

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
Badito Cone North
COF-020-087**

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 that the unit met the criteria for having wilderness characteristics. 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 agreeing with the BLM findings that 923.5 acres meet the criteria. The data was submitted by Wild Connections in their Badito Cone Contiguous Units LWC report.

Although BLM and Wild Connections are in agreement that Badito Cone North fits the criteria, the 2013 BLM inventory incorrectly stated that the area meets the criteria for LWC because it is contiguous with USFS road-less recommended wilderness area. Further clarification is needed so the 2015 inventory for North Hondo was updated to reflect new information.

Inventory Effort	Acreage Inventoried	Wilderness Characteristics Acreage
BLM 2013 Inventory	923.5	923.5
Wild Connections Inventory	923.5	923.5
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	923.5	923.5

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 X (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)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-087, Badito Cone North

Acreage: 923.5 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The Badito Cone North unit is not over 5,000 acres, but is contiguous with the United States Forest Service (USFS) Greenhorn Wilderness Area. The unit meets the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The USFS Greenhorn Wilderness Area and USFS public land defines the east boundary.
- A wilderness inventory road, as defined by FLPMA (94-1163), defines the south boundary.
- The west and north sections of the unit is bounded by private property. (See map).

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

Description:

The Badito Cone North unit, COF-020-087 is located southwest of the Wet Mountain range. The closest large town, Walsenburg, Colorado, is located 20 miles southeast of the unit. The unit is primarily surrounded by private landowners on the north and west ends of the unit. A prominent topographic feature within the unit includes South Red Canyon. The canyon forms a large drainage with steep rocky ridges on each side. The canyon runs east to west within the unit and comprises of unique geological formations. Vegetation within the unit is primarily piñon/ juniper forest.

The parcel consists of a few 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 the south boundary, USFS Rd 438(see map).

The existing routes within the area provide access for OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) travel from private property. A few user created routes were identified as being used by ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles). The inventory revealed that the current primary use for the routes

is for recreation purposes, timber collecting, and hunting. These routes do not meet the definition of a “road” as defined by FLPMA (94-1163).

As a result of the inventory conducted, The Badito Cone North unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature. The unit appears to have apparent naturalness due to the rough, rugged topography and minimal human imprint.

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 Badito Cone North unit encompasses rough rugged terrain with canyons, rock outcroppings, overlooks, and thick vegetation. Due to the parcel’s topographic characteristics, and difficulty to access, a visitor would be guaranteed solitude. The opportunity for solitude becomes outstanding due to the difficulty to access the area. Also, many canyons, thick vegetation, and varied terrain features offer an incredible screening for seclusion.

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

Description:

The Badito Cone North unit does offer primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is contiguous with the Greenhorn Wilderness Area, which allows access to a great expanse of wild country. The parcel provides visitors with dispersed, undeveloped recreation which includes: hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, sightseeing and viewing or exploring unique geological features. The opportunities for primitive recreation becomes outstanding due to the lack of primitive routes in the area, the large amount of land it encompasses, in conjunction with the wilderness area, and the varied terrain that offers many types of recreational uses.

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

Yes No NA

Description:

- The unit is located within the Wet Mountains Lynx Analysis Unit although the unit does not contain lynx habitat.
- The unit is within elk severe winter range and mule deer winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-087, North Badito Cone

Acreage: 923.5 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the unit consists of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive unconfined recreation. As a result of the lack of man-made features found within the unit, the unit has primarily been affected by forces of nature. An average visitor of the area will find outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation due to the lack of established facilities, steep rocky cliffs, numerous canyons, thick vegetation, and vast expanse of un-impacted land.

The 923.5 acre unit is bounded as follows:

- A wilderness characteristics inventory road, USFS Road 438 on the south edge;
- The USFS Greenhorn Wilderness Area and USFS public land define the east edge;
- The west and north sections of the unit is bounded by private property.
- It is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o 26 S. R. 68 W. Sec. 7,19, and 20

- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes X No _____
- 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 X No _____ NA _____
- Does the area have supplemental value? Yes X No _____ NA _____

Check one:

- X 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: May 21, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 11, 2013

Evaluator: John Lamman/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: Sept 9, 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: _CO-020-0087 N Badito Cone
Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: USFS road 438

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-020-087, Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the inventoried parcel 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:

Describe:

USFS route 438 is currently used to access mining sites on Badito Cone and an administrative site for a communication site, both on USFS land.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes X No ____ Unknown ____

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

C31549 30'

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

Yes X No ____ Unknown or N/A ____

Explain:

USFS 438 ROW is 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 ____

Examples (partial list):

Paved ____ Bladed ____ Graveled ____ Roadside Berms ____ Cut/Fill X Other ____

Describe:

Road FS 438 appears to be originally constructed to access prospecting sites near the top of Badito Cone. Significant road cuts illustrate the fact that this road was mechanically built most likely with a bull dozer.

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

Yes X If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools ____ by Machine X

No ____

Examples (partial list):

Culverts X Built Stream Crossings ____ Bridges ____ Drainage X Barriers ____

Describe:

Road FS 438 shows significant original construction, with historic remnants of blasting and pitons to haul large equipment up a steep portion of the road. Culverts and drainage structures have been mechanically installed in the road to enable full size vehicle traffic.

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 ____

No ____

Explain:

Inventory revealed recent maintenance on FS Rd 438, most likely bladed to access the administrative communications site near the top of Badito Cone. Also, a local land owner affirmed that maintenance occurred on the road within the last three 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 No ____

Explain:

The FS 438 road was in good condition for regular use. However, due to the route's ROW for the USFS, Rd 438 would be maintained for use if it became impassible.

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

Yes X 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).

Full size vehicle tracks were observed on FS Rd438. From the amount of tracks observed, and information given from the local land owner, the evaluators estimated the amount of use to be 10-15 times per week.

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
No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explain:

USFS 438 meets the criteria for a wilderness inventory road.

Evaluator: Janine Prout / Recreation Technician

Date: May 14, 2013

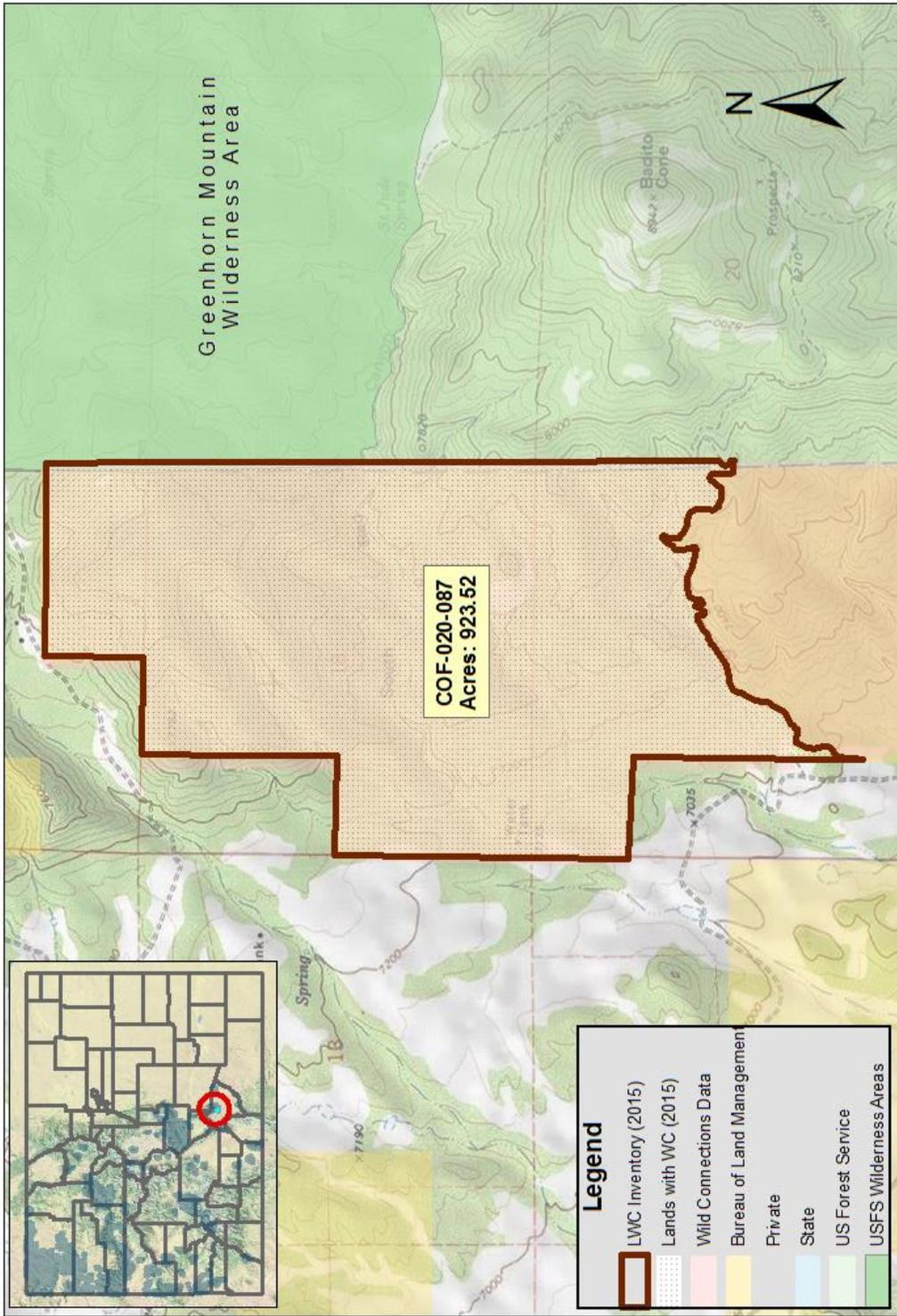
PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): _____

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-087**

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

(add rows as needed)



**COF-020-087, Badito Cone North
Wilderness Characteristics
Inventory Map**



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-020-087	Badito Cone North	923.5	923.5	0

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: 2/25/16



Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/25/16