

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:  
McIntyre Gulch  
COF-020-039**

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 was submitted by Wild Connections on May 6, 2015 (McIntyre Hills WSA Contiguous, McIntyre Gulch/McIntyre Gulch SE) contending that 2,626.2 acres meet the criteria. Information submitted includes a detailed map but photographs and a detailed description were not provided due to difficult access. Wild Connections contends that the boundaries could be re-drawn to exclude the noticeable man-made features and that portions of the unit possess wilderness characteristics. Despite not meeting the minimum standard for review the BLM has evaluated the information provided in their report. This document is an updated inventory based upon the submitted information and additional review by BLM staff. This report reflects an updated inventory that combines BLM's 2013 findings and an evaluation of the data submitted by Wild Connections.

<b>Inventory Effort</b>	<b>Acreage Inventoried</b>	<b>Wilderness Characteristics Acreage</b>
BLM 2013 Inventory	2,626.2	0
Wild Connections Inventory	2,626.2	2,626.2
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	2,626.2	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): 318 001  
 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)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-039, McIntyre Gulch

Acreage: 2,626.2 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes  No

The land is smaller than 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the BLM McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The east edge is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by the BLM McIntyre Hills WSA;
- The north boundary is defined by US Highway (Hwy) 50; this road meets the definition of a wilderness inventory road as defined by FLPMA (94-1163).

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  NA

The unit, COF-020-039, McIntyre Gulch, is located less than 5 miles west of Cañon City, Colorado (driving miles). The unit boundary to the north is US Hwy 50; the Arkansas River is very near the Hwy at this point and is a popular recreation attraction for fishing and boating. The unit is comprised of rough, rocky, mountainous terrain. Steep and rocky canyon walls form from the Arkansas River and can be found in the north portion of the unit. The elevation ranges from 5,700 feet to 7,000 feet. The vegetation consists of piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine.

Prominent man-made features within the unit affect the overall naturalness of the lands. The man-made features include nearly 9 miles of mechanically constructed routes most of which are designated for administrative use. It is assumed these routes were originally built for timber harvest, range use, and prospecting. The routes are currently being used by motorized vehicles for range use, mining activity, and BLM administrative routes as designated in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan. The constructed nature of the routes has a noticeable imprint on the landscape.

Another noticeable man-made feature includes a large mine site. While this site is located within an in-holding of private land it represents a significant disturbance on the landscape and affects the overall naturalness to the unit.

Wild Connections report does not disagree with BLM's findings that these man-made features are substantially noticeable. Their report however, suggests that these features be excluded and used as boundaries rather than included within the unit and the resulting landscapes are largely natural. In doing this they propose two units based on

the inventoried roads. The BLM feels that this approach does not follow the intent of lands with wilderness characteristics policy of identifying 'roadless areas'. The BLM contends that the unit in question has a high concentration of roads within a relatively small area. Although these roads do not meet the conditions to be considered a wilderness inventory road due to lack of regular and consistent use they do affect the overall naturalness of the area. The BLM still concludes that the unit does not have wilderness characteristics.

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:  
None provided.

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:  
None provided.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes X No \_\_\_ NA \_\_\_

Description:  
-Within the McIntyre Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).  
  
-The unit contains elk winter range and mule deer severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

## Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-039

Acreage: 2,626.2 acres

### Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 2,626.2 acre unit does not consist of naturalness due to significant imprints of man found throughout the unit. For this reason, the unit does not have wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The east edge is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The south edge is bounded by the BLM McIntyre Hills WSA;
- The north boundary is defined by US Highway (Hwy) 50; this road meets the definition of a wilderness inventory road as defined by FLPMA (94-1163).
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
  - o T. 18 S. R. 72 W. Sections 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 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:

- The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as land with wilderness characteristics.
- X  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: August 14, 2013

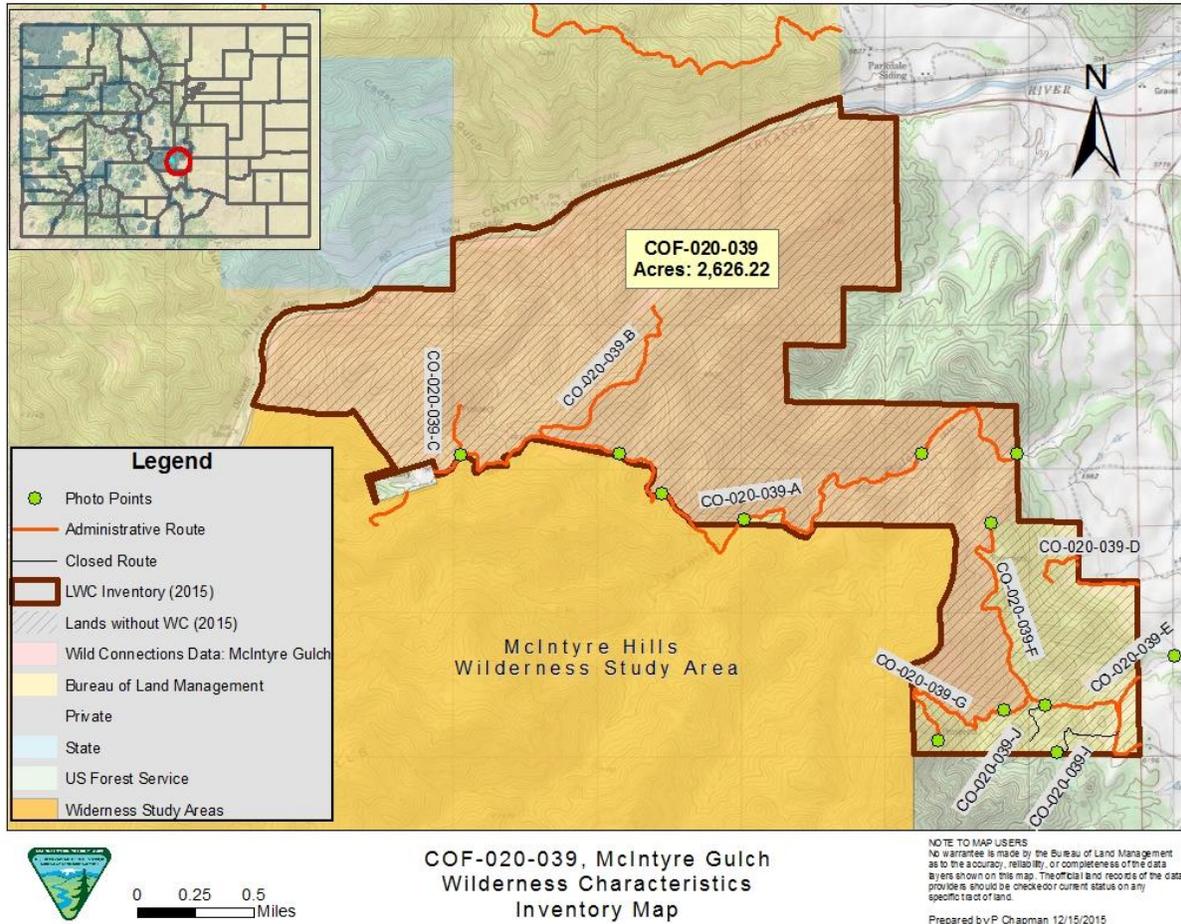
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard: Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: December 5, 2015

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 11, 2013

**Map 1 McIntyre Gulch area 2015 inventory**



**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-020-039, McIntyre Gulch Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-039-A-J and US Hwy 50, Colorado State Hwy 69.

**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-020-039, McIntyre Gulch 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 (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)).

Describe:

- The current purposes of routes, CO-020-039-A-J are administrative access for the BLM.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  Unknown or N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

- Routes, CO-020-039-A-J do not have ROWs associated with them.

### 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  X  Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Berms \_\_\_\_\_ Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

- It is assumed that the routes, CO-020-039-A-J were originally constructed to access timber, range, and prospecting, most likely with a bull dozer.

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

Yes  If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools  by Machine   
No

Examples (partial list):

Culverts  Built Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage  Barriers

Describe:

- Routes, CO-020-039-A-J have signs of recent mechanical improvements, recently hand tools were used to clear trees from 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

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  If "yes", maintenance by? Hand Tools  by Machine

No

Explain:

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:

Routes, CO-020-039-A-J are open for BLM administrative use only, if the routes would ever become impassable, the BLM would improve the route to allow access for BLM administrative use and BLM contractors.

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).

- Routes, CO-020-039-A-J are not maintained for regular and continuous use, the estimated amount of travel the routes receive is approximately 20-25 times monthly.

#### 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

US Hwy 50 and Colorado State Hwy 69 meet the criteria to be wilderness inventory roads, the roads form the north and western boundary.

No  = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Routes, CO-020-037-A-J are not wilderness inventory roads.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician      Date: August 21, 201

## PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): JTibbs/ Recreation Technician

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-039, McIntyre Gulch

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
7/30/2003	Ar_0470				18 S	72 W		1
7/30/2003	Ar_0471				18 S	72 W		2
7/30/2003	Ar_0472				18 S	72 W		3
7/30/2003	Ar_0473				18 S	72 W		4
7/30/2003	Ar_0474				18 S	72 W		5
7/30/2003	Ar_0475	W	Mine	N 4,257,282.48549 E 461,987.880182	18 S	72 W		6
7/30/2003	Ar_0476	N	End of Route	N 4,256,853.85963 E 465,670.887548	18 S	72 W	25	7
7/30/2003	Ar_0477		Scenic	N 4,255,504.48193 E 465,766.137739	18 S	72 W		8
7/30/2003	Ar_0478				18 S	72 W		9
7/30/2003	Ar_0479				18 S	72 W		10
7/30/2003	Ar_0480			N 4,255,250.48142 E 466,163.013533	18 S	72 W		11
7/30/2013	Ar_0481	SW	Route Condition	N 4,255,917.23276 E 466,972.640152	18 S	72 W	25	12



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



#11



#12

**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-020-039	McIntyre Gulch	2,626.2	0	2,626.2

**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