.
- Huerfano County Road 651: Would be maintained if became impassable.

- BLM 6274: Would be maintained if became impassable, due to range access.

No X

- BLM 6275: Would not be maintained if became impassable.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?

Yes X

- USFS 438: Full size vehicle use is common, use occurs approximately 15-20 times a week, more during hunting season.
- Huerfano County Road 651: Full size vehicle use is common.

No X

- BLM 6274: Use does not occur on a regular basis, the route has narrowed for only OHV use in some sections.
- BLM 6275: Use does not occur on this route.

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 X = Wilderness Inventory Road

- USFS 438: meets the wilderness inventory road criteria.
- Huerfano County Road 651: meets the wilderness inventory road criteria.
- BLM 6274: meets the wilderness inventory road criteria.

No X = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- BLM 6275: Does not meet the wilderness inventory road criteria.

Evaluator: Janine Prout / Recreation Technician

Date: May 14, 2013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): **Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-001, Badito Cone**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UT M Location	Town -ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
5/14/2013	DSC03544	N	Enter BLM	See Map	26 S	68 W	29	1
5/14/2013	DSC03545	N	track dozer	See Map	26 S	68 W	29	2
5/14/2013	DSC03546	E	mine	See Map	26 S	68 W	29	3
5/14/2013	DSC03547	E	Fence line	See Map	26 S	68 W	20	4
5/14/2013	DSC03550	NW	Culvert	See Map	26 S	68 W	19	5
5/14/2013	DSC03551	NE	Cattle guard, beginning of BLM	See Map	26 S	68 W	19	6
5/14/2013	DSC03552	S	Fire ring	See Map	26 S	68 W	19	7
5/14/2013	DSC03553	W	User created route	See Map	26 S	68 W	19	8
5/14/2013	DSC03554	NE	FS Rd 438	See Map	26 S	68 W	19	9
5/14/2013	DSC03555	N	User created route	See Map	26 S	68 W	19	10
5/14/2013	DSC03556	SE	Typical view of route	See Map	26 S	68 W	33	11
5/14/2013	DSC03557	E	Fence line	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	12
5/14/2013	DSC03559	E	Mining claim marker	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	13
5/14/2013	DSC03560	N	Walk through gate	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	14
5/14/2013	DSC03562	N	Trash remnants	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	15
5/14/2013	DSC03563	E	Typical view of old road bed	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	16
5/14/2013	DSC03564	N	marker	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	17
5/14/2013	DSC03565	S	White rocks	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	18
5/14/2013	DSC03566	SW	Old road cut	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	19
5/14/2013	DSC03567	S	Milled wood marker	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	20
5/14/2013	DSC03569	NE	Metal piping	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	21

5/14/2013	DSC03570	SW	Tires and tank	See Map	26 S	68 W	28	22
5/14/2013	DSC03571	N	Walk-through gate	See Map	26 S	68 W	34	23



#1 enter BLM



#2 old dozer



#3 Mine



4 fence line



#5 culvert



#6 culvert, enter BLM



#7 fire ring



#8 User created route



#9 USFS Rd 438



#10 User created route



#11 Typical view of route looking N



#12 Fence line



#13 mining claim



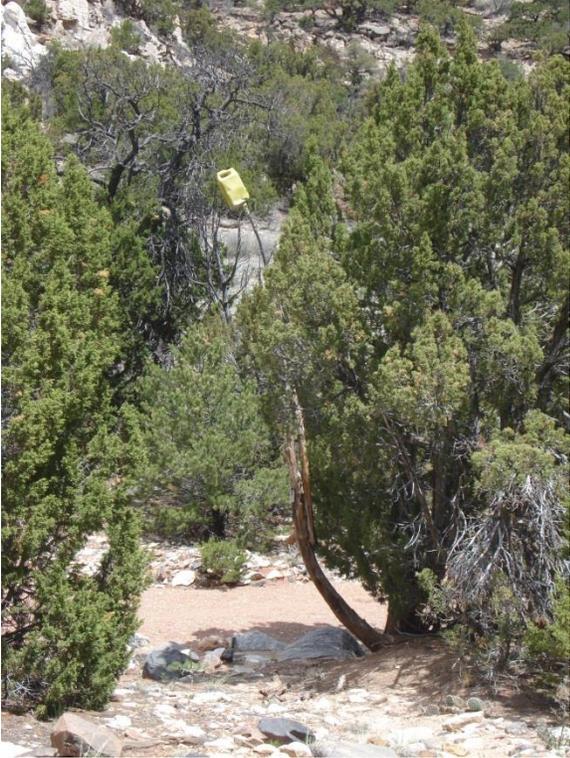
#14 walk through gate



#15 trash remnants



#16 typical view of route



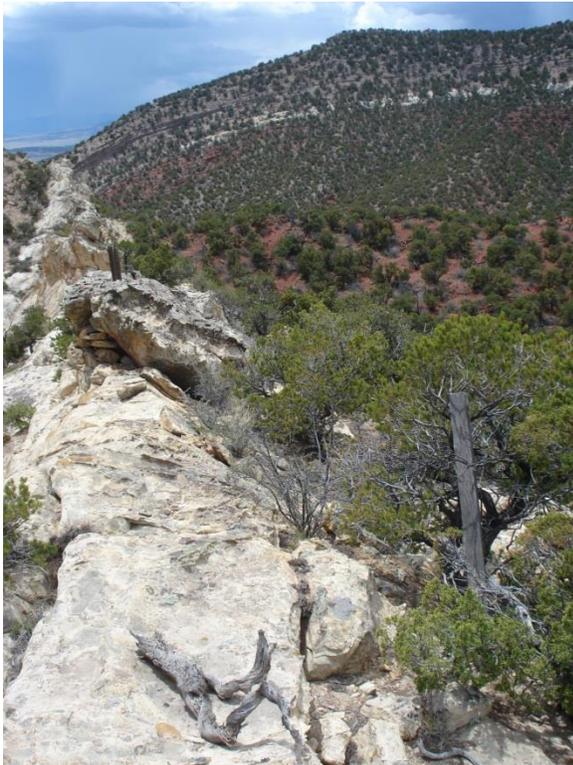
#17 marker



#18



#19 Road cut



#20 milled wood marker



#21 piping

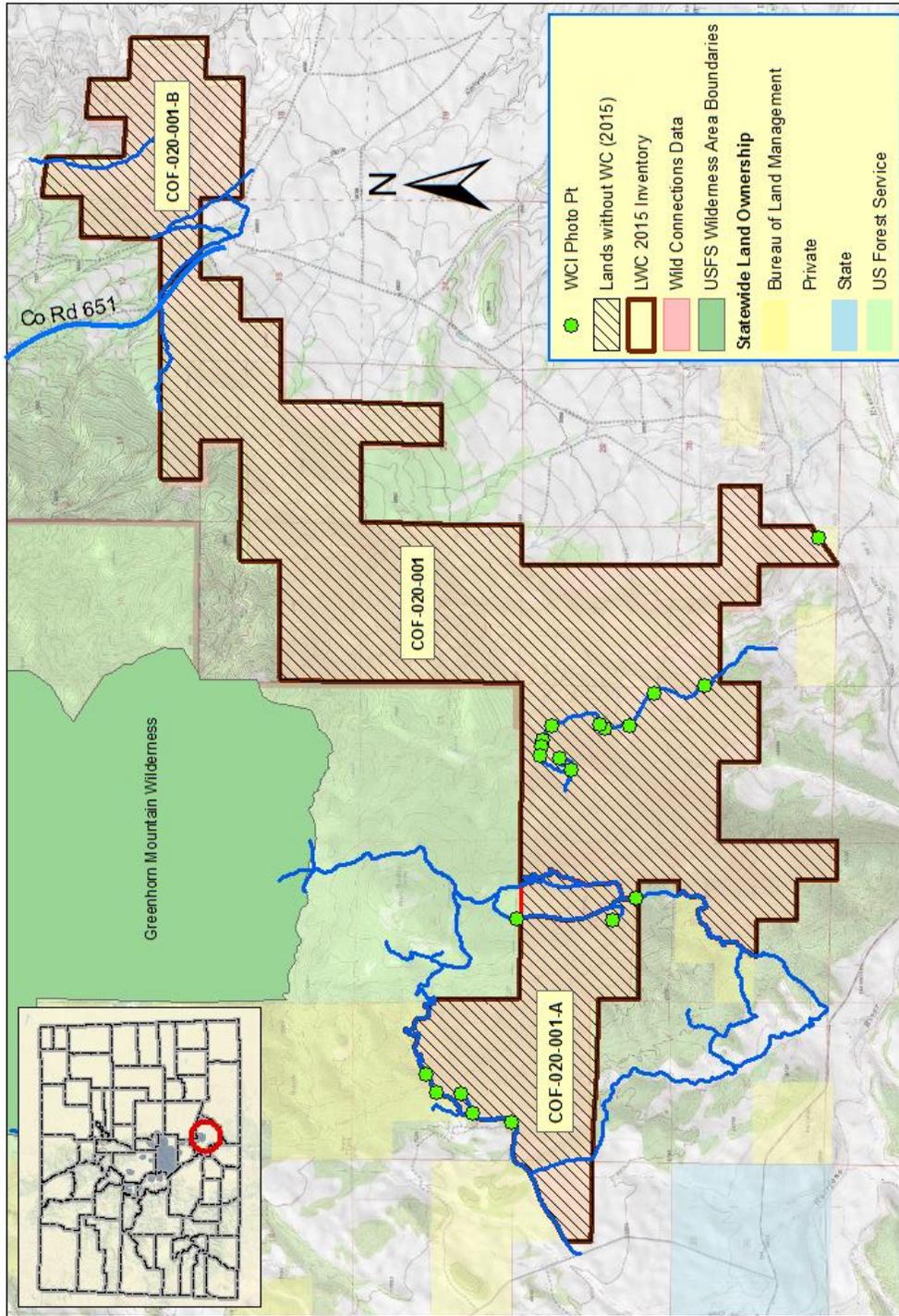


#22 mine site



#23 walk through gate

Map 3 Badito Cone routes and photo points



NOTE TO MAP USERS
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data as shown on this map. The official records of the data provided should be consulted for current status on any specific parcel.

Prepared by P. Chapman 12/03/2015

**Badito Cone COF-020-001,
 COF-020-001-A, COF-020-001-B,
 Route & Waypoint Reference Map**

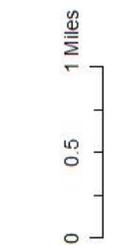


Figure 1 Aerial view of excluded area

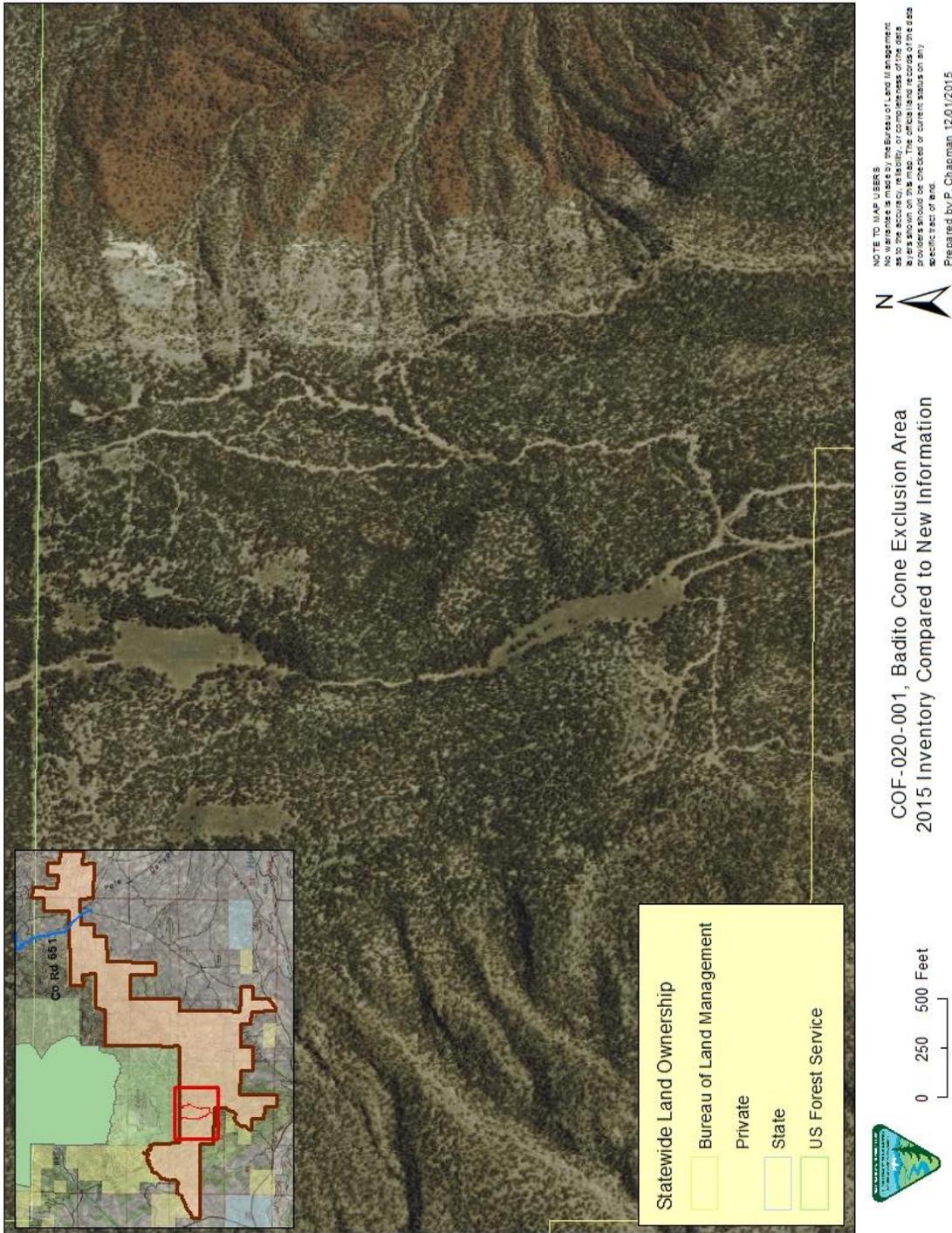
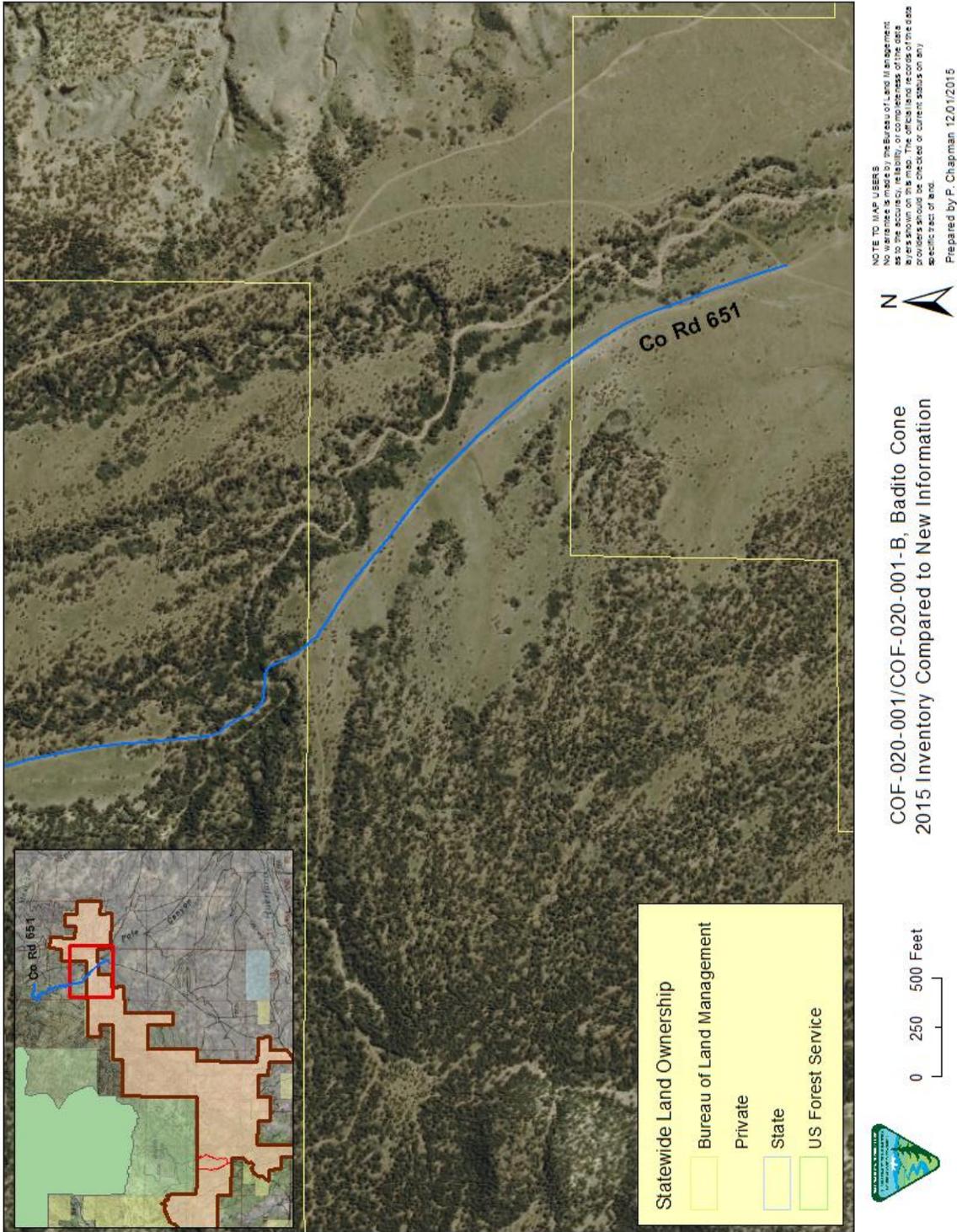


Figure 2 Aerial view of County road 651



Royal Gorge Field Office Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory, 2015: Evaluation of new information

Assessment and Determination

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office followed manual 6310 in the performance of inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics. In response to new information submitted in May, 2015 by Wild Connections, the 2013 inventory was re-evaluated. A final review was made by comparing existing data and when needed additional field trips were taken to collect data by GPS, inventory forms, and photo points. Resource specialists were also consulted to determine if the conclusion reached in the 2013 inventory remains valid, or whether changes should occur. The above report documents those findings for the following area(s):

Unit ID	Unit Name	Total BLM acreage inventoried	Acreage with Wilderness Characteristics	Acreage without Wilderness Characteristics
COF-020-001	Badito Cone	4866.9	0.0	4866.9
COF-020-001-A	Badito Cone	961.05	0.0	961.05
COF-020-001-B	Badito Cone	718.23	0.0	718.23

Review:

I have reviewed the inventory results, reports, photos, and maps for the above Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and concur with the findings as submitted.



James Kalem Lenard
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/22/16



Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/24/16