

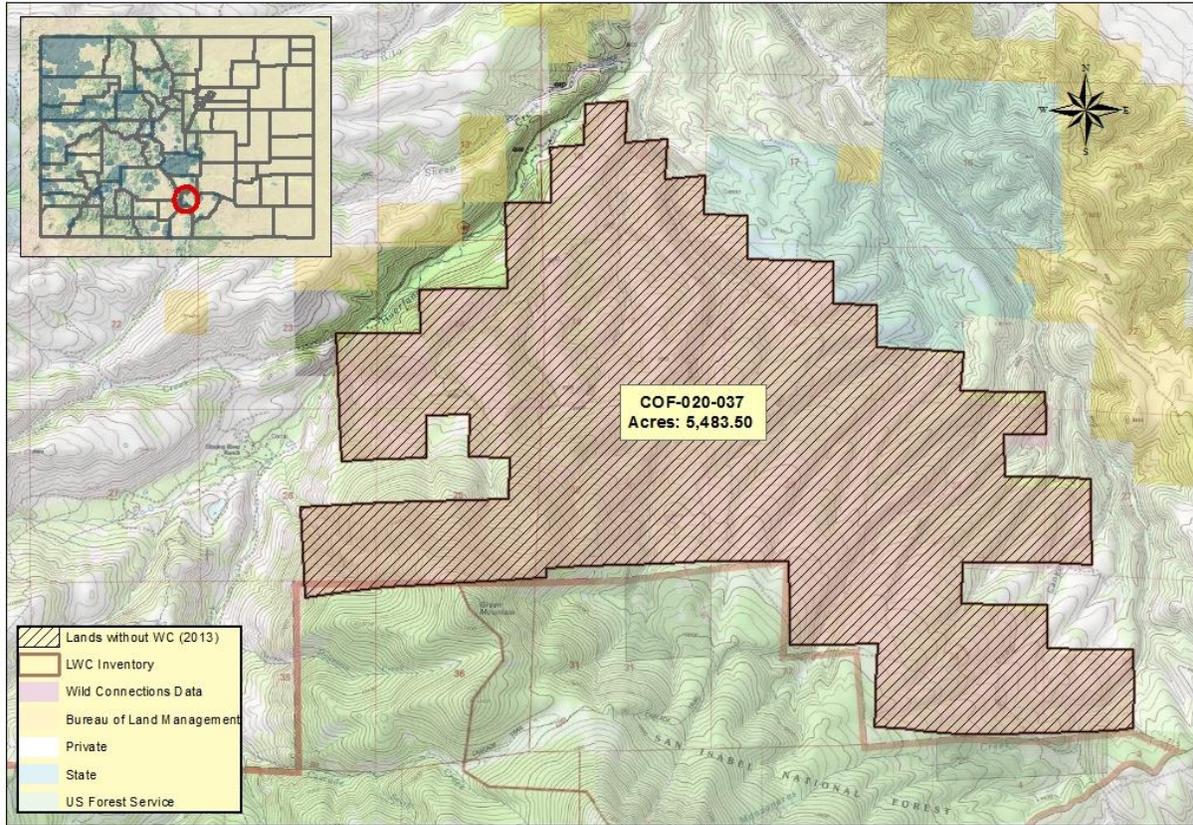
**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
Stanley Creek
COF-020-037**

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 the unit did not meet 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 contending that 5,500 acres meet the criteria. This 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	5,483.5	0
Wild Connections Inventory	5,500	5,500
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	5,489.75	5,489.75

Map 1 Inventory 2013 did not qualify as LWC



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

**Unit COF-020-037, Stanley Creek,
Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map (2013)**

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.
Prepared by P. Chapman 12/07/2015

**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 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): 300 001
 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)

The 2013 inventory conducted by the BLM found the unit to not be natural due to a cumulative impact on naturalness from a variety of disturbances found throughout the unit. New information was submitted by Wild Connections on May 6, 2015. The submission included a report with photographic documentation, a detailed map and shape files. Their Stanley Creek, Green Mountain report proposes that this area qualifies as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). The BLM/RGFO has determined the submission meets the minimum standard for further review by the BLM. This report reflects the findings of the further review conducted by the BLM in October, 2015.

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

Area Unique Identifier: CO-020-037, Stanley Creek

Acreage: 5,489.75 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

The land is larger than 5,000 acres and is contiguous with the United State Forest Service (USFS) recommended wilderness area (managed by the Pike/ San Isabel USFS) meeting the size sufficiency, 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north, south, west, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The western corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, Huerfano County Road 580.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, CO-020-037, Stanley Creek North, is located in the southwest corner of Huerfano County. The closest towns within a 15 mile radius are Sharpsdale, and Gardner, Colorado. Westcliffe, Colorado is less than 35 miles north of the unit (measured to the nearest point). The Stanley Creek lands were acquired to the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office management in 2003 through a large assembled land exchange from private ownership.

The majority of the unit is comprised of mountainous terrain with drainages located throughout the unit, including Stanley Creek, Deep Canyon, and a few unknown drainages. The elevation ranges from 9,700 feet near the south end of the unit to 8,600 feet near the Huerfano River. At lower elevations, piñon-juniper habitat is prevalent. At mid-elevations Douglas fir and ponderosa pine are common with large stands of aspens and open grasslands, whereas higher elevations are dominated by spruce/fir forests with smaller stands of bristlecone and limber pine. Narrow-leaf cottonwoods and willows dominate lower elevation riparian areas with aspen, aspen/mixed conifer; alder and sedges (wet meadows) common at mid to higher elevations.

The man made features that exist within the unit include two-track routes, CO-020-037-A-G. It is assumed that the routes were originally built for timber harvest, homestead access, and grazing purposes. The BLM did not open the routes to motorized travel for the public due to lack of legal access from private land. The only motorized access is allowed for BLM and USFS administrative purposes along road CO-020-037-A. The remaining routes are not open to the public for motorized access due to lack of legal access. The routes in the unit are used by motorized vehicles for range improvement purposes. Due to the lack of use, the routes are fading, but are still noticeable along the landscape.

Historic range use is prevalent within the unit, including spring developments, corals, stock tanks, and fence lines. These are maintained for the water rights but do not have any grazing allotments at this time. The range use is visible, but due to their minimal impact, do not affect the overall naturalness to the area.

Other man made features include old cabins and a homestead site. The cabins are historic, and add supplemental value to the unit; therefore, do not affect the naturalness to the unit.

Although there are man-made features within the unit, they are substantially unnoticeable individually. The cumulative effect of these features on apparent naturalness would be considered minor to the average visitor. For this reason, the unit does meet the criteria for naturalness.

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

Opportunities for solitude are found in the Stanley Creek due to the lack of parking and motorized access into the central portion of 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

From the two public access points, the primary means of access are by foot and horse. Motorized use would occur on the administrative routes by FS or BLM only. This allows for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes No NA

Description:

- Historic homestead sites are located along the Stanley Creek drainage.
- The unit provides for elk summer range, elk production area, and the north part of the unit provides for elk severe winter range.
- The unit provides mule deer winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- The unit is located with the Sangres Lynx Analysis Unit and contains primary and secondary lynx habitat.

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-037, Stanley Creek

Acreage: 5,489.75 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 5,489.75 acre unit has many man made features found within it. The accumulative effect of these features on apparent naturalness would be considered minor to the average visitor therefore do not affect the apparent naturalness. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation and has supplemental values. The unit does possess wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north, south, west, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
 - The western corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, Huerfano County 580;
 - The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 27 S. R. 71 W. Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, and 34;
 - o T. 27 S. R. 72 W. Section 12 and 24.
-
- 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:

- 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 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: Linda Skinner/Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date: December 4, 2015
Evaluator: Janine Prout/Recreation Technician	Date: May 30, 2013
Evaluator: Monica Mohr/Rangeland Technician	Date: May 30, 2013
Evaluator: Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger	Date: May 30, 2013
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date: July 30, 2013
Evaluator: John Lamman/ Rangeland Management Specialist	Date: September 11, 2013
Evaluator: Matt Rustand/ Wildlife Biologist	Date: Sept 11, 2013
Evaluator: Ken Reed/ Forester	Date: August 14, 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-020-037, Stanley Creek Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-037-A-G, Huerfano County 580.

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-020-037, Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics, and 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:

- The current purpose of route, CO-020-037-A is administrative access for the BLM and USFS.
- The purpose for routes CO-020-037- B to G, is for range improvement projects.
- Huerfano County Rd 580 is used for general transportation.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

Routes, CO-020-037-A-G do not have ROW associated with them.

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 X

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 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 _____

- It is assumed that the route, CO-020-037-A was originally constructed to access timber, range, and a homestead.
- Routes CO-020-037-D has signs of originally constructed by mechanical means due to cut/fill found along the route.
- Huerfano County Rd 580 was originally constructed, graveled.
- Routes CO-020-037-B, C, E, F, and G do not have evidence of mechanical construction.

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

- Route, CO-020-037-A has signs of recent mechanical improvements such as installation of water bars to improve drainage. Also, recently hand tools were used to clear trees from the route.
- Huerfano County Rd 580 has sign of recent mechanical improvements, bridges, and culverts were observed.
- Routes CO-020-037 B, C, D, E, F, and G have not received mechanical improvements recently.

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

- Route CO-020-037-A has evidence of mechanical maintenance; the route is also on the BLM maintenance schedule.
- Huerfano County Rd 580 has evidence of mechanical maintenance.

- Routes, CO-020-037-B, C, D, E, F, and G have not been mechanically maintained recently.

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 _____

- If route, CO-020-037-A, became impassable, the BLM would maintain the route.
- Huerfano County Rd 580 would be maintained by Huerfano County if became impassable.

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).

- Route CO-020-037-A is maintained for administrative use, not continuous use.
- Huerfano County Rd, 580 is maintained for general transportation.

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

Huerfano County Rd 580 meets the definition as a wilderness inventory road.

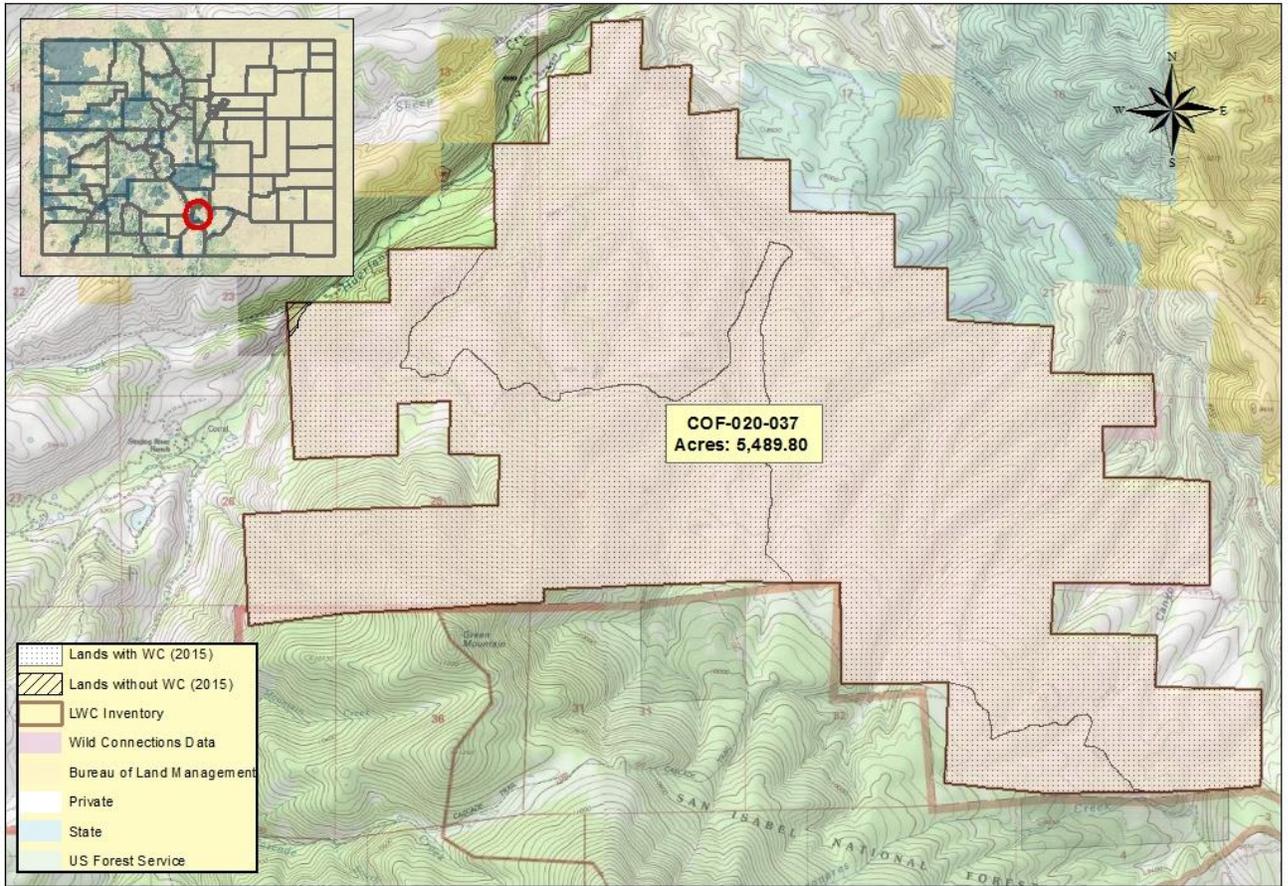
No X = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Inventory revealed that routes, CO-020-037-A, B, C, D, E, F, and G are not wilderness inventory roads.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/Recreation Technician
Evaluator: Monica Mohr/Rangeland Technician
Evaluator: Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger
Evaluator: Linda Skinner/Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: May 30, 2013
Date: May 30, 2013
Date: May 30, 2013
Date: December 4, 2015

Map 2 Stanley Creek parcel, 2015 inventory unit does qualify as LWC



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

**Unit COF-020-037, Stanley Creek,
Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map (2015)**

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.

Prepared by P. Chapman 12/07/2015

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Cora Whisenhunt/ Park Ranger, Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician, Monica Mohr/ Range Technician

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-037, Stanley Creek North**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
6/18/2013	DSC03658	SW	Gate entering BLM	N 4,171,513.41995 E 466,028.161353	27 S	72 W	24	1
6/4/2013	DSC03619	W	Spring Development	N 4,170,402.16773 E 466,472.662242	27 S	71 W	19	2
6/4/2013	DSC03621	N	Stock Pond	N 4,170,465.66786 E 466,488.537273	27 S	71 W	19	4
6/4/2013	DSC03622	E	2 track heading west	N 4,170,465.66786 E 467,742.664782	27 S	71 W	30	5
6/4/2013	DSC03623	NW	2 track heading north	N 4,171,497.54492 E 468,155.415607	27 S	71 W	20	6
6/4/2013	DSC03624	NW	Historic properties	N 4,171,545.17002 E 468,060.165417	27 S	71 W	20	7
6/4/2013	DSC03625	E	Stock tank	N 4,169,878.29168 E 468,203.040702	27 S	71 W	29	8
6/4/2013	DSC03626	SE	Spring development	N 4,169,798.91652 E 468,171.290639	27 S	71 W	29	9
6/4/2013	DSC03627	NE	culvert	N 4,169,052.79003 E 468,171.290639	27 S	71 W	29	10
6/4/2013	DSC03628	SW	Historic structure	N 4,168,989.2899 E 468,139.540575	27 S	71 W	29	11
6/4/2013	DSC03629	S	fence	N 4,168,894.03971 E 468,282.415861	27 S	71 W	29	12
6/4/2013	DSC03630	SW	Fence, USFS behind fence	N 4,168,116.16316 E 469,520.668338	27 S	71 W	32	13
6/4/2013	DSC03631	S	culvert	N 4,167,878.03768 E 470,600.170497	27 S	71 W	33	14
6/4/2013	DSC03632	S	Old culvert	N 4,167,878.03768 E 470,600.170497	27 S	71 W	33	15
6/17/2013	DSC03657	SW	Beginning of route	N 4,171,989.6709 E 465,885.286067	27 S	72 W	13	16
6/17/2013	DSC03659	NW	Historic properties	N 4,170,513.29295 E 465,282.03486	27 S	72 W	14	17



#1, Gate entering BLM



#2 spring development



#3 Stock tank



#4 route condition



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



#11



#12



#13



#14

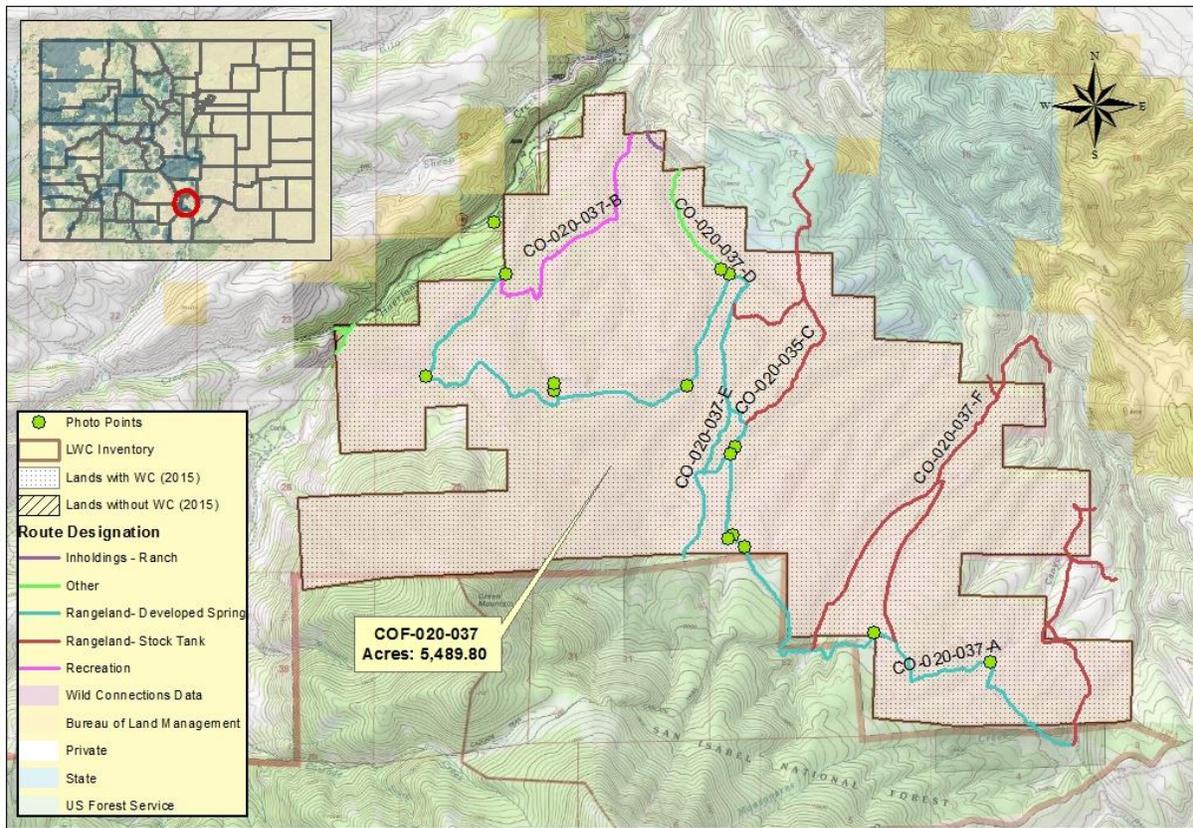


#15



#16

Map 3 Stanley creek parcel with inventory routes and photo points shown



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Unit COF-020-037, Stanley Creek, Route & Waypoint Reference Map

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 books of the data provider should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land.

Prepared by P. Chapman 12/07/2015

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

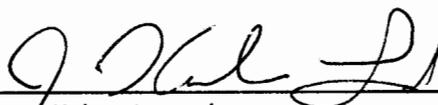
Assessment and Determination

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-020-037	Stanley Creek	5,489.75	5,489.75	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: 2/22/16



Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/24/16