

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
Hellgateway North
COF-020-028**

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 contending that 41.6 acres meet the criteria. Information submitted includes a detailed map. Photographs were not submitted. A detailed description was not provided due to lack of public access. Wild Connections contends that since the BLM did not provide photo point or geo-referenced data and they were not able to access the unit at least portions of the unit contain 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.

Inventory Effort	Acreage Inventoried	Wilderness Characteristics Acreage
BLM 2013 Inventory	41.6	0
Wild Connections Inventory	41.6	41.6
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	41.1	41.1

**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): 307 001
 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)

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-028, Hellgateway North

Acreage: 41.10 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes No

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

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north edge is bounded by BLM Upper Grape Creek WSA;
- The west, south, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- According to aerial imagery and BLM land status GIS data a subdivision road may clip the southwestern corner of the unit.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA

The unit, COF-020-028 is located less than a 1 hour drive southwest from Cañon City, CO. The unit is located on the northeastern edge of Upper Grape Creek WSA. The unit contains 41.10 acres of public land.

The unit is located at the ridge line before the topography drops into Bear Gulch to the north. The unit's vegetation is mostly Piñon–Juniper with some Ponderosa Pines on the north facing slopes

A route, CO-020-028-A, was found in the south west corner of the unit. It is assumed that route CO-020-028-A was built for prospecting purposes. The route was mechanically built, the construction is noticeable in a few places along the side hills where it had been cut and filled. The route has evidence of recent motorized all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use however it does not qualify as a wilderness inventory road. There is no evidence of maintenance or the need to maintain it in the future since it was closed in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan. Near the route, there is evidence of historic mining activity including a tailings pile and bladed routes. As documented in the photos found in the report these historic disturbances appear to be re-vegetating and are not readily noticeable.

According to aerial imagery a subdivision road may clip the far southwestern corner of the unit. This was used as a boundary for the unit.

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

The unit is contiguous with Grape Creek WSA which has ample opportunities for solitude. Heavily forested ridges and drainages also provide screening from the adjacent subdivision providing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Grape Creek WSA contains outstanding opportunities for fishing, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting which this unit is contiguous with. These opportunities can also be found within unit 028.

5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes No NA

Description:

- The north eastern portion of the unit is within the Colorado National Heritage Program (CNHP) Potential Conservation Area (PCA). The identified site, Grape Creek, is classified as B2 (Very High Biodiversity Significance).
- The unit contains mule deer and elk winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- The unit is within the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as identified by the resource management plan (1995)

Summary of Analysis

Unique Identifier: COF-020-028, Hellgateway North

Acreage: 41.10

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the 41.10 acres has imprints of man that are not readily noticeable. Route, CO-020-028-A was mechanically constructed for prospecting however, there is no evidence of recent maintenance and the route was closed in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan. The constructed nature of the route and evidence of historic mining do not constitute significant impacts of man and do not affect the overall naturalness of the unit. The unit does possess wilderness characteristics.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The north edge is bounded by BLM Upper Grape Creek WSA;
- The west, south, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The southwestern edge is bounded by subdivision road, COF-020-028-A;
- The legal description is as follows:
 - o T. 20 S. R. 71 W. Section 17 SE ¼ of the SE ¼.

- 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: August 13, 2013

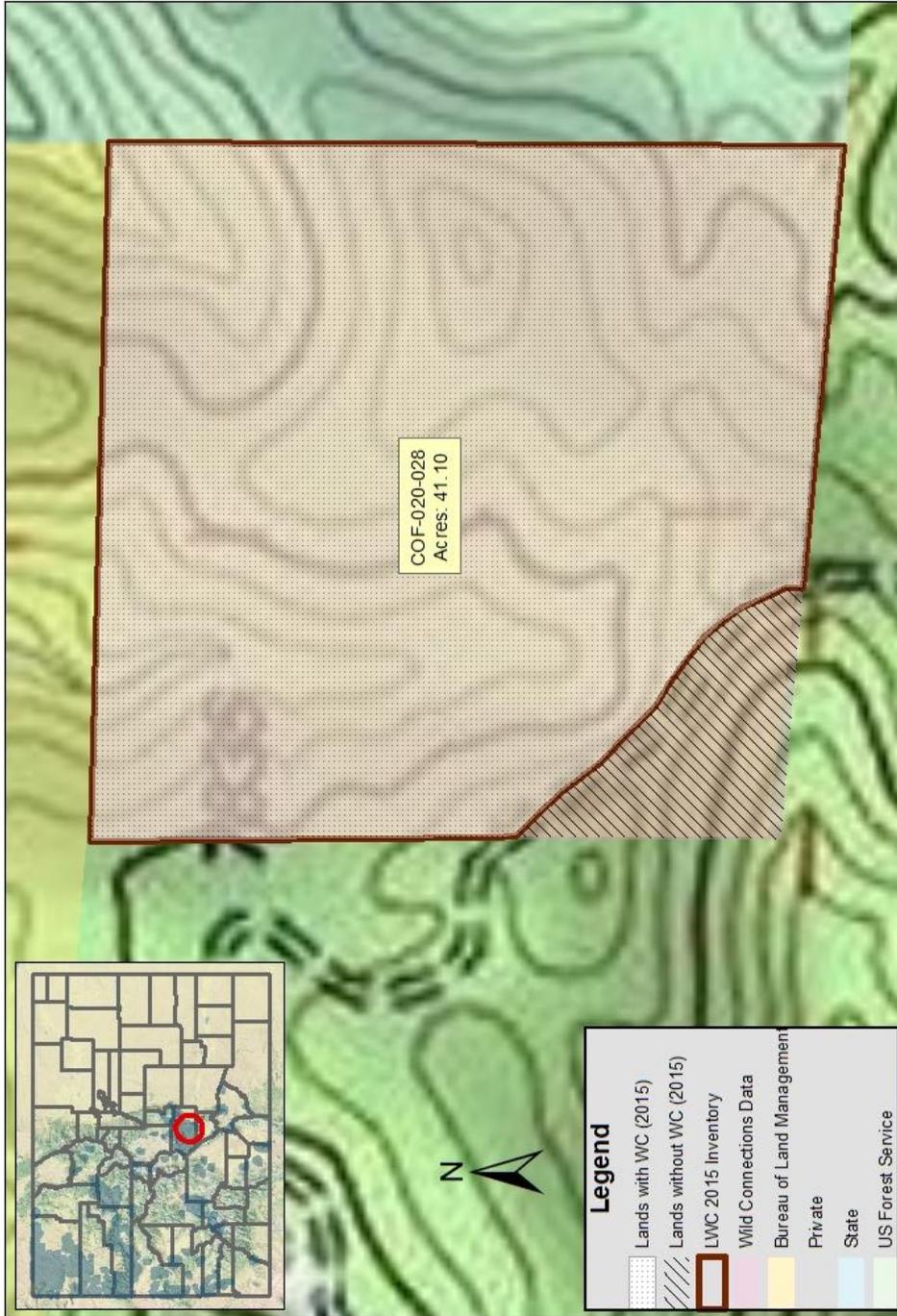
Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: December 4, 2015

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 10, 2013

Map 1 Inventory for 2015, Hellgateway North



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 the bestor current status on any specific tract of land.

Prepared by P. Chapman 12/11/2015

**COF-020-028, Hellgateway North
 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-020-028

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-028-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-020-028, Wilderness Characteristics 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-020-028-A is currently being used for recreational access by use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs). It has been closed in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

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 ___ Unknown or N/A ___

Explain: 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 ___

Examples (partial list):

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

Describe:

CO-020-028-A has evidence of mechanical construction. The cut/fill is noticeable in a few locations.

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

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

No X

Examples (partial list):

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

Describe:

No mechanical improvements to the routes were noticed.

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 X

There is no recent maintenance on route, CO-020-028.

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

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

No X

Explain:

The subdivision maintains the route.

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 X

Explain:

The BLM would not maintain the routes if they became impassable. It is designated closed in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (2006).

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

Yes ____ No X

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).

The routes are not maintained for regular and continuous use.

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

Explain:

Route, CO-020-028-A was found to be a route; it did not meet the wilderness inventory "road" criteria.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: July 30, 2013

PHOTO LOG

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

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-028, Hellgateway North**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
6/21/2013	DSC03690	E	Flagged ATV route	N 4,239,250.46332 E 470,367.686041	20 S	71 W	20	1
6/21/2013	DSC03691	N	Route condition	N 4,239,322.9166 E 470,426.554333	20 S	71 W	20	2
6/21/2013	DSC03693	NE	Private property sign	N 4,239,507.67247 E 470283.4591	20 S	71 W	17	3
6/21/2013	DSC03694	NE	Route condition to prospecting site	N 4,239,404.42655 E 470,356.818049	20 S	71 W	17	4



#1 Flagged ATV route



#2 Route condition

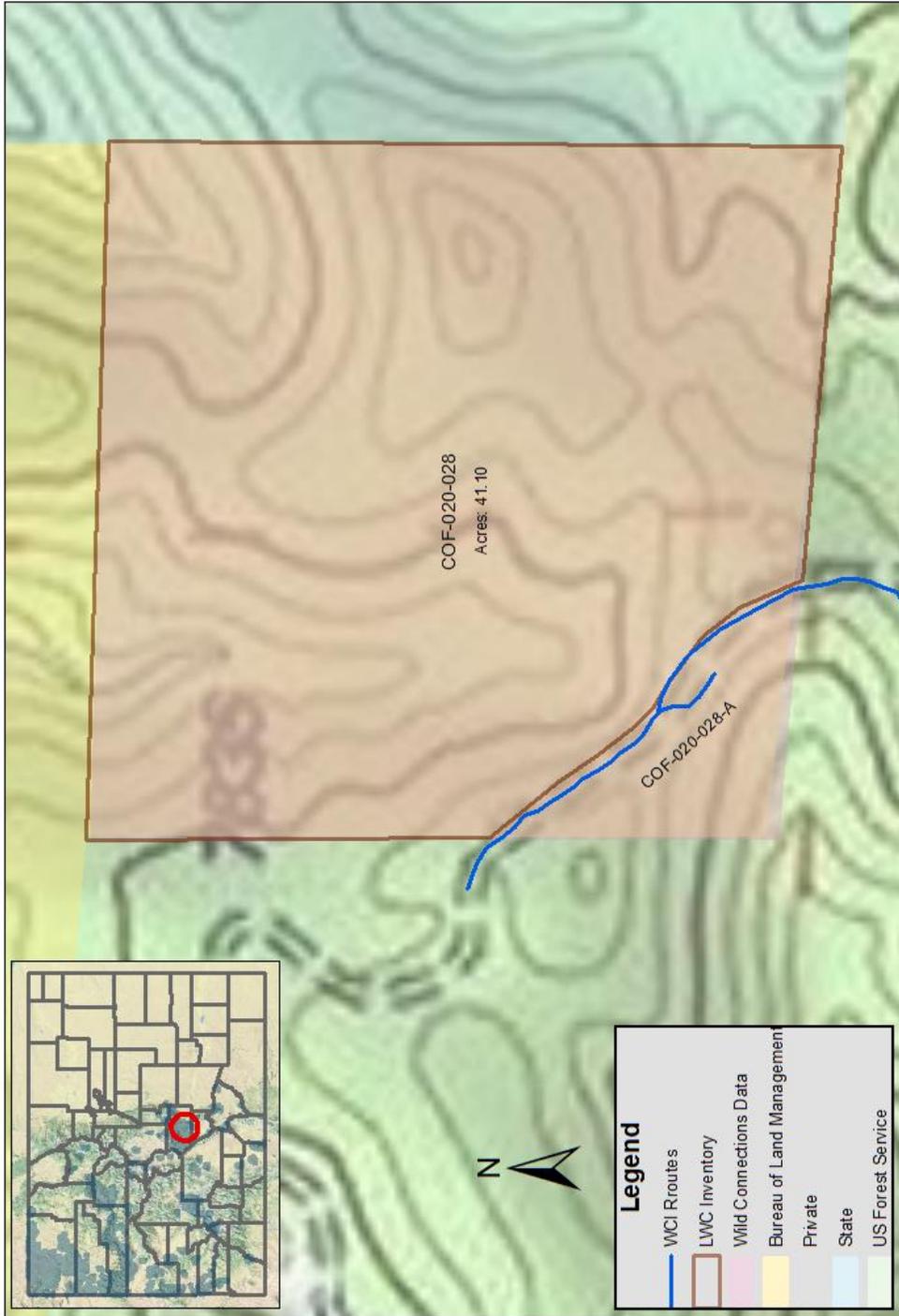


#3 End of route



#4 Route to mining site

Map 2 Route map for Hellgateway North



NOTE TO MAP USERS
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Prepared by P. Chapman 12/11/2015

COF-020-028, Hellgateway North
WCI Route COF-020-028-A

0 150 300 Feet



Figure 1 Aerial View of routes



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

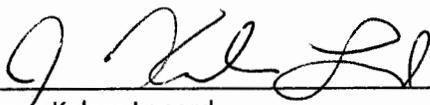
Assessment and Determination

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-020-028	Hellgateway N	41.1	41.1	0.5

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