

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
Reinecker Ridge
COF-020-082**

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' provides the guidance on conducting this inventory process.

Following BLM guidance the Royal Gorge Field Office conducted an inventory in 2013 and found the 4,677.8 acre 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 the unit did in fact 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	4,677.8	0
Wild Connections Inventory	4,300 (approximate)	4,300 (approximate)
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	4,305.58	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 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:

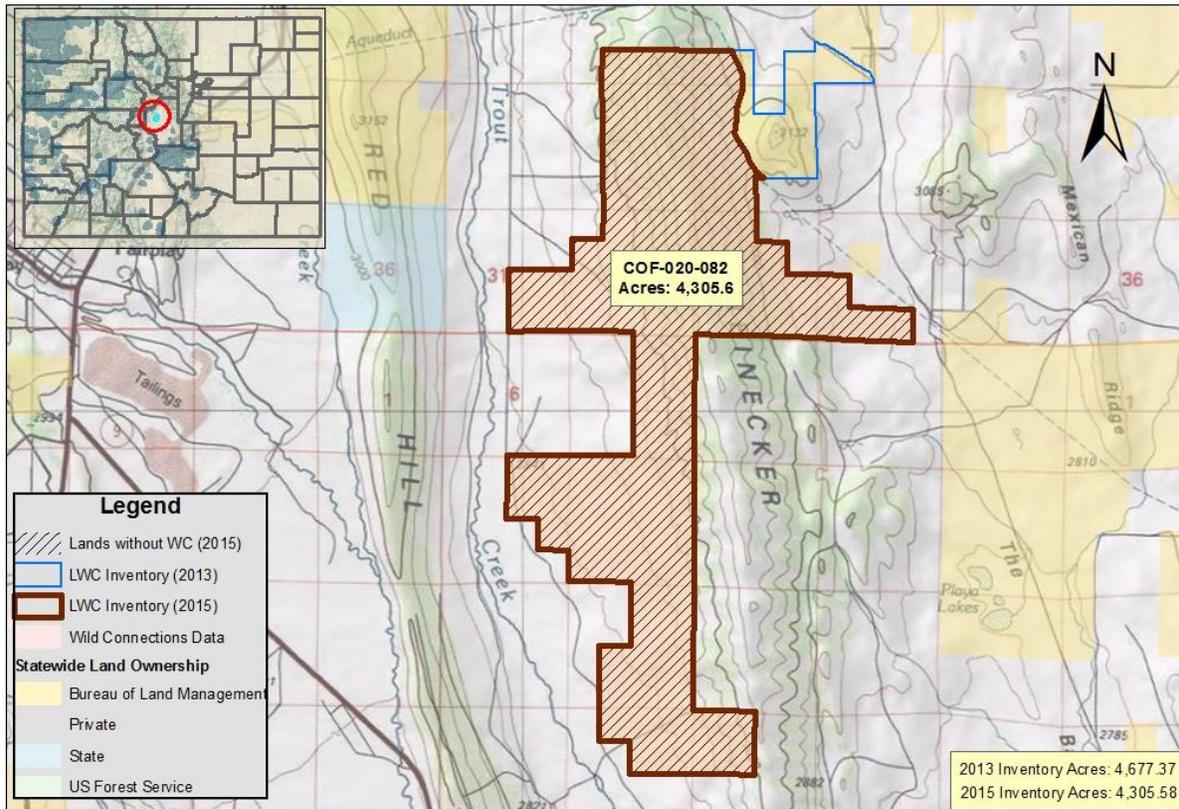
Inventory Source:
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): 051_038
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Front Range District/ Royal Gorge Field Office

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)

Map 1 2013 compared to new information, 2015 inventory concludes the area does not qualify as LWC



0 0.5 1 Miles

**COF-020-082, Reinecker Ridge
Wilderness Characteristics
Inventory 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 records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land.

Prepared by P Chapman 01/22/2016

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-82, Reinecker Ridge

Acreage: 4,305.58 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes No

In 2013, the inventory concluded that the area did not meet the size criteria because the land is smaller than 5,000 acres. New information proposed that it does meet the size exception 2.b. that states it is demonstrated that the area is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. While Reinecker Ridge is close to the minimum of 5000 acres, its shape is long and narrow. Wild Connections points out that the area is contiguous with a greater area, James Mark Jones State Wildlife Area (SWA), which is managed to retain its natural values, backcountry recreation experiences and wildlife habitat. This SWA ties in with the narrower strip of land to the southeast with the rest of the area bordered by private land. In agreement with Wild Connections, the northeast boundary was shifted to wilderness inventory road, CO-020-082-A which is a Right of Way (ROW) for a water pipeline.

BLM Manual 6310 does not allow state or private land to be used to make an acreage determination to meet the 5000 acre size criteria. Wild Connections did not base their recommendation on that criterion but did point out that similar management goals would make it more practicable for preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Although the SWA is managed for its natural values this does not preclude development on those lands. Further, as indicated by Wild Connections report, the SWA contains the majority of Reinecker Ridge itself with BLM lands making up only a portion of the geographic feature. The location of BLM lands in relation to the overall geographic feature combined with adjacent lands not protected for long term preservation make preservation and use in an unimpaired condition not practicable. The BLM maintains that the unit does not meet the minimum size criteria.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The northeast corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, CO-020-082-A.
- The remaining edges are defined by property lines other than BLM management.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

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 X

Description:

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 X

Description:

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes ___ No ___ NA X

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-082, Reinecker Ridge

Acreage: 4,305.58 acres

Acreage with LWC: 0 acres

Results of Analysis:

The unit is smaller than 4,305.58 acres, surrounded by lands other than BLM management. The location and shape of the unit does not make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Further analysis concluded that the unit does not meet the size requirements through size exception 2.b. The unit does not possess wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The northeast corner is defined by wilderness inventory road, CO-020-082-A.
- The remaining edges are defined by property lines other than BLM management.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 9 S. R. 76 W. Sections 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 33
 - o T. 10 S. R. 76 W. Sections: 4,5,6,8,9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21

- 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 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: Janine Prout/Recreation Technician

Date: Sept 12, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: July 30, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 11, 2013

Evaluator: Chris Cloninger/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: Sept. 10, 2013

Evaluator: Linda Skinner/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: Feb 5, 2016

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: Feb 5, 2016

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-020-082, Reinecker Ridge
Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: Park County Road Bar D, CO-020-082-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-020-072 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

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

- Bar D is used for access to private property, as well as recreational access.
- CO-020-082-A is used to access, maintain CS water pipeline

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?

- Bar D route has a ROW association, serial #, C 36848
- CO-020-082-A route has a ROW association, serial # C 09361

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

Yes X No Unknown or N/A

Explain:

- Bar D road's ROW is still in use.
- CO-020-082-A route 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

- Bar D has evidence of mechanical construction to ensure regular use.
- CO-020-082-A has evidence of mechanical construction to ensure regular use.

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 ___ Other ___

Describe:

- Bar D road has mechanical construction, bladed.
- CO-020-082-A route has mechanical construction, bladed.

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

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

No _____

Examples (partial list):

Culverts ___ Built Stream Crossings ___ Bridges ___ Drainage ___ Barriers ___

Describe:

- Bar D road had mechanical improvements, culverts and drainage features are installed in the route.

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 _____

Explain:

- Bar D road has evidence of mechanical maintenance.
- CO-020-082-A route has been maintained by mechanical means.

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

Explain:

- Bar D road would be maintained by the ROW holder if became impassable.
- CO-020-082-A would be maintained by the ROW holder if became impassable.

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).

- Bar D road is maintained for regular use, 40-50 times a day.
- CO-020-082-A route has been in use as a ROW since 1955.

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

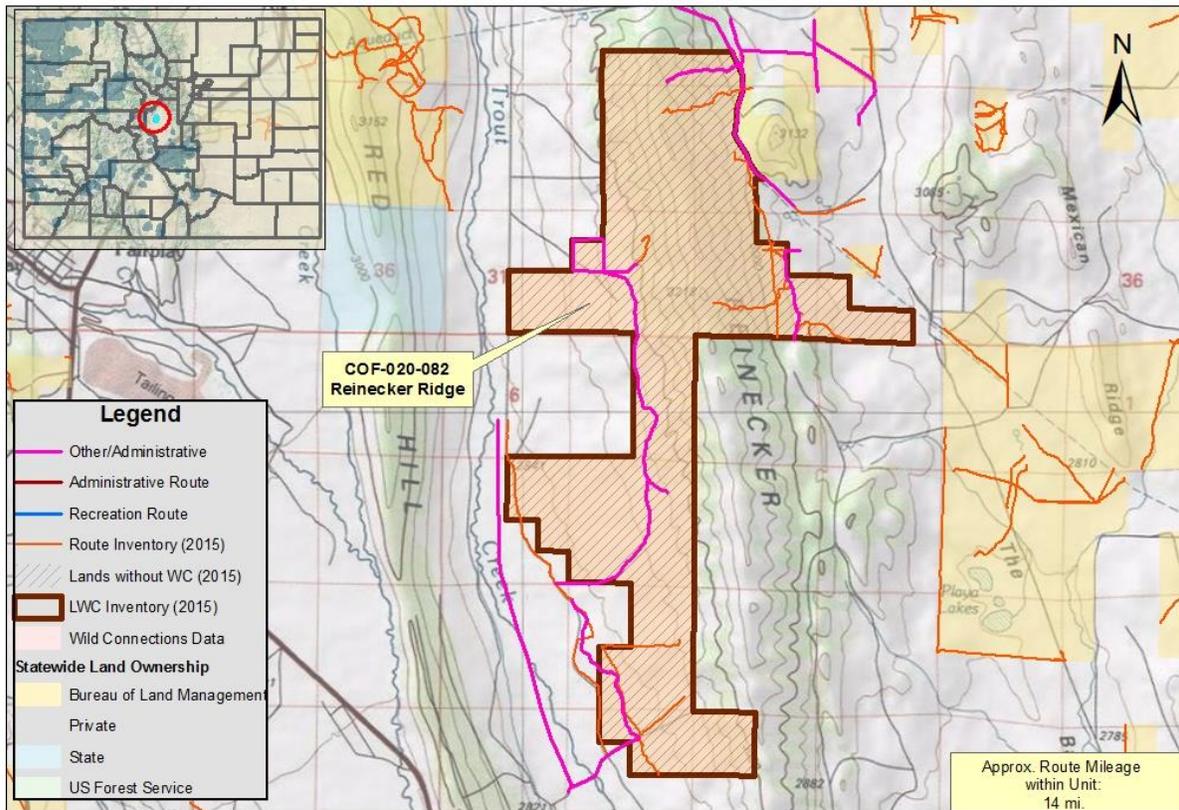
No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- Park County, Bar D road meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road through its ROW association.
- CO-020-082-A route meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road through its ROW association.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician
Evaluator: Linda Skinner/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: August 21, 2013
Date: December 28, 2015

Map 2 Routes in Reinecker Ridge



0 0.5 1 Miles

**COF-020-082, Reinecker Ridge
Route Reference Map**

NOTE TO MAP USERS
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Prepared by P Chapman 01/22/2016

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-082**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town -ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #

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

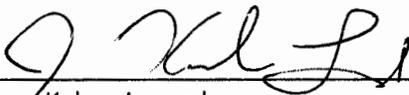
Assessment and Determination

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-020-082	Reinecker Ridge	4,305.6	0	4,305.6

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